

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

[From a Special Correspondent of the Montreal Free Press.]
Victoria, B. C., Feb. 2, 1859.

Sir,—I am happy to say that I am able to give you an opinion of British Columbia, as a Mineral and Agricultural Colony. I left for Langley on the 24th of January, per Hudson Bay Company's steamer "Beaver." We got there about three or four hours from Victoria. I remained there but a few hours, and left for Port Hope. The same evening the *Beaver* and *Miner*, commanded by Captain Grant, and also Colonel Moody, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and Chief Justice Bigby, went up to Port Hope to put down some disturbances between the Magistrates and the miners. I was present at the celebration. No doubt, Mr. Grant, head of the celebration, was a very fine fellow. It was not until an additional force of one hundred men was brought up that peace was restored at Hill's Bar.

On my way up, I took notice of some of the country on both sides of the Fraser River. On one side is a very fertile country, and the other side is a very dry and sandy country. As we approached the mouth of the Fraser, the land became drier and more wooded. The town is situated on the north bank of the Fraser River, about 20 miles from the mouth. The country is very fertile, and the soil is very rich. The people are very industrious, and the land is very well cultivated. The people are very friendly, and the land is very well cultivated.

On the 14th of April, 1859, I left town in company with John Moore and Robert Over, and went to the mouth of the Fraser River. We went to the mouth of the Fraser River, and found the land very fertile. The people are very friendly, and the land is very well cultivated. The people are very friendly, and the land is very well cultivated.

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and much excitement prevailed. James Weyman, Esq., having read the confession, during which Moore and Over betrayed no change of countenance, they were asked by Mr. Matthews if they had anything to say regarding it.

Moore, in a tremulous voice, said he had nothing further to say than that he knew nothing about it.

Over, in a firm voice, said everything in that paper was false, and he knew nothing more about it.

Arms were then asked by Mr. Matthews if his confession was true or not.

Arms—No, it was not true.

The confession was then, at the request of Moore, read again by Mr. Matthews, and both he and Over persisted that it was false.

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ARRIVAL OF THE OVERLAND MAIL.

St. Louis, April 29.

Advices from Leavenworth state that a portion of the locating party which was dispatched by the Overland Express Company, returned to that city yesterday bringing intelligence to the 9th of April from Denver city.

The report that the route is every way adapted to the requirements of travel—grass, wood and water are abundant.

The stages which left here on the 18th had passed near the head waters of Colorado's Fork and were getting along quite well. The accounts from the new mail, were encouraging. There is no disposition of confidence among the miners and traveling parties continued to come in from the mountains.

The richest prospects were found in the vicinity of the South Pass and Arapahoe, but the ground was still frozen and the snows were heavy.

Three men were hung at Denver City on the 9th by a vigilance committee for murder causing great excitement, when information left large numbers of emigrants were passing the new road. The survivors have estimated the maximum distance from Leavenworth to Denver City at 500 miles. Martin Fields of this city is bound for City.

The Santa Fe mail of the 11th reached Leavenworth on the 16th instant. The back of the mail was very much damaged by the snows.

Trade is very brisk at Fort Yale. Miners were all going up the river. Some 50 or 60 boats were in the Canon waiting to get over the little falls. A derrick had been rigged up at that point to boat the boats and facilitate getting over the falls.

Business dull at Fort Hope, most of the boats going on to Yale. Some 50 boats were passing going up the river, averaging about 6 men each.

Reports of rich digging in the Canon country. Men were making \$50 a day there. A specimen of coarse gold was found weighing 6 oz.; general average from a bit to \$20.

The country below Fort Yale is fast being denuded. The miners are all going above. At Emory's Bar, where nearly 500 men lived during the winter, there are scarcely thirty—all gone up the river. Those that remain are doing tolerably well. The weather was disagreeable, but the ground was not frozen. Snow on the mountains.

At Victoria Bar and Prince Albert Flat, water ditches were completed this week, to supply the miners.

Notwithstanding all the difficulties which the miners have to overcome, more gold is taken out now in the mines of British Columbia, in proportion to the number at work, than in California.

The Court was sitting at Langley, Judge Begbie presiding. Indictments were found by the Grand Jury against two men named Jones and O'Farrell. Jones' trial was put off to allow time to procure witnesses, and he was brought down to Victoria on the *Beaver*. O'Farrell's trial was postponed. At Victoria Bar and Prince Albert Flat, water ditches were completed this week, to supply the miners.

THE BRANTFORD MURDER AND MAIL ROBBERY.

MOORE AND OVER AFFIRM THEIR INNOCENCE.

At six o'clock Armstrong, Moore and Over were brought to the Town Hall for the purpose of having the confession of Armstrong read to them. The Hall was densely crowded.

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