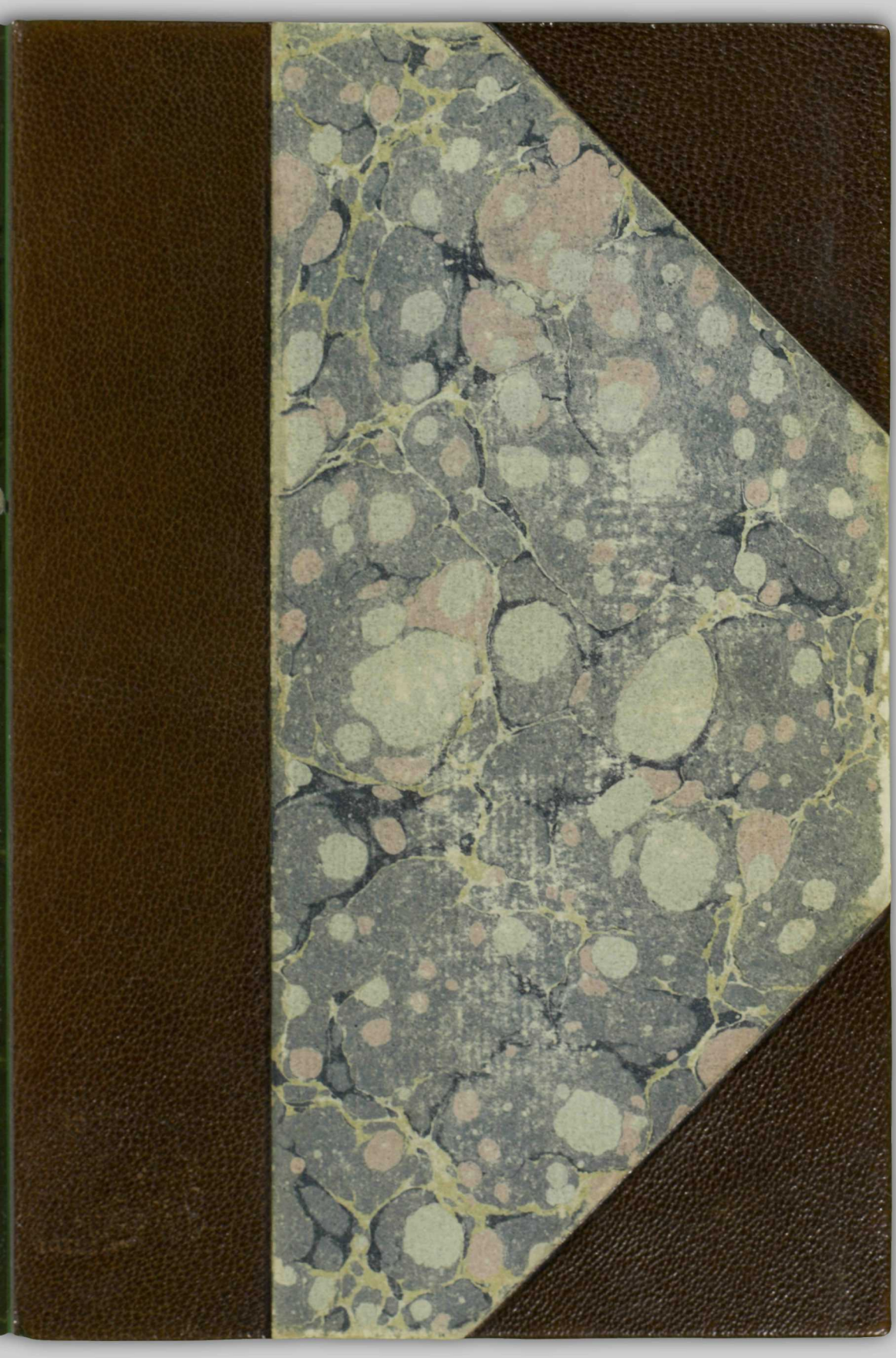

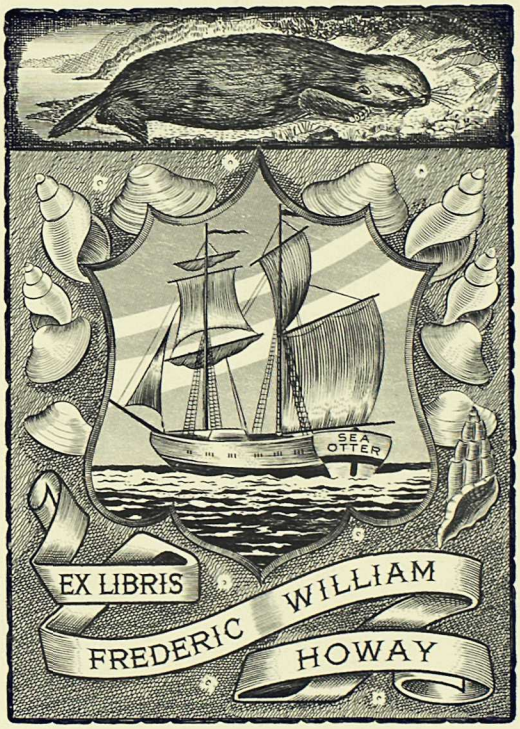

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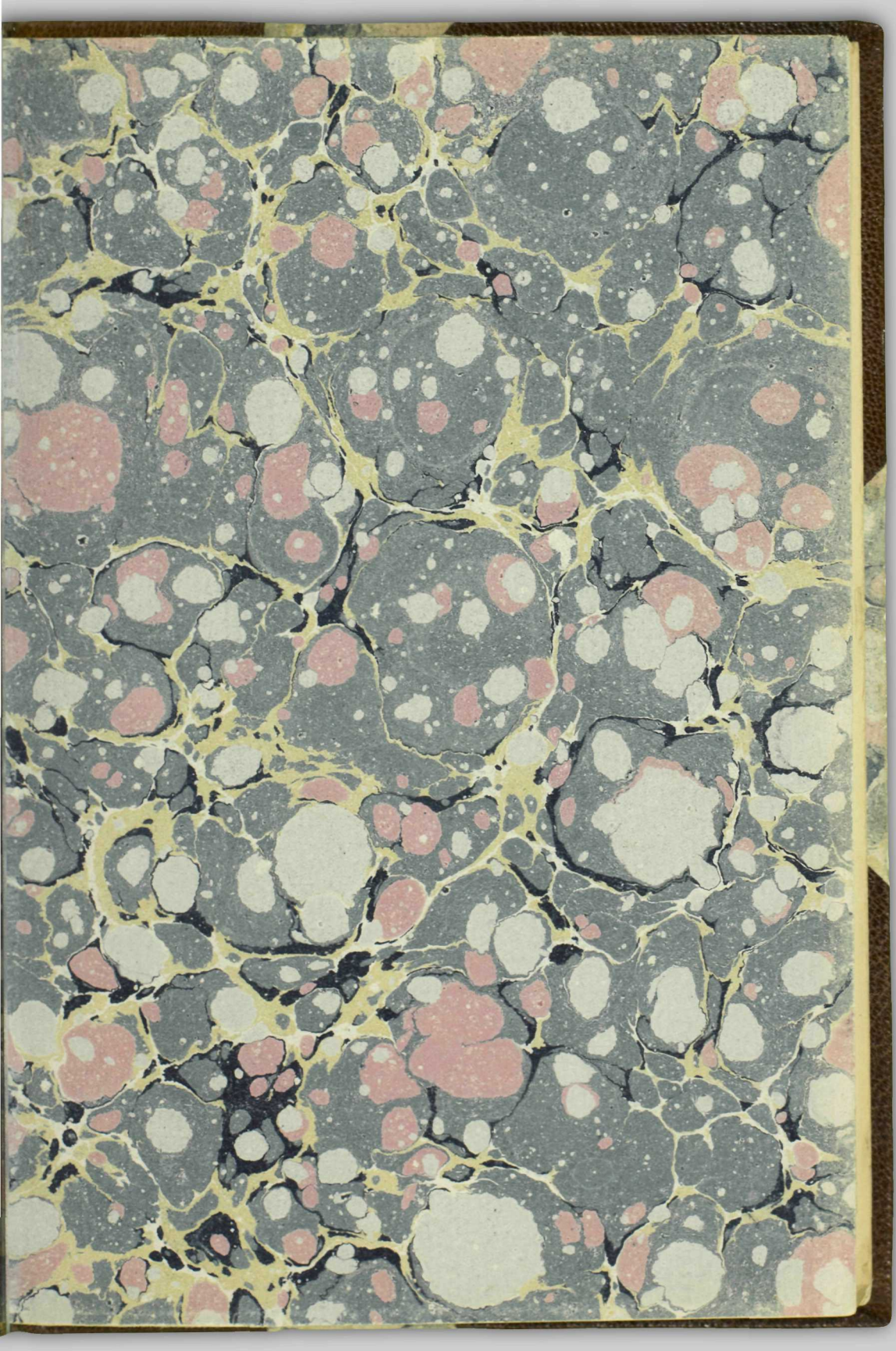

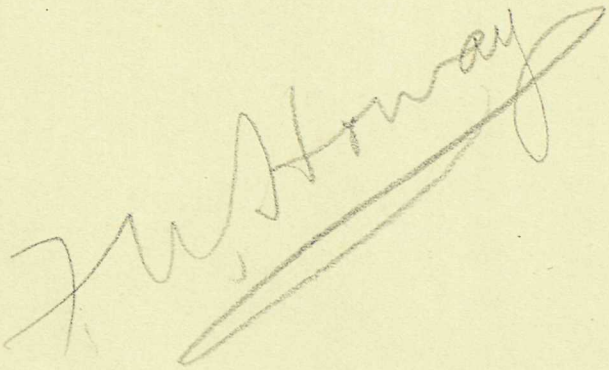

BRITISH COLUMBIA

AND

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

VOYAGES, TRAVELS, & ADVENTURES.

BY

JOHN EMMERSON,
OF WOLSINGHAM.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA.

CHAPTER I.

PASSAGE FROM LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK.

It is inherent in man's nature to desire the advancement of his condition in life; and to gain that object, his efforts are constant and varied. It is true, that erring in judgment, his efforts are frequently misdirected, but nevertheless his object is to secure a greater amount of happiness than he already enjoys, and whatever his circumstances in life may be, he always imagines the world as something better in store for him than it has ever yet bestowed; and as the butterfly is lured from flower to flower, so is man from object to object. This is a necessary ingredient in the human compound, for without it, he would sink into hopeless despair, his endeavours would cease, and there would be an end to all human progress. Had man not possessed the spirit of enterprise and ambition we could not now have boasted of our steam engines, our electric telegraph, our ships that plough the mighty ocean; nay, not even the most simple apparatus connected with domestic life. But this principle is carried to an extreme, and therein lies the evil. The thirst for gold, will tempt men to leave their wives, their children, their homes, and everything that is dear to them; encounter the dangers and difficulties of a voyage to the other side of the world, and endure all the hardships, privations, and sufferings, that must either more or less attend such an undertaking. Whether it be wisdom for

men under any circumstances whatever to allow themselves to be led away by gold excitements is a question I will leave others to settle, but certain it is that in a majority of cases, the most bitter disappointment is the result.

This craving for gold, combined with a strong desire to better the position of my family, backed by the flattering accounts written by Mr. Fraser, the Victoria correspondent of the *London Times*, induced me, along with some friends, to leave old England for the far distant gold regions of British Columbia. These friends were Mr. William Mark and his two sons, Edward and Robert, of Stockton; Mr. James Marquis, of Hamsterley; and Mr. George Little, of Wolsingham.

The gold fever was raging; we caught the infection, and resolved to "rowe our hurdies in a hammock, an' owre the sea."

On Wednesday, the 2nd of April, 1862, we sailed from Liverpool in the steamship *City of Baltimore*, belonging to the Liverpool, New York, and Philadelphia Steamship Company. About 250 took their passage to New York. To witness the parting of friends on such an occasion is exceedingly touching. Locked in each other's arms, what shedding of tears—what heaving of sighs—what long lingering looks are exchanged—what prayers are offered up by broken-hearted wives, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, for the safety of those who are as dear to them as their own lives, and who are about to leave their homes, perhaps never, never to return!

We steamed away about 1 p.m. amidst deafening hurrahs and waving of handkerchiefs, and many an eye bedimmed with tears watched us till out of sight.

We retire early, but the mind is too much agitated to allow of sleep.

Thursday the 3rd—a beautiful morning—nothing of importance to relate, except sea sickness, which the sufferers thought important enough. Arrived at Queenstown about one o'clock in the afternoon, took in upwards of 300 more passengers, of high and low degree. The stowing away of those passengers with their baggage was quite a scene; such a rushing, and tumbling, and crushing, and even lushing, for not a few of the darling boys had provided themselves with a "dhrop of the crather," "to cheer our hearts with sure."

Be it said, to the credit of those Irish people, that one and all conducted themselves with the greatest propriety during the voyage across the Atlantic.

We left Queenstown about five in the evening, and were soon out on the wide, wide sea. The whole of our party, myself excepted, are sea sick. William Mark and his two sons are showing unmistakeable signs of a severe attack. James Marquis is likewise sick, but not to such an extent. George Little is a *little* sick, but evidently does not intend to be much affected.

We turn in about nine o'clock and are soon rocked to sleep.

Friday the 4th, I awoke about one in the morning, and for some time paced the upper deck, contemplating the wonders of the mighty deep. A delightful morning till the middle of the forenoon, when the sky becomes overcast, the wind increases, with a heavy swell at sea; we ship several seas, and the vessel rolls so much, we find it difficult to keep our equilibrium. All this is alarming to many, but the danger is not great, though the scene is sufficient to give an idea of a storm at sea. Sea sickness is now the order of the day, and out of the 600 souls on board scarcely 20 have escaped. What haggard, ghastly, corpse-like countenances meet the view at every turn, and strong, healthy, robust men form no exception; and then substances in every direction greet the olfactory nerve in a manner that is anything but agreeable. To witness 600 people suffering from sea sickness is a scene difficult to describe: it must be seen to be comprehended. George Little has quite recovered, the rest are very ill; William Mark is quite prostrate. As for myself I am evidently proof against sea sickness; I have never felt the least tendency; on the contrary, I seem to possess twice my usual amount of energy and physical power. I enjoy this rather heavy sea exceedingly well; I wish I could say the same regarding my dinner to-day. Stinking salt fish, with lukewarm potatoes, sad as liver, form the repast, and certainly the most villainous dinner I ever partook of. However, salt fish is allotted to us only one day in the week, and what we are served with on the other days is "pushdownable," providing one has a ravenous appetite. As evening approaches the little storm abates, the wind is hushed, the sea becomes comparatively calm, and our trusty ship glides smoothly on. After we have gulped down our milkless apology for tea, and butterless

hard biscuit, and while every stroke of the piston widens the gap between us and our beloved homes, we sit down to talk of those who are so dear to us, and whom we have left far, far behind ; and at nine we retire to rest, and dream of those we love.

Saturday the 5th.—A delightful morning ; calm sea, with a pleasant breeze. A marked change has taken place in the health of the passengers. Sea sickness not so prevalent. The whole of our little band seem to be new men. The afternoon turns hazy, with frequent heavy showers of rain, but clears up towards evening. A most magnificent night—the moon and stars shining in all their glory, and the ocean, from the reflection of the Queen of night, appears to be as one vast expanse of sparkling, dancing, liquid silver, and our vessel majestically bounding o'er the waves as a thing of life. The scene is enchanting—'tis truly sublime. We amuse ourselves for a considerable time with watching the thousands of phosphorent lights which seem to emanate from the spray by the side of the ship, said to be decomposed matter or animalcula.

Meanwhile fiddling, dancing, and card playing are being carried on with spirit in the steerage ; but, not being interesting to us, we remain on deck till it is all over, and about ten we seek our bunks : lie down on our hard straw mattress to sleep if we can.

Sunday the 6th.—A glorious sunny morning, but a stiff breeze right in our teeth : the sea tolerably calm. We observe a notice to the effect that Captain Jeffreys will distribute tracts and Bibles at ten o'clock, and a second notice, "to Protestants only," intimating that divine service will take place in the saloon at half-past ten.

We attend divine service, and at the same time Father Skilly, a Roman Catholic priest, is preaching to the Irish people in the steerage. In the afternoon the sky becomes overcast, followed by pelting showers of rain. As evening approaches the wind increases to half a hurricane, and the rapidly swelling waves assume a threatening aspect, the sea frequently washing the decks, and the ship rolling and pitching fearfully.

About nine o'clock a heavy sea strikes the vessel, which makes her reel like a drunken man, and the next moment she gives a lurch, which changes her decks from the hori-

zontal to an almost perpendicular position. At the same time a loud squall proceeds from below, while numbers measure their length on the floor: men, women, and children jumbled together in one confused mass; and various utensils, such as carpet bags and clothes boxes, empty barrels, tin plates and dishes, knives and forks, buckets and bottles, dance jigs in all directions; while sacks of flour and barrels of biscuit break their tether, and rush across the decks with marvellous velocity; and to avoid fractured legs, it is necessary to make immediate arrangements for getting out of the way. At this moment I happen to be holding hard by the steerage door, and consequently escape the general confusion. We retire about ten o'clock, and commit ourselves, not to the mercy of the waves, but to the strength and capabilities of the steamship, *City of Baltimore.*

Monday the 7th.—This morning, about half-past two, a tremendous sea strikes the ship, which suddenly arouses us from our slumbers, the water rushing over the decks in torrents. I venture out to view the scene, which is awfully grand The night is dark as the grave—the wind bellowing through the rigging with a deep melancholy moan resembling distant thunder, and the ocean roaring like a thousand lions, boiling and foaming and lashing the ship on all sides, seeming to threaten instant destruction. For the first time a feeling of insecurity creeps over me, and to use a sea phrase, "I tremble from stem to stern." I am soon followed on deck by a number of the sons of the emerald isle, "who have left their beds in terror." I am accosted by one with "Masther, sure an' that's awful: I thought we was all goin' to the bottom o' the say."

As dawn approaches, the sea becomes comparatively calm, and we go on our way rejoicing. The forenoon is sunny, but the wind dead against us Fine all day; at night a strong breeze sets in. which causes the ship to roll very much. Sea sickness has almost vanished, our party being all well and in good spirits. Fiddling, dancing, and song make the evening's entertainment, but we take no part in it; and about ten take a journey to the land of Nod, but are soon aroused from our slumbers by a variety of articles making their nightly perambulations around the decks, producing a combination of sound not altogether favourable to sound sleeping.

Tuesday the 8th.—Fine frosty morning. To-night, if all's

well, we shall be half way across the Atlantic, and consequently over 1,500 miles from old England.

Wednesday the 9th.—Strong head wind, but steaming pretty well. Nothing worth relating.

Thursday the 10th.—Tolerable morning, wind not so violent, but quite contrary. In the afternoon we meet with a steamer bound for Liverpool from New York. A most delightful evening, scarcely a hatful of wind; the sea smooth as a mill pond; bearing away to the south to avoid the icebergs off Newfoundland.

Friday the 11th.—Morning: thick weather, with heavy rain. Afternoon: strong wind, but fair and sunny; meet with a large sailing vessel bound to England and speak with her. Evening: strong wind and a little swell at sea; witness several silent discharges of the electric fluid, which produces a grand effect. The ship rolls terribly all night, so that we have to hold on hard to prevent being pitched out of bed. Sleep is out of the question, for every portable article is flying round the decks like fury.

Saturday the 12th.—Blowing almost a hurricane, with rather a rough sea.

Sunday the 13th.—The wind increases in violence, the sea continually washing the decks, which creates anything but pleasing reflections. The sailors call this calm weather, but I rather differ with them. The Atlantic may be compared to a ravenous angry wild beast, threatening every moment to fly into a violent rage, and devour everything within its reach.

Monday the 14th.—While we have been reposing in the arms of Morpheous, what a change has come o'er the scene: the wind is subdued to a gentle breeze; the sea smooth as a board, and the sun shining with splendour. At seven this morning we pass the steamer *Etna*, bound to Liverpool, salutes are fired, and signals exchanged. How cheering to meet with a ship at sea, where there are fellow mortals sharing with us the dangers of the deep. To meet a ship at sea, is like meeting with an old friend—she is hailed with delight. A beautiful day, but cold. We expect to get a glimpse of the American Continent to-morrow.

This is a glorious moonlight night; the sea like a sheet of ice; the spirits of all run high. Nearly all the passengers on the upper deck assembled in groups— some dancing, some singing, and others conversing, each according to his

own individual taste. As for ourselves we are earnestly engaged talking of home, and those who lay so near our hearts, remarking to each other "what an anxious time this will be for our dear wives and children, who will, no doubt, be deeply concerned for our safety." But here we are "not on the land of the living," but on the briney ocean, and in prospect of a speedy termination to our first voyage.

Tuesday the 15th.—A fine morning, but chilly; the pilot taken on board at five o'clock a.m. Distant from New York 150 miles. Afternoon, abreast of Long Island, which is 120 miles in length, and 35 in width; we observe numbers of beautiful little villages as we glide along. This is a magnificent day, scarcely a ripple on the water; towards evening American land is descried, and as we approach New York, guns are fired, and rockets projected high in the air as signals of our arrival. Everyone seems to be in high glee, congratulating themselves and each other on their safe arrival. About nine at night we cast anchor in New York harbour, but must remain on board all night.

Wednesday the 16th.—About eleven o'clock this morning, after no end of indescribable confusion, the living freight is safely placed on *terra firma*, without a single accident during our trip across the mighty Atlantic.

The Atlantic ocean contains an area of twenty-five million square miles.

CHAPTER II.

DESCRIPTION OF NEW YORK—VOYAGE TO ASPINWALL.

New York is a mighty city, containing a population of about 900,000, and owns one of the largest shipping ports in the world; it stands next to London, Liverpool being the largest. The American ships are splendid specimens of naval architecture, but as they are built of soft wood, they do not possess the strength and durability of our English-made vessels.

The Central Park is a magnificent place, comprising several hundred acres, and contains the botanical gardens, cricket ground, skating pond, parade ground, a beautiful lake and

reservoir. The park is tastefully laid out and beautified with shrubs and flowers, fountains and statuary.

The Merchants' Exchange, the City Hall, the Custom House, the Cooper Institute, the Trinity Church, and the City Prison called the Tombs, are large and costly buildings.

New York can boast of several splendid libraries. The Astor Free Library contains 120,000 volumes; the Mercantile, 64,000; the Society, 50,000; the Historical Society, 25,000; and the Apprentices', 19,000.

The hotels are on a vast scale, gorgeously fitted up. The Croton Aqueduct is one of the most important of the public works, which was executed at a cost of twenty million dollars. It brings a stream of pure soft water to the city a distance of 40 miles.

Broadway, the principal thoroughfare, is a noble street, and stretches over five miles. Many of the structures are built of granite, and some of white polished marble.

This street from morning till night literally swarms with pedestrians, and vehicles of every possible description; and in this respect closely resembles the busy parts of London.

With the exception of Broadway, however, there is nothing in the streets of New York particularly attractive. On the contrary, we were utterly astonished to find many of the streets in such a filthy condition; cartloads of dirt and ashes lying in all directions, and ugly looking holes in the streets, some of them large enough to bury a man in.

Many parts of New York left the impression that it was a grand city in decay, greatly requiring renovation.

A few hundred tons of paint would improve its appearance very considerably.

The people of New York pay little attention to shop window displays. There is a wide difference in this respect between New York and many of our large towns in England. Nothing has a greater tendency to improve the appearance of a street than neatly-decorated shop windows, and in that particular New York entirely fails.

Street railways are common in New York. The American railway cars are considered quite superior to our English railway carriages. They are about twice the length of ours, and so constructed as to allow a person to walk along the centre the whole length of the train. The seats are placed transversely along each side of the car, each seat comfortably

accommodating two persons. The backs of the seats are made to turn both ways, so that the passenger can sit with his face to which end of the train he thinks proper. There are no side doors, the means of ingress and egress being at the ends of the cars. A string passes along the inside of the roof of the cars, and is attached to an alarum placed near the engine driver, to call attention in case of danger or accident. Nearly every passenger being in view of each other, the perpetration of crime is impossible.

There is no first, second, or third class. The fare is one; and as regards railway travelling, all are equal in America.

New York is situated at the mouth of the Hudson, 225 miles from Washington, 1,397 from New Orleans, 210 from Boston, and 372 miles from Montreal.

The harbour has space and depth for whole fleets of vessels of the largest size.

The steamer *Champion* was to sail on the 21st instant for Aspinwall, and when we applied for our tickets at the Californian Shipping Office, we found every berth in the ship engaged, except a few in the second cabin; and so tremendous was the rush, that numbers were procuring tickets for the next boat, which was to sail a fortnight afterwards. Our only alternative was to wait that time, or take berths in the second cabin. We resolved to adopt the latter plan, and accordingly paid 150 dollars each for our passage through to San Francisco. We each held three tickets: the first, for the passage to Aspinwall; the second, for the Panama Railroad; and the third, for the passage from Panama to San Francisco.

On Monday morning, the 21st, that part of the city in the immediate neighbourhood of the docks presented an appearance of the most animated description; and as the hour of departure drew near, a continuous stream of passengers, accompanied by their friends, was seen wending their way towards the place of embarkation. Scores of waggons heavily laden with huge boxes and carpet bags were disgorging their contents by the side of the ship, and thousands of spectators were present watching the busy scene; while those who had an eye to business were recommending their wares at the highest pitch of their voice, which produced a confusion of language that might throw into the shade that at the building of Babel.

One thousand human beings were taken on board the

Champion; and then was witnessed another parting scene that baffles description: wives clinging around the necks of their husbands absolutely frantic with grief, which was heart-rending to behold, for we could not avoid the conviction that many an affectionate wedded pair were now gazing on each other for the last time.

As the vessel moved from the dock the air was rent with hurrahs from thousands of tongues, which was exciting in the extreme; and as we glided swiftly away, a perfect forest of upturned faces kept intently gazing on the rapidly receding vessel and her living freight, and thousands of handkerchiefs fluttered in the breeze till we disappeared in the distance.

That vessel contained many a dear one, who was all the world to some now left behind. That night many a bereaved wife would return to her own fireside with a sorrowful heart, for by the side of that fire stood a vacant chair. That night would be a sleepless one for many a poor wife, mother, and sister, and many a pillow that night would be deluged with tears.

With us it was a gloomy, stormy night at sea.

"The wind blew as 'twad blawn its last;
The rattling show'rs rose on the blast."

And the sea ran high—the waves continually breaking over the ship, which was rolling, and pitching, and straining fearfully; and the whole ten hundred people, with the exception of very few, were completely prostrate with sea sickness; the great majority being down below, and quite incapable of rendering themselves the least assistance. On the upper deck a scene was to be witnessed which we thought would have melted the hardest heart that ever beat in a human bosom:—upwards of 200 steerage passengers—men, women, and children—who had no place below whereon to lay their heads, were huddled together on deck, at the fore part of the ship, exposed to the dreadful cold wind which then prevailed, the sea continually washing over them, till the poor creatures were half drowned. Their case was most pitiable, and many of us would have gladly given up our berths to the poor suffering women and children, but it was not allowed. One man, however, succeeded in smuggling down a poor young woman, more dead than alive—placed her in his berth, and sat up all night himself.

The American steamboat owners cannot be too severely

censured for taking on board more passengers than they can accommodate; but with them the "almighty dollar" is the only consideration. The boat which sailed previous to ours contained, we were told, fifteen hundred souls!

Next morning we found old neptune in excellent humour, and the remainder of the voyage to Aspinwall was everything that could be desired, with nothing in the shape of sea storms to break its monotony. Chess, draughts, dominoes, cards, and books were had recourse to; and the frequent appearance of whales, sharks, dolphins, porpoises, the nautilus, and flying fish, &c.. &c., was a constant source of amusement.

Porpoises are seldom seen, except in flocks of from half-a-dozen to fifty, and sometimes they congregate in numbers amounting to several hundreds. We have more than once seen them occupy a line at least a mile in length. They have a peculiar method of tumbling about on the surface of the water, and sometimes gambol about the bow of the ship. They swim with surprising velocity; far outstripping the swiftest steamboat. Their appearance is believed to prognosticate stormy weather, and on that account the sailors detest them.

The porpoise measures from six to seven feet in length, is very thick in the fore parts, and gradually tapering towards the tail; its snout resembles that of a hog.

All sorts of small fish constitute their prey, but especially herrings, mackerel, cod, and haddock. The porpoise not only hunts for prey near the surface, but frequently descends to the bottom in search of eels and sea worms, which it roots out of the sand with its snout in the manner hogs harrow up the ground; hence, it has obtained the name of sea-hog.

The porpoise yields a considerable quantity of oil: the lean of the young ones is wholesome, and has nearly the flavour of veal. In America the skin is tanned and dressed, which makes excellent covering for carriages.

The dolphin strongly resembles the porpoise, but is about 3 feet longer; also its snout is longer and more pointed.

The flying fish is about the size of a herring, and an interesting little thing it is. In the tropics we saw myriads of them, for almost every bound of the ship scared hundreds of them from the water, frequently knocking each other down in their haste to escape; they, no doubt, imagine a ship to be some monster fish about to devour them. They are exceed-

ingly timid, and as they are chased by the dolphin, porpoise, and other large fish, they take to the air for safety; but all animated nature seem combined against them, for the tropic bird and the albatross are ever on the alert to seize them. The wing of the flying fish is long, thin, and tapering, and they appear to possess as perfect self-command in the air as in the water, and fly with amazing speed. At a distance they so closely resemble a flock of birds, that it requires a practiced eye to detect the difference. They are capable of flying some two or three hundred yards, when they suddenly drop into the water, some of them, no doubt, to be instantly devoured; for while they are skimming along about three feet above the surface, it is said their voracious enemy is swiftly gliding beneath in the same direction ready to seize upon them when they return to their watery element.

The nautilus, or sailing fish, is a wonderful production of nature. Amongst seamen it has obtained the name of "the Portuguese Man-of-War," in consequence of its resemblance to a ship under sail. The nautilus is a shell fish belonging the sea-snail kind, and can quit and resume its shell at pleasure. When on the surface of the water its body presents the appearance of an oblong air bubble, seven or eight inches in length, which is fringed around by a crumpled fleshy substance; attached to which are several arms used as propelling paddles, and which are connected to each other by a very thin transparent skin. This wonderful little animal is likewise furnished with a half moon shaped membrane, about eight inches in height, and same in width, which it can raise as a sail to catch the breeze; and thus it glides along the surface of the water. At a distance these sails resemble fine tissue paper, many of which are as white as driven snow, but some are red, some purple, and some blue, which colours are all exceedingly rich.

When the nautilus is threatened with danger it instantly gathers in its paddles, furls its sail, creeps into its shell, which is exceedingly thin and light; absorbs a portion of water, which renders it heavier than the surrounding element; and it sinks to the bottom of the ocean. It is supposed that in the early ages, the art of navigation owed its origin to the management of this instinctive sailor.

About the West India Islands we witnessed some of those splendid sunsets which no pen nor pencil can pourtray. In

the golden tinted clouds the wrapt fancy sees hills and dales, cliffs and craggs, fields and forests, rivers and lakes, gardens and shrubberies, fountains and statuary, and a thousand other things wild and enchanting.

We steamed close past the east end of Cuba, and on the left we sighted Hayti. We did not, however, come within sight of the Island of Jamaica.

The heat was now becoming oppressive, which compelled us to quit our berths below, and sleep on the upper deck.

About 9 p.m., on the 30th of April, we arrived at Aspinwall, our voyage from New York having occupied nine days and a half.

Unfortunately, I was suffering from a severe attack of rheumatic gout in one of my feet, which prevented me in a great measure from peering about, and noting the peculiarities of the place and its inhabitants. However, I ventured out with some of our party, and crawled about as well as I could. The place was dimly lighted with oil lamps, which half reminded one of the song called "The light of other days."

What we witnessed was of an extraordinary character, and the first thing that attracted our attention was a number of native women, in an almost perfect state of nudity, sitting in the streets smoking cigars, with a table before them laden with goods, which they offered for sale to the passers by. These goods consisted of beautiful native shells, worked into baskets; ladies' work-boxes, and other devices; fruits, consisting of bananas, pine-apples, cocoa-nuts, oranges, limes, lemons, sugar-cane, &c., all of which were very cheap. A very palatable beverage, composed of lemons, sugar, and iced water, commanded an extensive sale at five cents, or two-pence halfpenny per glass or half pint.

Gamblers were located in different parts of the streets with crowds of people around them; but, being lame, I could not force my way through to make myself acquainted with their method of gambling, nor had my companions any inclination to inquire into the particulars of it.

The streets are paraded by native women of loose charater; although they were the most ugly and repulsive specimens of humanity that mortal eyes ever beheld, encased in a thin loose white dress, fan in hand, with a janty air they swaggered about as though they imagined themselves the greatest beauties in existence, They made no secret of their disreput-

able calling, but with indecent language accosted the white men, and sometimes actually laid hands on them, who invariably turned away from them in disgust.

These detestable women appeared to enjoy this sort of fun amazingly—frequently indulging in boisterous laughter. They seemed to be well aware that their overtures were exceedingly obnoxious to the white men, and did it perhaps more to amuse themselves and annoy the others than for any other object.

At a random guess the population of Aspinwall is perhaps about 2,000. The houses are built principally of wood, more than half of which are restaurants and billiard rooms; meals are charged one dollar each, and a bed the same for one night.

The atmosphere at Aspinwall is completely impregnated with the scent of rich fruit.

The banana grows from five to nine inches in length, and in shape resembles the cucumber. It is a soft, luscious fruit; in flavour resembling a very ripe pear; the skin is perfectly smooth, and when ripe, quite yellow, and easily peeled off. As many as a hundred will grow on one stem, which is about one and a-half inches in thickness, and very strong; and as they grow closely packed all round the stem, they form a bunch of immense size and weight, some of them almost as much as a man can lift from the ground.

Next morning, by seven o'clock, the *Champion* had discharged her cargo, both animate and inanimate; and as there were two or three hours to dispose of before the train started over the isthmus for Panama, these ten hundred people had that time to kill by some means; and those who were bent on gratifying their curiosity perambulated the streets in a half roasted condition, but the majority sought shelter, and were busily engaged trying to keep themselves cool, a task by no means easy of accomplishment, for the sun was pouring down his rays to a degree overpowering. The temptation to bathe was almost irresistible, but we were cautioned by the natives against doing so. One of our passengers, nevertheless, had the hardihood to venture into the water, and was immediately stung in the foot by some venomous animal; he was under the care of the ship's doctor about a fortnight, and fortunately recovered.

By half-past ten we were all seated in the railway cars, and when the signal was given, "amidst deafening shouts from the natives," we rushed into the wild woods of Central America.

CHAPTER III.

ISTHMUS AND CITY OF PANAMA.—VOYAGE TO SAN FRANCISCO.

THE Rev. Thomas Milner, in his Gallery of Geography, says, "Central America, in the geographical sense, embraces the whole of the narrow portion of the Continent between its two main masses. But the political signification is restricted to the space occupied by the States within its limits, which are included between the northern Isthmus of Tehuantepec, belonging to Mexico, and the southern Isthmus of Panama, a part of the Granadian Confederation. This territory is washed on the eastern side by the Caribbean Sea, an arm of the Atlantic, which deeply invades the shores, and by the waters of the Pacific on the western, which have a comparatively smooth coast-line. It has a length of about 900 miles from north-west to south-east, by a very varying breadth, contracting from 300 miles to less than 80 miles; and an area computed at nearly 190,000 square miles. High table lands, traversed by mountainous ridges and overtopped by volcanic cones, occupy a large proportion of the interior, where the scenery is splendid, and the climate is rendered singularly balmy by the elevation; while the fierce heat of the torrid zone is experienced on the maritime lowlands.

"But the beautiful in the landscape is often seen in close alliance with memorials of a terrible agency; and the calm of nature is frequently interrupted by physical convulsions.

"In many parts, sudden chasms, deep rents, and capricious twistings of the surface bear unmistakable evidence of having been caused by violent paroxysms of volcanic action; and few regions at present are more subject to furious outbursts from the constantly-smoking craters, with displays of the earthquake's dreadful power. Upon the achievement of independence from the Spanish monarchy, the five states which then formed themselves into a federation adopted for their national cognizance, in allusion to the natural peculiarities of the country, the figure of five volcanoes on a plain, bordered on either side by the ocean.

"The indigenous vegetation is very diversified, and rendered luxuriant by heavy seasonal rains in connection with the hot climate. It constitutes the main source of wealth,

embracing magnificent trees of cedar, mahogany, and dye woods, with sarsaparilla, vanilla, balsams, gums, and other medicinal plants.

"The cultivated products include the cochineal plant, indigo, sugar, cotton, coffee, tobacco, cacao, and fruits.

"Some of the birds are of great beauty; as the quesal, most frequently met with in Guatimala, remarkable for its exquisite green plumage, spotted on the wings with brilliant red and black, while the long feathers of the tail are of green, powdered with gold. The population, upwards of 2,000,000, consists of whites chiefly of Spanish descent, and a large number of native Indians, with a mixed race called Ladinos, and a few negroes. Though converts generally to Roman Catholicism, and speaking the Spanish language, some of the Indians in the secluded mountain districts adhere to ancestral forms of idolatry, and retain their native dialect."

At Aspinwall, the English language is spoken correctly.

The Isthmus of Panama is a narrow neck of land, only 47 miles in breadth, which separates the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. A railroad and telegraphic wire stretches across, connecting Panama, on the Pacific side, with Aspinwall on the Atlantic, by which means Cape Horn and the whole of South America is cut off, thereby reducing the distance between England and Vancouver Island from over 20,000 miles to 10,000 miles.

The isthmus is a dense romantic forest, rank with luxuriant tropical plants and fruit trees; and after the sea voyage, the trip by rail through this charming scenery was an agreeable change to the sea-worn eyesight, and greatly relished by all.

The natives are existing in a very primitive state. In crossing the isthmus, we observed several native villages scattered along the route; many of their wigwams being mere sheds of the rudest description, thickly thatched with tropical leaves to protect them from the sun and rain. These leaves are an enormous size, measuring 8 or 10 feet in length and from 2 to 3 feet in width. The native men and women are going about within a shade of being naked; the children are perfectly so. It was amusing to see those little black fellows standing, with their hands behind their backs, watching the train as it passed, and looking as innocent as possible. It appears these children feed principally upon

fruit and vegetables, which may account for their "bellies" being such an enormous size.

Close by the side of the railroad we observed two or three extensive stone quarries, where a great number of natives were employed working out the stone. With the exception of a Panama hat on their head, and a piece of thin calico around their middle, they were working in their bare pelts, the perspiration pouring from the pores of the skin to a degree that threatened their speedy annihilation. Attached to each of these quarries is a machine driven by steam power for crushing up the stone, which is done most effectually. To what use this stone is put we could not ascertain—perhaps for ballasting the railroad. The Panama Railway is a paying concern, allowing, it is said, 30 per cent. per annum. A few miles of the line from Aspinwall runs through a swamp; the rest lies through deep cuttings and over embankments, with many very sharp curves and iron bridges. At intervals of four miles there are neat and elegant wooden buildings, beautifully painted and ornamented, each with a sweetly pretty flower garden attached. These charming little places are for the double purpose of stations, and residences for the managers of the railway. The managers, we were told, are white men; and I may here observe that a few Europeans are to be found in this part of the world conducting the work that is going on; but I imagine they must receive liberal wages indeed to induce them to live in such a country, for it is one of the most unhealthy places on the face of the earth. The sacrifice of human life which took place during the making of this railroad is fearful to contemplate. Hands could not be supplied fast enough, and the works were frequently suspended, so terrible were the ravages of the yellow fever.

We were told that as many workmen fell victims to the Panama fever as there are railway sleepers over the whole length of the line—upwards of 82,000; but I am inclined to think it an exaggeration.

The fare for this 47 miles railway journey is 25 dollars, or five pounds, four shillings, and twopence. This exorbitant charge may be accounted for by the railway having cost twelve millions of dollars; besides, there is no opposition.

A run of three hours through this enchanting scenery brought us to the ancient city of Panama, which stands on the Pacific coast.

Panama is the capital of the Isthmus, the site of which has been once changed. According to the Encyclopædia Britannica, "the old city stood about three miles east from the present situation, and on the first arrival of the Spaniards in 1515 it was occupied by an Indian population, who were attracted to the spot on account of the vast abundance of fish on the coast, and gave the name of Panama to their place of residence, that word, in their language, signifying 'much fish.' The natives, however, were speedily dispossessed by their ruthless invaders; and as early as the year 1521 the title and privileges of a city were conferred on the Spanish town by the Emperor Charles V. In the year 1670 old Panama was reduced to a heap of ruins by the pirate Morgan, and it was after this catastrophe that the city was built on the spot where it now stands. The harbour of Panama is protected by a number of small islands lying at a little distance from the main land, and highly cultivated. These spots upon the sea, scattered around the Bay of Panama, are the gardens of the town, and afford a plentiful supply of fruit and vegetables. There is good anchorage under the lee of them all, and besides the productions of the soil good water can be obtained from nearly the whole of them. The plan of the city is somewhat irregular. The buildings are of stone and generally most substantial, and are constructed in the old Spanish style.

Amongst edifices of a public nature may be mentioned a beautiful cathedral, four convents, now altogether deserted; a nunnery, a college, and also the walls of another, which was begun on a magnificent scale, but was never finished, and is now crumbling to ruins. Immediately around Panama eastward along the coast, and north-westward from it, the land is low and flat; but westward and north-eastward the mountains approach it closely, and from a hill in the vicinity about six hundred feet in height a view may be obtained of the sea with its islands, and the country with its forest-mantled mountains and its green savannas. The beach is fringed with plantain and banana trees, growing amongst oranges, figs, and limes, and numberless rich shrubs shaded by the tamarind, which crowns them all, except the cocoa-nut with its feathery top and naked stem."

Panama is celebrated for its gold chains, in the manufacture of which the natives are remarkably expert. The Panama hat is a favourite head dress in the country: it is

well adapted to the climate, being very light, its broad brim protecting the neck and shoulders from the powerful rays of the sun. It costs from 2 to 20 dollars, according to quality.

The population of Panama, we were told, amounts to upwards of 20,000. We were joined here by 200 passengers from Southampton, and the steamship *St. Louis*, which was destined to convey those twelve hundred people to San Francisco, was lying off a few miles, to which vessel we were taken in small steamers. The transhipment was a scene of indescribable confusion, which I have good reason to remember, for I got the life half trampled out of me in the fray. Having had to walk some two hundred yards from the train to the wharf with my foot tied up in a handkerchief, the lameness increased to a very inconvenient degree, and the pain became excruciating. While passing along the gangway to go on board the *St. Louis* I broke down, and was assisted on board by two or three sailors. I was placed in a passage on one side of the vessel among hundreds of bundles, bags, and boxes, and there left to my fate.

The passage in which I was laid was the one leading to the steerage staircase, along which were rushing men and women in wild confusion, the object of each being to obtain a comfortable sleeping berth. There was not accommodation of this sort for all, and each was anxious to secure a place for himself. It was left to the passengers to choose their own bunks ; and hence this fearful rushing, which lasted for hours. During that time I lost sight of all our party, for they, like the rest, were busily engaged.

My condition was anything but an enviable one, and in such a crowd I could not render myself the least assistance, and was kicked about in all directions.

Ever and anon, some man or woman laden with bundles and carpet bags, would tumble head over heels right over me—my gouty foot never escaping a terrible squeeze. Sometimes three or four would tumble over me altogether, when I actually thought I had to be killed and buried at a moment's notice.

Those who have experienced an attack of gout in the big toe will form some idea of what were my sufferings. Eventually, however, my painful condition attracted the attention and aroused the sympathy of half-a-dozen Canadians, two of whom forced a way through the crowd ; while the other four,

each having hold of a limb, conveyed me away with great difficulty to the hurricane deck, where they laid me on my back, and formed themselves in o a ring around me, to protect me from the crushing of the crowd. These kind-hearted fellows remained with me until my friends came and took me under their care.

While all this was going on, the light-fingered gentry were busily engaged in their nefarious work, and a considerable amount of luggage property was stolen. One of our party, George Little, lost a bundle containing a pair of excellent blue blankets, and a pair of new Wellington boots, besides an odd boot belonging to my gouty foot. Of course, there was little chance of ever discovering the thief, or recovering the things; but, strange to say, a fortnight afterwards, when within three days' sail of San Francisco, my boot turned up unexpectedly at the exact time it was wanted. An acquaintance found it in a corner of one of the cowhouses, and brought it to me. It appears the thief had thrown the odd boot away as useless; but he took particular care of the property belonging to Little, for he never saw them afterwards.

So ended the adventure with the gout and the boot. At eight o'clock p.m., all being in readiness, we weighed anchor and commenced our Pacific voyage.

About 12 miles from Panama we passed a little town and harbour, called Tabago, at which place there are some rather extensive copper works where stills are manufactured for the distillation of spirits.

There is a regular dockyard and steam foundry originally placed there, with a view to steam communication with Australia.

Taking a survey of the heavens, we observed constellations of stars in the southern hemisphere which are never visible in Europe. One of these is exceedingly beautiful: it consists of four stars, and is known amongst astronomers as the constellation of the cross. Stars in the southern hemisphere shine with greater brilliancy than those stars of the first magnitude which are visible in Europe, owing, no doubt, to the clearer state of the atmosphere in a tropical climate.

Humboldt refers to his first view of this constellation with peculiar feeling. "We saw distinctly, for the first time," he observes, "the cross of the South, on the nights of the 4th

and 5th of July, in the sixteenth degree of latitude; it was strongly inclined, and appeared from time to time between the clouds, the centre of which, furrowed by uncondensed lightnings, reflected a silver light. The pleasure felt on discovering the Southern Cross was warmly shared by such of the crew as had lived in the colonies. In the solitude of the seas we hail a star as a friend, from whom we have been long separated. Among the Portuguese and the Spaniards peculiar motives seem to increase this feeling: a religious sentiment attaches them to a constellation, the form of which recalls the sign of the faith planted by their ancestors in the deserts of the new world.

The two great stars which mark the summit and the foot of the cross have nearly the same right ascension; it follows that the constellation is almost perpendicular at the moment it passes the meridian. This circumstance is known to every nation that lives beyond the tropics, or in the southern hemisphere. It is known at what hour of the night, in different seasons, the Southern Cross is erect or inclined: it is a timepiece that advances very regularly nearly four minutes a-day; and no other group of stars exhibits to the naked eye an observation of time so easily made.

How often have we heard our guides exclaim in the savannas of Venezuela, or in the deserts extending from Lima to Truxillo, "Midnight is past: the cross begins to bend!" How often these words reminded us of that affecting scene, where Paul and Virginia, seated near the source of the river of Lotaniers, conversed together for the last time; and when the old man, at the sight of the Southern Cross, warns them that it is time to separate!"

Mrs. Hemans has entered into the feeling here described, and sung of the Southern Cross in the spirit of a settler in the new world from old Spain:—

"But to thee, as the lode-stars resplendently burn
In their clear depths of blue, with devotion I turn;
Bright Cross of the South! and beholding thee shine—
Scarce regret the loved land of the olive and vine.

Thou recallest the age when first o'er the main
My fathers unfolded the ensign of Spain,
And planted their faith in the regions that see
Its unperishing symbol emblazoned in thee.

Shine on—my own land in a far distant spot,
And the stars of thy sphere can enlighten it not;
And the eyes that I love, though e'en now they may be
O'er the firmament wandering, can gaze not on thee!

But thou to my thoughts art a pure blazing shrine—
A fount of bright hopes and of visions divine;
And my soul, like an eagle exulting and free,
Soars high o'er the Andes to mingle with thee!"

The Rev. Thomas Milner, in his Gallery of Nature, says—"Among the stars of the south, with which the stay-at-home Europeans are only acquainted by report, the constellation of the cross is described as pre-eminently the most interesting object in the sky of that hemisphere, on account of the associations connected with it by a Christianised imagination. It consists of four bright stars, to which the fancy readily gives a cruciform shape, the upper and lower being the pointers to the South Pole."

Night after night we sat for hours by the side of the vessel contemplating with wonder and admiration the indescribable glories of the starry panorama of the southern hemisphere, which culminates in the cross, and could not wonder that the simple devotee should look upon it as the mystic symbol of his faith. But Mr. Milner errs when he gives a diagram of the constellation in the exact form of *the cross*. The space between the upper and lower stars is not elongated as he represents—all the four stars being at equal distances from each other, except the lower one, which is a little inclined to the left. To give a clear illustration, draw a vertical and a horizontal line, equal in length, crossing each other precisely at the centre; place a dot at each extremity, except at the lowest one, where the dot must be placed not lower down than the end of the line, but a little to the left hand side of it. This is the exact form of the constellation of the cross.

Casting our eyes northward we observed the North Pole star all but sunk below the horizon. There is no perceptible difference here in the length of the days. The sun rises at six in the morning and sets at the same hour in the evening all the year round. The atmosphere in the tropics is highly charged with electricity, and consequently thunder storms of the most violent description are of frequent occurrence. Every night after sunset we beheld the lightning silently playing between the small patches of clouds that thinly dotted the

blue ethereal expanse above, producing a grand and imposing effect.

We were inconveniently crowded on board the *St. Louis*. As some one remarked, "we were packed in like herrings in a barrel." At all events, it was impossible for people to move about with anything like comfort; and the intense heat rendered our condition anything but enviable. The decks of course were covered in with canvas, but at times we were unavoidably exposed to the direct rays of the sun, which soon brought the skin off in large flakes. I began to think there might be some truth in what I had previously considered the sailor's romance, about frying beef-steaks in the sun. I am almost inclined to believe that a plate of polished steel exposed to the rays of a tropical sun would cook rashers of bacon.

The water we had to drink was almost smoking hot. Iced water was to be had at the bar for 25 cents., or one shilling and a halfpenny per glass; but the majority of us adopted the more economical plan of purchasing ice, the charge for which was 25 cents. per lb., and one pound of ice would convert two quarts of water into a nice cool drink.

Loud were the complaints from the steerage passengers respecting the unwholesomeness of their provisions; and not without reason, for they were frequently supplied with flesh meat which was in a putrid state, and totally unfit for human food; but there was no redress—they had to eat that or starve.

Several who possessed the means paid the extra fare at Panama, and transplanted themselves from the steerage to the second cabin to secure a little more comfort during the remainder of the voyage.

But even the second cabin fare in the American vessels is inferior to that of the steerage in the English vessels.

As regards the sleeping accommodation on board the American steamers the arrangements are disgraceful in the extreme, and call loudly for reform. For a limited number of passengers all is right enough, the sleeping apartments being arranged along each side the ship, the males occupying one side, the females the other; and for four or five hundred people the sleeping accommodation is ample, but for twelve hundred persons it is totally inadequate.

Under such like circumstances, skeleton or temporary bunks are fixed, three tier high, over the body of the ship 'tween decks, leaving narrow passages at intervals.

Hundreds of men, women, and children are thus unavoidably exposed to each other in the most indecent manner, which is a disgrace to any civilized nation that allows it.

The consequence is that scenes of immorality and vice take place, which is totally unfit for publication. Suffice it to say, that ladies made overtures to gentlemen, and gentlemen became addicted to somnambulism; for, instead of proceeding direct to their own sleeping apartments, as all wide-awake fellows would do, they frequently found themselves in the apartments belonging to the opposite sex.

We had no lack of daily news, and the supply of gossipping tittle-tattle was equal to the demand.

Numerous were the conjectures respecting certain mysterious couples. "Were they married, or were they not married," that was the question. "Were these elopements; had they run away from their fathers and mothers, or from their husbands and wives," with a thousand other surmises.

We had on board one very conspicuous pair—a lady and gentleman—passengers in the first cabin, and who were the observed of all observers. The lady was perhaps 35 years of age, tolerably good-looking, but her manner too bold for her sex. She was remarkably corpulent, her huge form appearing every day in elegant attire. The gentleman was about the age of the lady; he was plain-looking, and constantly carried about with him a sulky expression of countenance. He was evidently ill at ease about something or other. They were first looked upon as husband and wife, but their manner towards each other soon belied that supposition; and somehow or other we could not persuade ourselves that they were lovers, for he was always out of humour, and she was labouring from morning till night to get him into it. She was constantly fawning about him: gently and lovingly she would pat his face with her hand; then smooth down his hair, and arrange his necktie; and sometimes in the presence of every one, to the great amusement of some and disgust of others, she would throw her arms around his neck and embrace him most tenderly.

All these and a thousand other little attentions she daily lavished upon him, but all her stratagems failed to produce the desired effect, and he remained the picture of a miserable-minded man.

We could not avoid coming to the conclusion that this was

somebody's wife who had run away with somebody's husband, and he was suffering the pangs of a guilty conscience. One day he was overheard threatening to jump overboard and drown himself. He rushed from her presence, and disappeared in the crowd, with the intention, she thought, of committing the horrible deed. She instantly raised the alarm—"A man overboard." The ship was immediately stopped, life buoys thrown overboard, and the lifeboat launched; but, after a minute search and considerable delay, it was pronounced a false alarm. In the meantime, the pretended suicide, instead of plunging into the depths of the ocean, had dived into the bowels of the ship, where he remained several hours, when he again put in an appearance on deck, sound in wind and limb.

The most unfortunate part of this affair was:—While the sailors were launching the lifeboat one of the poor fellows had the misfortune to get one of his hands dreadfully crushed with the tackle, which disabled him for the rest of the voyage. A subscription was set on foot, and he was presented with a good few dollars.

We had another couple on board, likewise chief-cabin passengers, whose movements were closely watched, and whose conduct was freely discussed.

In this case the gentleman was about 50 years of age, and the girl only eighteen. When we started from New York this young woman was a steerage passenger; but, in the course of a day or two, the said gentleman was observed to pay frequent visits to the steerage part of the ship, and make overtures to the girl. In a short time he brought her out of the steerage, paid her fare for the first cabin, and they lived together on board as man and wife.

Now, this worthy was a married man, and we happened to witness the parting scene between him and his wife at New York, which was a most affecting one. She was a fine lady-looking woman, and at parting with her husband her mental anguish was extreme; and when the ship moved away from the dock we thought the poor lady would have thrown herself into the sea, so intense was her grief.

Often did we wonder, when we saw these two arm in arm parading the deck, what the feelings of the poor wife would have been had she been made acquainted with the infidelity of her worthless husband. Whether this girl knew that her

paramour was already married I know not, but she gave it out that it was their intention to get married as soon as they reached San Francisco.

As might be expected, some of our fellow-voyagers proved themselves companions the most agreeable, and others quite the reverse. The Canadians looked upon us Englishmen as their own people, and treated us with the greatest kindness and consideration; while the Americans looked down upon us with supreme contempt, and sought for opportunity to insult us, both nationally and individually. They were constantly humming songs expressive of sentiment far from being complimentary to England. They promise us a severe whipping as soon as they get this little matter of their own settled. "We will teach John Bull a lesson," they say, "which he will never forget." They still tell us the Sam Slick story, "that England can lick creation, and they can whip England."

Whatever the cause may be, it is clear that very many in all classes of American society entertain a strong prejudice against England. Amongst the lower classes this feeling finds expression in the most vulgar and disgusting language, and I believe that the ill-feeling of the middle and higher classes is none the less for being expressed in milder terms. Nevertheless, it is a curious fact, that as it regards England's opinion of America, the Yankees are exceedingly sensitive. Anything complimentary from England is much more flattering to them than were it from any other nation; and, on the other hand, anything in the shape of slight from England is much more hurtful to their feelings than the same would be from any other quarter.

The Americans generally manifest a bullying, domineering, overbearing manner, arising from the idea they entertain of their superiority over all the world, which is very obnoxious to the minds of Englishmen. Even at the dinner table, instead of asking you in a respectful manner to oblige them with so and so, they command you to do it with all the authority imaginable; of course, they address each other in the same manner. Their habits are disgusting in the extreme; and as for swearing horrid oaths and chewing tobacco, "they beat creation."

From morning till night hundreds of mouths were constantly discharging their filthy contents—tobacco slaver,

"about the consistency of treacle," literally running over the side of the vessel in a constant stream. Should you chance to be looking over the side of the ship, every now and then some filthy fellow, without giving the least warning, would squirt out a terrific mouthful over the bulwark, which the wind would instantly drive in your face, and in the twinkling of an eye both your eyes were absolutely glued up with tobacco juice. All this sort of thing we had to put up with as best we could.

The Canadians had cautioned us against saying anything to offend the Yankees, who are dangerous fellows to quarrel with. The Americans are very sullen tempered, and dreadfully suspicious. Nevertheless, they are shrewd, and clever in their way; but know it too well, and are continually boasting and making displays of what they consider their superior "cuteness."

One very prominent feature in the character of the American is, his love of outwitting and cheating those with whom he has dealings; but, instead of being denounced for his unprincipled trickery, he is lauded by his American friends and counted a "smart fellow."

It was not to be expected that these twelve hundred passengers, representing nearly every European nation, were all honest people. An extensive wholesale business was carried on in the pilfering line. Pockets were picked of money; gold and silver watches abstracted; carpet bags plundered of their contents, and the bags thrown into the sea. There is reason to believe that the ship's servants have a hand in this sort of work—waiteresses and stewardesses not excepted.

An elderly lady, a first cabin passenger, while lying on her death bed, was actually plundered of 40 dollars by a coloured stewardess, whose duty it was to attend upon her during her illness. This poor old lady was on her voyage from New York to San Francisco, where she had two sons, who had sent for their mother to spend the remnant of her days with them in that city.

She died on the night of the 4th of May, and on the following morning we witnessed the mournful spectacle of a funeral at sea. Contrary to the usual custom the ship was stopped while the funeral ceremony took place. We had two clergymen on board, who preached every Sunday morning and afternoon.

To those who are not conversant with the fittings of a ship's interior it may be interesting to learn that on board these large steamers there are bullock houses, pig stys, sheep pens, poultry houses, cow byers, butchers' shops, and slaughter houses; and even a barber's shop, where a person can get scraped or pruned for the small charge of *half a dollar*. The barber supplies ready-made clothing to suit all climates.

It is not a small quantity of flesh meat that is required daily to supply the wants of twelve hundred people; and at the commencement of the voyage, large numbers of oxen and hundreds of fowls are placed on board and slaughtered as they are required.

There is an ice house at the bottom of the vessel, where blocks of ice can be preserved, even in a tropical climate, during a voyage of two or three weeks. The ice is used for cooling ales, wines, spirits, water, butter, &c.

There is a regular public-house bar on board, where every description of spirits is supplied at one shilling and a half-penny per glass; "or drink," as it is termed, for it is not the fashion on the other side of the Atlantic to measure out to the customer a certain quantity: a bottle and glass is placed before him, and the quantity he takes is left to his own discretion.

Our course lay along the Pacific Coast, within a few miles of the shore, and the ever-changing scenery which was daily presented to view was exceedingly interesting and exciting. It formed one unbroken chain of mountains of every possible shape and variety, some of which towered high above the clouds. Many of these large mountains are evidently extinct volcanoes, and farther inland some are yet in an active state.

On the ninth day, after leaving Panama, we reached Acapulco, which lies about half way between Panama and San Francisco.

Acapulco is a city in the province of Mexico. It stands in the recess of a bay close to a chain of granite mountains, and is the best Mexican port on the coast of the Pacific ocean. The bay has two entrances formed by the island of Roquetta. The western entrance is about 300 yards wide, and the great entrance from the south is about a mile and a half wide, with a depth of water from 150 to 210 feet. The port is capable of containing 500 ships, and is deep enough to allow vessels to lie close to the rocks.

Acapulco is but poorly built, and is a very unhealthy place. Lying within the torrid zone and surrounded by mountains, it is intensely hot, and the inhabitants, particularly new comers, are liable to dangerous fevers.

We put in here for a fresh supply of coal, water, and live stock. We cast anchor alongside a large platform or wharf, which stood some distance from the shore. On this was placed several hundred sacks of coal, and some fifty or sixty natives, under the guidance of a white man, were awaiting our arrival. The natives were all but naked. Some bore large flaming torches to light up the scene of operations, while others were busily engaged putting the coal into the vessel. Immediately on our arrival, the ship was surrounded by scores of natives with their canoes heavily laden with fruits, spirits, cigars, shells, &c., and for some hours did a roaring trade. Two or three interpreters came on board, each provided with a sort of basket, attached to which was a long cord. The order was given to the interpreters, the money placed in the basket and lowered down to a canoe, and the required article hoisted on board to the purchaser. All this presented a scene of the most animated description, and was an exceedingly interesting and exciting exhibition. The natives are expert swimmers and divers: it was said that a silver coin dropped into the water could be caught by them before it reached the bottom.

At dawn next morning, all being in readiness, we steamed slowly out of the harbour, and recommenced our Pacific voyage. The weather continued hot for a few days after we left Acapulco, but when we reached the Gulf of California, being out of the tropics, a perceptible change was felt in the temperature of the atmosphere. We were now bearing rapidly away in a north-westerly direction, and when we got within two or three days' sail of San Francisco we felt the weather intensely cold. Instead of lounging about in a half-roasted condition, divested of coats, vests, and neck-ties, as was the case a few days previously, we went shivering about enveloped in top-coats and mufflers.

The Gulf of California is about 700 miles in length, and its breadth varies between 150 and 40 miles. While passing through the gulf we lost sight of land a couple of days or more. The spermaceti whale, the shark, the seal, the tortoise, and the turtle are met with in the gulf.

Our voyage continued a prosperous one, and about half-past five o'clock on Sunday morning, the 18th of May, the booming of the cannon announced to us that we were just passing through the "golden gate," as the entrance to the harbour of San Francisco is called.

It was a lovely radiant morning; a long sea voyage had been accomplished in safety, and consequently the spirits of all ran high.

At six we drew up to the wharf at San Francisco, and as soon as the ship was made fast she began to disgorge her contents, which poured forth from her side in two living streams for the space of an hour.

CHAPTER IV.

SAN FRANCISCO—VOYAGE TO VANCOUVER'S—INTERVIEW WITH THE GOVERNOR OF THE ISLAND.

IMMEDIATELY on our arrival, we were literally besieged by swarms of lodging-house keepers, or their representatives, each one at the highest pitch of his voice recommending his own place of business as the cheapest and most comfortable in all San Francisco. The "What Cheer House"—a temperance hotel—appeared to get the lion's share of customers. We took board and lodgings at a temperance hotel called the "Eagle"—kept by one Mr. Andrews, a very respectable man, and a Quaker. We were comfortably quartered, and paid twenty shillings a-week each.

A feather bed was now a luxury, for, with the exception of a few nights at New York, we had not been undressed since leaving Liverpool, besides lying on the bare deck during a great portion of the voyage.

We often remarked to each other, "Can it be possible that we are now standing on the soil of the far-famed gold country of California, of which we have all heard and read so much." The idea was novel and exciting.

Sacramento City is the State capital, but is an insignificant place compared with San Francisco, the commercial metropolis and great shipping port of California.

The population of San Francisco amounts to over 100,000, which is something wonderful, considering that fifteen years

ago it had little or no existence. Its noble buildings of brick and stone would do credit to any city in Europe. More than once it has been almost totally destroyed by fire, and conflagrations were still of frequent occurrence; but as the wooden structures disappear, their places are soon occupied by those of a more substantial character.

We were amused and interested with seeing people engaged moving their wooden houses—some of them large ones—from one place to another. Their construction admits of them being lifted bodily from the ground with screw-jacks; they are then placed upon rollers, and drawn along the streets by a horse working a sort of windlass, placed about a hundred yards in advance of the building, and attached by a stout rope, the operation being repeated until the house is placed on its new site.

There are three high hills in San Francisco built upon all around to the very summit, which at a distance gives the place a strikingly beautiful, romantic, and picturesque appearance. The markets, which are all covered, are spacious and well adapted for the transaction of business. One great drawback to San Francisco is the thick clouds of small sand which is driven about with the wind in some parts of the city not yet macadamized.

It is built on a sand bed, the site having been chosen in consequence of the excellent harbour for shipping, which has space enough to contain all the navies of the world, and depth of water for the largest vessels.

Almost every part of the world is represented in San Francisco. The Chinese are very numerous, whole streets being occupied by them.

The street railways form a complete net-work, and on one line the cars are propelled by locomotive engines.

Gambling is carried on to a great extent; the people have a constant craving for excitement, and the most fearful scenes of debauchery constantly occur.

The theatres, as well as churches and chapels, are open on Sunday evenings. We twice visited the Unitarian Chapel, and heard most excellent discourses delivered by the celebrated Unitarian minister, Starr King.

The places of worship in San Francisco offer great attractions in the shape of vocal and instrumental music.

Although the town appeared to be in a tolerable thriving

condition, yet hundreds of men were seen walking about the streets in great want.

The "What Cheer House," the temperance hotel before alluded to, is a wonderful place of business. We were told that no less than *three thousand* people daily took their meals there, and from the crowds that visit the dining rooms all day long, I am inclined to think that it was no exaggeration. A person can live well at the "What Cheer House" for fifteen-pence a-day, but their charge for beds is high—half a dollar each night. There is every accommodation for visitors, including a large and comfortable reading room, with a library containing many hundred volumes, and newspapers from every part of the world.

Provisions were cheap in San Francisco, especially butchers' meat, which was from three to five cents. per lb., and considerably less than that at the slaughter houses.

The climate is exceedingly fine. Snow is almost entirely unknown in San Francisco. During the summer season there is a cloudless sky for months together, and although the heat is much more intense than in England, it is not particularly oppressive, owing to a refreshing breeze, which springs up about two o'clock every afternoon. After sunset it grows chilly—not uncomfortably cold, however, but a healthy bracing atmosphere. The winter season brings heavy falls of rain; in fact, it frequently pours down in torrents incessantly for several weeks at a stretch.

The Californian soil is fertile, and the markets are abundantly supplied with vegetables all the year round.

The day after our arrival in California our friend Little left us, and went to Grass Valley, Nevada County, some few hundred miles from San Francisco, to transact business. I must here explain that Mr. Little had been in California previously. He, with his wife and young family, went there from England in the year 1852, and realized a considerable sum with gold digging and storekeeping. They returned to England in the year 1860. Mr. Little still owned property in Grass Valley, and to look after that property was now his object in going there. It was his intention to accompany us to the gold mines of British Columbia, but after waiting a fortnight we received a letter from him to the effect that his business was far from being done, and he could not possibly join us, but might perhaps be able by and by to follow us to Cariboo.

We were, therefore, obliged to start without him—a circumstance we regretted exceedingly—because Mr. Little had had considerable experience in gold digging, which we knew would be of great service to us all. James Marquis had sailed a week previously for Victoria, where he would await our arrival.

During our stay in San Francisco the Californian newspapers teemed with unfavourable reports from Cariboo, which deterred numbers from going farther; but we resolved to play out the game—win or lose.

On the 3rd of June we left San Francisco in the steamship *Brother Jonathan*. Three days' roughish sailing brought us to the mouth of the magnificent Columbia River, where stands a small collection of wooden buildings, called "Astoria;" and after a delay of two hours, we steamed up this beautiful river, with its romantic scenery on each side, and arrived at Portland, in Oregon, on the 7th. Each alternate mail boat that runs between San Francisco and Victoria puts in at Portland to land passengers and discharge cargo. The City of Portland is situated about 120 miles up the Columbia River, and contains a population amounting to 5,000 inhabitants. It is built exclusively of wood, and stands upon a pretty site. With this drawback it is low and flat, and liable to be inundated from the river, which occasionally rises to a great height.

In some parts of the town we observed people boating in the streets, and in some cases they had no other means of leaving and returning to their houses.

Portland is surrounded by beautiful forests and mountain scenery. We had a fine view of a snow-capped mountain, called "Mount Hood," which we supposed might be about five miles distant, but to our great surprise we were told that its distance was nearly a hundred miles in a direct line. Mount Hood rises to an elevation of 17,000 feet, or about three miles above the level of the sea.

We left Portland on the 9th, and landed at Esquimalt, Vancouver Island, on the day following.

We had now completed our sea voyage of 10,000 miles, and found ourselves standing on the soil of an English colony, which was not a little consolation.

We thought our greatest hardships and privations were now at an end: the sequel will show whether or not we were mistaken.

Esquimalt, a village or hamlet, prettily situated in one of the numerous coves of the harbour, from which it takes its name, derives its support from the presence of Her Majesty's ships, and from the mail steamers which here land their mails and passengers. Esquimalt and Victoria are connected by a good new waggon-road.

Esquimalt harbour is a safe and excellent anchorage for ships of any size, and may be entered at any time with great facility; the holding ground is good—a tenacious blue clay. The extent of this fine harbour is about three miles by two. with an average depth of six to eight fathoms; and round the whole of its irregular circle numerous rocky promontories, with outlying islands and gently sloping sandy bays, form the chief feature of the scene.

Great natural advantages and facilities exist for the extension of townships and formation of docks, and it is thought that this favoured spot will become the established headquarters of the Royal Naval Force in the Pacific. An hospital and storehouses for the service afloat, and a barracks for the officers and men of the North American Boundary Commission, already give an official service-like character to the port.

A walk of four miles through a dense forest brought us to Victoria, the capital of Vancouver Island; and after partaking of an humble meal, William Mark and I immediately sought an interview with Governor Douglas. We wished to learn which was the cheapest and best route to Cariboo, with other particulars. It was then past his business hours; but, nevertheless, when he learnt from his attendant that we were Englishmen and wished to leave next morning for the mines, he, without hesitation, granted the desired interview. He gave us a kind reception—answered our enquiries with evident pleasure—told us he was glad to see us—wished us success half-a-dozen times over; but he did not speak with that confidence of the gold mines we expected: said, if we were not successful at the diggings, we could get work on the roads at 40 dollars a-month with board.

This statement about the road-making was not quite palatable to us under the circumstances; nevertheless, it was a god-send to hundreds of disappointed Caribooites.

The Governor advised us to turn our attention to the cultivation of land, which he thought we would find eventually

the most profitable, and requested us to bring out our wives and families, and assist in populating the country. He then gave us an invitation to view his orchard and gardens, and ordered a military officer to show them to us; they were neatly laid out, and in a high state of cultivation When we were about to take our leave, the Governor came to the door, and again wished us success, and invited us into his house to take refreshment.

The aforesaid officer took us into the kitchen, where we had a glass of excellent brandy and some sweet cake. We drank the health and happiness of the Governor, his wife and family, and then took our departure. We did not see the Governor's wife. I understand she is a red river Indian, but not a woman of much colour. Her daughters are fair in complexion. I have seen one of them—a handsome young lady—well featured, with an exceedingly interesting countenance. There are several daughters, and, I was told, one or two sons. Some of the daughters are married.

The Governor, James Douglas, a Scotchman by birth, is a little over sixty years of age—a free, noble-looking man—stands about 6 feet 5 inches in height—straight as an arrow, and cannot weigh less than 20 stones. He is an unassuming and evidently a kind-hearted man, and treated us with much urbanity.

We bought a canvas tent and other things useful for our onward journey, and camped in the wood in the outskirts of the town that night.

CHAPTER V.

ADVENTURES AND SUFFERINGS.

NEXT morning, about eleven o'clock, William Mark and his two sons, James Marquis (who had again joined us), and myself, took the steamer, *Eliza Anderson*, for New Westminster, which is about 80 miles from Victoria.

A few hours' sailing along the south-east coast of Vancouver brought us to the mouth of the mighty river, Fraser, which empties itself into the Gulf of Georgia, which place presents the appearance of an immense circular basin, and is surrounded by mountain scenery of indescribable grandeur.

The Fraser River is 900 miles long, and is navigable for steamers for 200 miles. We reached New Westminster, the capital of British Columbia, about eight in the evening; but another steamer being in readiness to convey us to Port Douglas, a hundred more miles up the river, we had not the opportunity of viewing the place.

Mr. Milner, in his Gallery of Geography, says, "New Westminster, on the banks of the Fraser, about fifteen miles above the mouth, is a town still in its infancy. It is incorporated, and has a representative council, with power to levy rates for purposes of public improvement. It contains a court-house, an assay-office, and several places of worship."

We pursued our course up the river that night, but made little progress, in consequence of the great obstructions we met with in the shape of drift wood, with which, ever and anon, the paddle wheel became entangled and brought the machinery to a stand-still. On one occasion a delay of four hours took place. The river steamers are constructed upon the best principle possible for avoiding the drift wood; but, nevertheless, the quantity met with at times is so great that it is a matter of difficulty to work the vessel through it.

The steamer is furnished with one wheel only, which is placed at her stern end; and the advantage of this plan over the usual one of having a wheel on each side of the vessel will be apparent at a glance.

This drift wood consists of trees and logs of wood of immense size, which, at the breaking up of the snow and ice on the mountains, are driven down in thousands, rendering the rivers both difficult and dangerous to navigate.

We arrived at Port Douglas on the 12th, about four o'clock in the afternoon; and as we approached the city, we thought it a most miserable and melancholy place.

Surrounded by immense mountains of the most wild and awe-inspiring description are a few dozens of rackety wooden buildings, the sight of which is sufficient to give a man the horrors for the remainder of his life—and this is the City of Douglas. There were a few good houses in the place. In these parts every place is denominated a city; indeed, everywhere on the other side of the Atlantic, any village consisting of half-a-dozen wooden structures, the size of dog-kennels, is termed a city. About half of the three hundred inhabitants which Douglas contained were Indians.

There were but few white married couples in the place, and with one exception the whole of the other white men who had gone to Douglas unmarried had each taken unto themselves, not a wife, but a woman in the shape of an ugly Indian squaw; and a pretty mixture it was. The exception just alluded to was Mr. Pearman, an honest, kind-hearted Englishman, who was following the bread-baking business, and doing a thriving trade; but told us he was absolutely miserable for the want of a wife. But, says he, "As greatly as I stand in need of a wife to assist me in my business, I will do without for ever rather than have one of those ugly brown-skinned devils: relish them I cannot."

Mr. Pearman anxiously inquired whether there was truth in the report that a ship's load of English girls were coming out to Victoria. We answered in the affirmative, and he replied "I will have one of them by hook or by crook."

There were no unmarried white women in Douglas.

The distance from Douglas to Cariboo is near 400 miles, all of which has to be walked, with the exception of three lakes 15 miles each, which are crossed with small steamers. These lakes all lie between Douglas and Lillooet, which two places are about 120 miles apart. The road to Lillooet was tolerable; but above that place was as rough a country to travel as white men ever planted foot upon.

British Columbia is a wild, romantic, mountainous country. The scenery is grand and impressive; frequently we were brought to a dead stand—struck with wonder and amazement on viewing those gigantic mountains, many of which are from one to two miles in height. At the base there was scorching summer, while at the summit there was freezing winter, for the tops of these mountains are covered with perpetual snow. Some of them have quite the appearance of extinct volcanoes, and there is little doubt but that the gold has been thrown out of them in a liquid state. British Columbia contains an area of about 250,000 square miles, with numerous rivers, the principle of which is the Fraser, before alluded to.

We did not find much cultivatable land on the road we took through the country. When we met with prairie land we observed that it retained but little moisture, and grew nothing but small tufts of dead-looking grass. There are refreshment-houses on the road from ten to twenty miles

apart, deep down in the ravines between the mountains, where small patches of land is under cultivation, and grows cereals and vegetables pretty well; but in many instances it requires irrigation, the water being conveyed along wooden troughs from the sides of the mountains, and made to flow over the soil. Two or three of these places have swollen out to good-sized farms, where cows are kept and milk sold to travellers, the price ranging from 4s. 2d. to 6s. 3d. per gallon.

The southern part of British Columbia is heavily timbered—principally with pine and firs. These trees are of the most magnificent description, attaining an enormous height, and measuring from three to six feet in diameter.

This is unquestionably rich land; but to clear it of those immense-sized trees is a serious and expensive undertaking.

Describing the trees of British Columbia Mr. Milner, in his Gallery of Geography, says—"Varieties of pine and firs attain enormous dimensions in height and girth, from which the noblest spars in the world may be taken;" and then goes on to say that "a settler laid a wager that he would cut through a single tree in three weeks' time with an axe, and lost his money."

This story, to say the least, is simply ridiculous. We have seen scores of thousands of those large trees in British Columbia, but never saw or heard of one that would take a man *three days*, much less three weeks, to cut it down. The trees are cut off three feet above the ground; and many of those settlers being expert handlers of the axe, hew them down with amazing rapidity, the wood being very soft. Perhaps when Mr. Milner wrote this, the gigantic oaks of California, some of which measure 90 feet in circumference, were running in his mind. We found the trees more and more diminutive as we proceeded northward.

As I have said before, we arrived at Douglas on the 12th of June, and now began to learn that travelling to Cariboo would prove an expensive undertaking, and would be doubly expensive when we reached it; and in order to give ourselves every chance of success, we resolved to use strict economy, and true enough we did; many of our meals consisting of hard biscuit and water. We took with us bread, biscuit, rice, and treacle to serve to Lillooet. As a substitute for tea we used a decoction of treacle and warm water. We carried with us a canvas tent large enough to accommodate five persons, and which weighed six lbs.; two picks, two shovels, a

prospecting pan, a frying pan, a tin pan or "Billy," as it is called, to boil water in; a drinking tin, a small axe, which was exceedingly useful in erecting the tent at nights; and William Mark's musket, which I carried with my carpet bag slung over my shoulder.

Our burdens varied from 35 lbs. to 45 lbs. each. Mine was the least, 35 lbs.; but as I weighed 15½ stones, my bundle was quite as much as I could travel with. The great weight that some men carried over these 400 miles of mountains was astounding, 50 and 60 lbs. being the general weight, and some carried even more than that. One man we met with going up had not less than *eighty pounds'* weight on his back in the shape of provision, clothes, and a pair of blankets. Before we left Douglas we sold to the Indians all the clothes we could spare, in order to lighten our burdens and to raise more money, but the weight named was exclusive of that. It was amusing to see our friend, Mark, standing up in the street selling the things. He drove some hard bargains with the copper skins; they appeared to know the value of dollars as well as any one else.

Nearly 400 miles of terrific road laid before us, and now commenced the tug of war. About twenty of us started from Douglas that night, and walked four miles by way of introduction to our arduous task. The method of camping is to pitch the tents near a stream; rotten wood is plentiful, and being provided with lucifer matches, in a few minutes blazing fires glow all around, and cooking commences in earnest. When our shirts and stockings got dirty we washed them in the rivulets, and when no better opportunity was afforded us we hung them over our backs to dry as we trudged along. Next morning we started at four o'clock, and soon discovered that climbing immense mountains and wading through bogs and swamps was the only mode of travelling to Cariboo.

In one bog-hole we found a poor fellow with two laden mules wallowing in the mire. He was trying hard to extricate his animals, but whether he succeeded I do not know, for we had neither time nor strength to render him the least assistance. Having quite enough to do to look after our own safety, we left the man and his mules to their fate. When we had travelled about ten miles we came to a place on the road flooded with water, and were obliged to scale the mountain side to avoid it, which was a terrible undertaking.

All the others were on before. William Mark and me were last. We scrambled up higher and higher. When coming to a place almost perpendicular, William, with a desperate effort, struggled over it, and sank to the ground greatly exhausted. I stood holding on by some underwood, and thought it would be utterly impossible to follow alone. I was more awkwardly situated with respect to my bundle than the others were with theirs, for they had them strapped on to their backs, which left both their hands at liberty; whereas I had only one hand at liberty, the other being fully occupied with the carpet bag and gun. The gun was through the handles of the bag slung over my left shoulder, and the side of the mountain being so excessively steep, the muzzle of the gun was down among my feet, which very seriously interfered with my progress; besides, the confounded thing was continually bobbing on to the ground, which threatened every now and then to capsize me. Once it threw me back on to so nice a balance that I thought half a hair's breadth more would have sent me over. I recovered my equilibrium, however; but the ground was crumbling beneath me: there seemed to be thousands of almost perpendicular feet below, and I expected every moment to be dashed to the bottom. I was in a dreadful state with fear; and with the speed of lightning a strange and unaccountable idea rushed into my mind and took possession of it. It was an ardent desire that a rattle-snake would spring from the ground and devour me.

What in all the world could give birth to such an absurd wish is beyond my power to explain. I was undoubtedly past myself with fear; for any man in his right senses, I imagine, would prefer being dashed over a precipice to that of being swallowed by a rattle-snake. As soon as William recovered his breath he urged me on with expressions of encouragement, and in sheer desperation I achieved the passage in safety; but helpless, speechless, and almost insensible fell to the ground. When our locomotive powers were sufficiently restored we descended the mountain on the other side of the swamp, where we found our companions awaiting our arrival.

On inquiries, we learnt that one had lost a boot, and several, with tumbling topsy-turvy, had their clothes torn into shreds; but that being all the damage sustained, we could afford to indulge in a hearty laugh at the adventure.

We walked twenty miles that day, which was too much at

the outset. Had we taken the advice of Governor Douglas and done about ten miles a day for a time, it would have been the wiser plan. It was a severe task, to me at least, being so corpulent, to walk twenty miles every day over those terrific mountains, with a weight of two and a-half stones on my back under a scorching sun, or in the drenching rain, with scanty provisions, blistered feet, and sprained legs, worried every moment into madness with mosquitoes, and then to lie down on the cold damp ground to be frequently kept awake all night with those infernal plagues.

The sting of the mosquito had less effect upon me than it had upon the others. William Mark especially suffered greatly, his eyes being nearly swollen up, and his hands to twice their usual size. At many places above Lillooet those insects appeared in countless thousands, and we met with some travellers who were actually driven back with them. Those men had endured hunger, thirst, and privation unflinchingly, but were compelled to surrender under the attack of the mosquito's proboscis. About twenty-five miles above Port Douglas there is a hot spring, where the water is continually bubbling up in a heated condition. Baths have been erected by a Yankee speculator, who recommends this water as a specific for rheumatism—a complaint prevalent in those parts, arising from want and exposure.

A few miles further on is the first lake, six miles of which has to be rowed in a small boat to meet the steamer. James Marquis and Edward Mark were a little in advance, and just in time to catch the boat. She was too heavily laden, about forty being in her. They met with a gale of wind, which drove them against a large log of wood, and nearly upset her. She took in a quantity of water, and barely escaped being washed against the rocks. It was a narrow escape, indeed, and they were greatly alarmed, but landed safe.

The rest of us took the next boat, crossed without danger, and joined our friends at the steamer.

Between the first and second lakes is a portage of one and a-half miles; between the second and third, one of thirty miles; and from the last lake to Lillooet the distance is four miles—all of which we got pretty well over, considering the imperfect arrangements for crossing the lakes.

Meeting with unexpected delays our stock of provisions became exhausted, in spite of our great economy, and when

we reached Lillooet, about ten o'clock one night, we were weary and worn out. After we had appeased the cravings of hunger, we went to sleep on the floor of a German bread-baker's shop, the baker having kindly offered us the privilege. We slept soundly till five in the morning, and would have slept longer had he not wanted us out of the way of his business.

Lillooet stands on a charming site—a spacious plain on the banks of the Fraser, surrounded by magnificent mountain scenery. The inhabitants, numbering about three hundred, consist of English, Irish, Scotch, French, Germans, native Indians, and a few Chinese—the Indians living in their usual filthy style in the outskirts of the town, but constantly mixing with the whites. The inhabitants make a living by supplying the wants of travellers. Patches of land is under cultivation. Cows are kept, and milk sold at sixpence a pint. There are three or four blacksmiths' shops in the place, and something considerable is done in the horse and mule-shoeing line during the summer season. A good shoer is paid twenty shillings a day with board. Every ounce of provision and material used at the mines must be conveyed over the mountains on the backs of animals, principally mules: they being more sure footed than horses, are better adapted for mountain travelling. These mules are brought from Oregon and California, and are worth, we were told, from 150 to 300 dollars each in British Columbia.

They travel from ten to fifteen miles a day, and carry about 300 lbs. weight each. They go in what is termed trains. A train consists of from 25 to 30 mules. A bell is attached to the neck of the foremost one, which leads the van, and all the rest follow the sound of the instrument. A sort of wooden saddle well padded inside is fixed upon the back of the animal, and the burden strapped on to it. It requires a man of experience to manage this packing business, for unless the burden be properly fixed, the animal is soon used up. Three men are required to manage one of those mule trains—the men's wages being (per month) 120, 80, and 50 dollars respectively. They are likewise found with provision and a tent to sleep in. This packing business is a profitable one for the owners of the mules. The price of flour in Victoria is about twopence per lb., and when it reaches Cariboo is worth from four to six shillings per lb.

The keep of the animals cost nothing, as sufficient grass is found in the ravines for their support.

The price of flour at Lillooet was half a dollar per lb. We purchased a fresh supply of provision and resumed our journey. A few minutes' walk brought us to the side of the Fraser, which we had to cross in a small boat.

The bare idea of having to cross that furious stream in such a fragile-looking thing made one's blood curdle in the veins. The Fraser at Lillooet is perhaps not more than a quarter of a mile in width, but is a mighty, rapid-running river, lashing, and foaming, and boiling in its onward mad career.

It occasionally happens that one of those boats is capsized, and its living contents swept away in a moment, and for ever out of sight. We felt ourselves pitched and wheeled about in a most alarming manner, and when we reached the opposite shore a sigh of relief burst from every bosom.

The ferry-boat fare was half a dollar.

All goods taken up to the mines on this route must cross the Fraser. Horses and mules are swam across the river, the halter being made fast to the stern of the boat.

The ferry-boat will carry about a dozen men with their luggage, exclusive of the rowers.

Before starting, the boat is hauled up the river side for a considerable distance. All being in readiness, six men commence rowing with might and main, keeping the stem of the boat pointing up the river diagonally. While she is making her way across, she is at the same time drifting down the stream with frightful rapidity, reaching the opposite side many hundred yards below the starting point.

About twenty miles above Lillooet there is the choice of two roads to Cariboo: one is termed the Brigade, the other the River Trail, which runs by the side of the River Fraser. The Brigade is a much better road, but fifty miles longer distance. The majority of us took the River Trail, but we learnt afterwards that had we taken the Brigade we would have completed our journey in less time and with less labour.

The river route is a fearfully mountainous one, and winds over the mountains in a zig-zag form. This track or "trail," as it is called, was not more than 18 inches in width—often only the breadth of a person's foot—and some places which was sand and gravel had slid away till no visible path remained. We had then to clamber along the sides of the

mountains as best we could, which was frequently attended with considerable difficulty and danger.

We were told of some who had fallen over those cliffs, and were never more heard of.

We found this mountain travelling extremely fatiguing, the mountains coming in rapid succession; and taking into account the winding, sloping, zig-zaging form of the track, the distance over some of them was not less than six or seven miles; and the road so steep, that in order to keep our equilibrium our bodies had to be bent forward till the face was within a foot of the ground, and we could not take more than five or six inches at one step.

The descent was more difficult than the ascent, causing great pain in the knee joints.

We generally met with an abundant supply of good water, which came rushing down the ravines between the mountains. At times, however, we experienced considerable inconvenience through the want of it, and on one occasion intense suffering.

On the 19th of June we came to an extraordinary place known in the country as the "Big Slide," which is notorious for the great danger that attends the passage over it. This is a frightful precipice—many hundreds of feet in perpendicular height, along the edge of which runs the Trail. But what constitutes the danger is this: On the top of the cliff is lodged masses of small sand, which sometimes takes to sliding, and carries along with it both men and animals into the mighty chasm below. However, this place can be avoided by walking round about ten miles in another direction; and when such is the fact, it seems to be madness for men to risk their lives merely for the sake of saving a few miles extra walking. Nevertheless, some are foolhardy enough to venture the Big Slide.

But within those ten miles stands one of the most formidable mountains on the route. It is at least five miles over it, and took us more than four hours to perform the task; and to give an idea of its steepness, in many places I need only state that the ankle joint would not allow the foot sufficient play to suit the incline, and it was with difficulty we could drag our bodies forward. Frequently I sank to the ground in a perfect state of exhaustion.

The day was roasting hot, and for six or seven hours no

water was within our reach. All suffered from thirst, but mine became intolerable. My tongue was swollen and hung out of my mouth, and I lost my speech—my eyes rolling in my head like those of a wild beast. Indeed, I was almost in a state of madness, and like to give up the ghost. William and Edward Mark (who remained behind with me), encouraged me on, and used stratagem by telling me they were certain they heard the roaring of water ahead of us. Edward got me bark of trees to suck the sap, but it gave me no relief. How acute was my hearing to catch the sound of water, and when I heard its ripple in the ravine below I thought it the most delightful music that ever fell on my ear. I staggered up to the glorious stream, and found William with a can of water ready for me. I seized it ravenously, but fearing I would do myself a mischief, he was obliged to tear it from me repeatedly, which I then thought was an act of cruelty. For some length of time he allowed me to swallow only a small quantity at intervals, but ultimately let me take my fill; and, to speak within bounds, I drank at least a gallon before I was satisfied. We then shook hands and congratulated each other.

Our friend Mark, who has since published an account of his adventure, in describing this part of it, says:—"Never shall I forget the emotion and pleasure we all experienced when we in reality did hear the glorious sound of water ahead, issued by the first there, and sent back as by electricity till the last traveller on the mountain caught the news."

God knows, hunger is bad enough, but thirst is a thousand times worse. The sensation of hunger eventually ceases: the sufferer gradually becomes weaker, and dies by degrees. But thirst is of a different nature: the suffering becomes more intense every moment, and he dies raving mad.

There was one thing terribly annoying to us. We had several deep and rapid-running waters to cross, with nothing but a small tree thrown over in the shape of a bridge, without anything whatever to hold on by.

One of those streams was at least 25 feet in width, and the tree to walk along was not more than 12 inches at the thickest end, and tapering to about half that thickness at the other; and being quite round, there was, of course, not much bearing surface for the foot. During the passage the tree kept playing up and down, the water washing over it at every

vibration. It required one's courage to be screwed up to a pitch of desperation to make the attempt; but it must be done—there was no other alternative—and with clinched hands and compressed lips we addressed ourselves to the task, which was a regular Blondin performance. The first three or four, after crossing, planted themselves at intervals down the river side, so that they might attempt the rescue of those who might have the misfortune to slip in. All, however, escaped a ducking, except one young man, who lost his balance—made a spring, and dropped in up to the waist a few feet from the shore. Catching hold of a projecting branch with one hand, I seized him by the neck with the other, and hauled him out.

Robert Mark, I believe, was the last to cross, but he had not proceeded more than a few feet when he was seized with a nervous trembling fit, and stepped back again. His brother Edward, who was watching him intently from the other side, observed his dilemma, and immediately re-crossed the river with the agility of a cat, seized Robert's burden, and marched back with as great facility as though he had been walking along a turnpike road. A few words of encouragement from Edward enabled Robert to follow without further hesitation.

As it regards our friend Ned Mark, he is certainly one of the most reckless and daring fellows the world ever saw, and a perfect stranger to fear—a very essential quality for a Cariboo adventurer to possess.

One night, while camping, we remarked to each other that somebody's horse had got loose—we heard such a snorting about our tent. All passed off quietly, and we slept unconscious of danger; but next morning were made acquainted with the character of our visitor. A bag containing some tin cooking utensils was lying outside the adjoining tent; the owner hearing an unusual noise, looked out, and saw a black bear walking off with the bag. The man ran back for his revolver, but when he returned, bruin had dropped the tin things and decamped.

Sometimes a number of Indians would pay us a visit—plant themselves around us while we were cooking, and watch our proceedings with intense interest. We seemed to be objects of curiosity to them. They would stand as motionless almost as marble statues, with their eyes rivetted upon

us; and often we observed a savage glare pass over their countenance.

After standing a while, they would commence gabbling to each other in a vehement manner; then suddenly turn round, and march off at a rapid pace. They are not particularly hostile, so long as they are not interfered with; but it is dangerous to meddle with them, either with good or bad intent; because, being unacquainted with the manner of suiting their ideas of things, there is great danger of unconsciously offending them. We made some mistakes in that respect, thereby endangering our lives. One day Edward Mark was examining his revolver while we were resting. An Indian came up and planted himself in front of him, intently fixing his eyes on the revolver, which seemed to interest him greatly. Edward playfully raised the revolver and pointed it at him, professing that he was about to shoot him. A savage expression immediately suffused the countenance of the Indian, which indicated clearly that he had not understood it to be a jest. We saw the danger we had incurred; for we had been told previously that the Indians could summon to their aid numbers of their friends at any moment. William Mark reproved his son for his incautiousness, and in order to convince the Indian that it was only done in sport, we all instinctively and simultaneously burst into a loud laugh. This failed, however, to establish his confidence: he looked sulky, savage, and suspicious, and slunk away from our presence sideways—crab fashion—watching us from the corner of his eye till he got a distance of some fifty yards, and then made a dead stand. He immediately raised a peculiar shrill noise with his voice, which rather resembled the crowing of a farm-yard cock.

This was evidently the signal for a gathering, for this crowing was instantly echoed back from three or four different quarters, and in less time than it takes me to narrate the circumstance, twelve or fifteen savage-looking Indians had assembled together, and from their vehement talking and gesticulations, it was evident they were meditating an attack upon us.

What our feelings were at that moment may be imagined, but cannot be described. We glanced at each other, but not a sentence was uttered; and what was the extent of the fears of my friends I know not, but in my own imagination was painted all the horrible details of being butchered and hacked

to pieces with the Indian's hunting knife. After a while, however, the savages arrived at what we considered a very rational conclusion; for, to our great relief, they darted off into the forest, and left us unmolested, and we saw them no more.

Strange to say, this circumstance was never once alluded to amongst us, which I can only account for by supposing that we all felt more alarmed than we afterwards thought the circumstances of the case warranted, and did not wish to betray to each other anything in the shape of cowardice.

James Marquis introduced the subject several months afterwards. We then confessed to each other how dreadfully terrified we had been.

The Indians are copper-coloured, and both sexes are short, thick set, and very muscular. The generality of them are hideous in the extreme. They have a strange and cruel practice of compressing the heads of their children. Immediately after birth, pieces of wood are placed on the fore and back part of the infant's head, and bound firmly together. By this means the head is permanently flattened. Some bind a handkerchief tightly round the head, which gives it a conical form. Those deformations the Indians consider marks of beauty. The Indian squaw constructs a sort of small elongated wicker basket for her infant to sleep in, attached to which are a wonderful variety of appendages, consisting of small shells, beads, toy brass bells, about the size of a thimble, buttons, and any other description of trinkets she can obtain. The mother when sitting on the ground places the tiny basket with the infant on her knee, and when the little thing shows signs of uneasiness she moves her knees from side to side, and the gingling of the trinkets sooth it over to sleep again. When travelling she slings it over her shoulder, reminding one of a foreigner carrying a French fiddle. At the camping place she suspends it from an overhanging branch in the open air, with strings cut from the bark of trees, or from the skin of wild animals, and swings it forwards and backwards for hours together.

The Indians manifest considerable affection for their offspring; but, nevertheless, will sometimes sell one of their children even for a few dollars. A Scotchman in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company in Victoria, bought an Indian female child. Its mother showed signs of grief at parting

with it; but when she saw the man dandle it on his knee, and manifest something like kindness to it, she became perfectly reconciled; danced a few times around them in the most ludicrous manner; then bounded into the woods, and saw her child no more. The Scotchman brought up the child, and when she arrived at maturity he made her his wife. I frequently saw her in Victoria. She was better looking, and bore a rather more intelligent expression of countenance than the generality of Indians. Civilization unquestionably has this improving tendency.

A Yankee in Victoria, who was about fifty years of age, took an Indian girl, about eighteen years of age, to live with him. They occupied the adjoining shanty, and as there was only a thin partition between us, I unavoidably overheard a great deal of their conversation. He devoted a considerable portion of his leisure time to teaching her the alphabet, and English language; and she made tolerable progress. At the time I speak of she was capable of making herself pretty well understood. She had the character of being one of the most clean and thoroughly domesticated squaws in Victoria. Her little two-roomed shanty, which I sometimes glanced into when passing the door, was scrupulously clean. Her linen, which I frequently observed hanging out drying, was as white as hands could make it. She was likewise remarkably clean in her person, and tidy in her dress. She appeared to have a great amount of affection for the Yankee, and was continually asking him if he loved her. It is said the Indian women are very affectionate.

The Indians detest manual labour, and anything they may have to perform in the shape of work devolves upon the squaw. We frequently met with natives migrating from one place to another, and invariably the Clootchman* was carrying a heavy burden on her back—her lord and master walking leisurely by her side carrying nothing whatever. One day we met with a party, the Clootchman having a tremendous sized bundle strapped on her back, and a child some two years old in her arms, which she carried with its back towards her—having her arms clasped around it, leaving its legs dangling down before her—that being the Indian woman's method of carrying her child after it has grown too large for the basket. The poor creature was toiling at extremity, the

*Clootchman is another and more popular name for the Indian woman.

perspiration pouring down her face in streams. We urged the Indian, through the medium of signs, to relieve her by carrying the child. He eventually comprehended our meaning, and seemed greatly amused at the request; smiled significantly, as much as to say, "I have never done that yet, and don't mean to begin now."

The Indians devote their time to hunting, shooting, and fishing. Many of them have been supplied with muskets by the Hudson's Bay Company, and are well versed in the use of it. Their fish-hook is made of bone or hard wood. During the summer season they capture salmon, gather berries, and collect certain roots, all of which they dry in the sun, and preserve for winter use. In summer they sleep in tents made of canvas, or branches of trees, and in winter live in holes dug in the ground, which are covered over with branches, their means of ingress and egress being through an aperture in the top.

The Indians are remarkably dexterous in the management of the canoe. Their ores or paddles are from three to four feet in length, with a cross head similar to that of a spade, and are diamond pointed, the broadest part of the blade being about five inches in width. The paddle is dipped into the water vertically, the rowers always sitting with their faces in the direction they are going. One sits at the stern using a paddle as a rudder to steer the canoe in the required direction. The canoe is cut out of a solid piece of wood, and the inside scooped out with a gouged-shaped adze. Prior to the Indians being furnished with this tool, the inside was burnt out with red hot stones, which must necessarily have been a very tedious operation. Their canoes are of various lengths, ranging from ten to thirty feet, and from two to four feet in width.

It is a remarkable fact that the North American Indians are beardless. Occasionally we saw an Indian with a sprinkling of hair on the tip of his chin, but that was an occurrence as rare almost as to see a European woman with that appendage. With the exception of the head which bears a profusion, there is little hair on the body of the Indian. Both sexes wear their hair roughly parted down the centre of the forehead, and hanging in disorder about their shoulders. The hair of the Indian is perfectly straight and flowing—always coarse, and almost universally black. In some instances,

however, we observed it was of a brownish hue. The forehead is extremely low, the hair in many cases growing down almost to the eyebrows. Their eyes, without exception, are jet black. Their costume is primitive. Some are enveloped in bear skins, some in a variety of skins strung together, and some in blankets. The majority go barefooted, but some wear the moccason—a sort of shoe made of wash leather, the sole being only the same thickness as the upper leather. As there is no distinction made in dress between male and female, and as all are beardless, and have their hair parted in the centre, it is often difficult to distinguish one sex from the other.

There are various tribes of Indians, which was evident to us from the different classes of features we observed. There is the broad flat face, with a vacant childish expression, and the sharp-featured with a ferocious countenance, the forehead of the latter receding till a straight line might be drawn from the tip of the nose to the back part of the head. Some paint their hands and face red to prevent sunburning. Occasionally we met with a naturally red-skinned Indian.

Some of the Indians bury their dead, some burn them, and others place the bodies in rough wooden boxes and fasten them up in trees : the higher the station of life has been the higher they are placed in the tree.

Those who bury their dead build a pile of wood around the graves. At the grave of a chief is a flagstaff, with a clean neat flag of red and white ; on the flagstaff is hung his musket, hunting-jacket, belt, knife, and drinking tin. It is said those graves are carefully watched from a distance by the *tillicums* (friends) of the chief, and woe be to the man who violates the grave of an Indian chief. Those who burn their dead take the fat as it runs from the body ; mix it with the ashes of the wood into a paste, and smear their faces with it, making certain marks according to relationship.

We observed several Indian places of worship by the side of the rivers and lakes. Several small flags were flying. They had no building, except a sort of wooden shed for their gods to stand in. Those images are cut out of wood and painted, and are certainly the most droll and laughable things imaginable.

Phrenologically speaking, the development of the North American Indian is of a low order, the animal propensities

preponderating greatly over the intellectual faculties. He is crafty, thievish, and treacherous.

We kept plodding on from day to day, but heard most woeful and discouraging accounts from disappointed men, and we could not avoid the conviction that ere long, in all human probability, we likewise would be compelled to join the returning wretched, starving throng. We met hundreds upon hundreds coming down in a most pitiable plight: numbers had nothing to eat, and had no prospect of anything; many who had worn out their shoes had their bleeding feet bound in clouts to protect them from the sharp cutting stones and gravel, so frequently met with. Altogether, it was a most direful and heartrending scene.

There they were, poor fellows, in a starving condition in a wild outlandish country, almost entirely uninhabited, except by half savage Indians and wild beasts—hundreds of miles away from civilized society—their prospects blasted—their circumstances ruined—their forms emaciated, and their spirits broken.

Many had left their wives and children at home entirely depending upon their success at the diggings; and now that they were disappointed, and knew that their families would soon be in want, the mental distress of many of those poor fellows became terrible.

Tears rolled down the cheeks of many a stout-hearted man, who could endure any amount of hunger and privation; but when he thought of his wife and children suffering at home, and himself not able to return to them, it was more than he could bear.

Hundreds of fine fellows belonging Canada had mortgaged or sold their little farms at a great sacrifice, and gone out there confident of success, believing in some flattering reports wrote by one Parson White, who belonged Canada formerly, but who then resided in New Westminster, British Columbia. They placed implicit confidence in the statements of White, as we did in those of Donald Fraser, the Victoria correspondent of the *London Times*. What curses did we hear called down upon the heads of Fraser and White for their misrepresentations.

Often would our recollections wander back to Old England. How pleasing it had been to sit over the kitchen fire at home, behind a long pipe, reading glowing accounts in the *Times*

about the gold fields of British Columbia, with visions of gold flitting through the brain, and imagining that were we but there what wonders we would perform! My God! how terribly different was the reality. It seemed as if we had been lured away from our happy homes by some tempting bait and then caught in a horrible trap, from which there was no possibility of escape. It seemed as if a whole lifetime of usual privation was being compressed into intense suffering, and crowded into each day.

We met with a vast number of experienced gold-diggers, who had been in Australia, New Zealand, and California. Those men had roughed it for years; but, strange to say, they were the first, generally speaking, to fall faint-hearted. They said they had endured all sorts of privations in other gold fields, but the hardships of British Columbia was too much for human nature to contend with. It was so much worse than anything they had hitherto experienced that numbers of them gave it up long ere they reached Cariboo, and retraced their steps; and many of those who persevered to the end felt so thoroughly disheartened with the appearance of things that without even putting a spade into the ground turned their backs upon the place, and returned grumbling, and cursing the *London Times* and British Columbia to all eternity. But if those men were unable to endure the hardships of the country, it could scarcely be expected that those who had all through life enjoyed every domestic comfort, without ever sleeping off a feather bed, would be equal to the task. But, nevertheless, it is wonderful to what an extent men can accommodate themselves to circumstances. In the midst of all this misery we could sometimes for a few minutes forget our sorrows, and enjoy the novelty and romance of our situation; and had we but had the means of appeasing the cravings of hunger, and making ourselves in the least degree comfortable, this trip would have been to us a glorious affair. But continued hunger and fatigue would, in spite of us, put an almost effectual extinguisher upon every source of enjoyment. We had the injustice to heap *all* the blame upon Mr. Fraser for our troubles, and many a bitter tirade was indulged in at his expense.

Our friend, William Mark, who is one of the most plucky and determined fellows the world ever saw, remarked that

"if the mountains of Cariboo were one solid mass of gold, it would not induce him to attempt this a second time; and that if he did die on the road, he would like to have the privilege, just before he expired, of blowing out the brains of Mr. Fraser: it would give him infinite pleasure, and he could then die happy." This sally excited roars of laughter.

We had many melancholy proofs of the hardships of that long trip. Many a new-made grave did we pass by the side of that terrible path;—yes, many a noble fellow lies there beneath the sod, with a pile of wood built around his grave to prevent the wild beasts tearing his remains from the ground, and a stick, with a piece dirty clout put in the shape of a flag, to mark the spot.

One was a most extraordinary death. Three travellers were sleeping together: a lump of rock fell from the mountain, rolled on to their tent, killed the middle man, and those on each side of him escaped uninjured.

We prospected a few times as we went along by the side of the Fraser River and in the rivulets, and invariably found small specs of gold, but not in sufficient quantities to pay working. Numbers of Chinamen, however, make a living by washing the gravel with rockers by the side of the Fraser; but they live at a cheap rate, subsisting chiefly on rice.

We never met with anything in the shape of game on the River Trail, except wild ducks on the lakes. We had several shots at them, and never hit but one, which James Marquis shot; but being in deep water we could not recover it, although Edward Mark waded in up to the waist. We consequently lost the anticipated pleasure of dining on roast duck. We were told that on some of the other routes to Cariboo there was an abundance of game.

For days together we did not see a living thing, except mosquitoes and grasshoppers, the ground in some places being literally covered with the last-named insect. We never heard the chirp of a bird, or even saw a bird of any description, except a few crows once in a while; and sometimes at dusk in the evening we heard the tapping of the woodpecker. We frequently saw the foot-print of bears, but the animals themselves were seldom seen. We saw one wolf, and one small grey squirrel, which one of our party shot at, but missed.

We never saw or heard of such a thing as a snake in

British Columbia, although we had read terrible accounts in England about thousands of venomous reptiles being found at Cariboo. This was a pure invention of somebody's prolific mischievous brain. Cariboo, which is buried deep in snow for eight months out of the twelve, is not a very suitable climate, I presume, for reptiles.

With the exception of mosquitoes, and some sort of nasty slimy animals, about half the size of a man's hand, which sometimes took a fancy to crawl over our faces during the night time, nothing disturbed our repose while we slept in the woods.

As a matter of course, the price of provisions advanced as we progressed. We were now paying 2s. 9d. per lb. for flour, and learnt that at the diggings the price ranged from 4s. 2d. to 6s. 3d. per lb., and frequently was not to be had even at the latter price. We began to make the very unpleasant discovery that we had not sufficient funds amongst us to carry us through the campaign. As for myself, I had not a cent, left, William Mark had previously advanced me money, and I could not further draw upon him without seriously embarrassing him, the idea of which was exceedingly hurtful to me. I, therefore, resolved to return. Marquis had plenty of money to take him to Cariboo, but he had not sufficient to give him a chance of success, consequently he determined to return with me.

Some days previously we had come to the conclusion that if we had but sufficient money to take us to Cariboo, two or three of us would engage to work for other miners, while the rest went prospecting, and by that means be able, perhaps, to keep body and soul together until we met with a claim.

But even that last hope was scattered to the winds, for we learnt from some of our former travelling companions who had been up to the diggings, and were now returning, that hundreds were offering to work for their *grub*, and some actually for a single meal a-day, and could not get the privilege. Therefore, our only alternative was to "'bout ship," and steer a backward course. There was something excessively galling in the idea of having commenced a journey of ten thousand six hundred miles in order to gain a certain object, and then compelled to abandon the undertaking after ten thousand five hundred of those miles had been accomplished. But there was no help for it.

It was the 24th of June, and we had now arrived at William's Lake, a place 250 miles above Port Douglas. We held a consultation, and it was ultimately decided that Robert Mark would return with us, and accompany me to the road-makers' camp, which was 130 miles further down the country, where we would apply for work. James Marquis, who had the prospect of employment at Victoria, would go on to that place. William and Edward would proceed to the diggings, and if they were fortunate enough to obtain a paying claim, we would all return the following season and work it. William gave to his son Robert and myself ten dollars each, and we separated.

But the parting scene was a painful one. We all felt it keenly; but the parting between William and his son was touching in the extreme. They were both broken-hearted: tears rolled down their cheeks while they embraced each other; but part they must, and they tore themselves asunder. Mark, in his pamphlet, says—"We had shared the troubles and dangers together for ten thousand miles; and here we part, in a strange wild country, perhaps never to see each other again.

After we had gone some distance, however, Edward ran after us with a message from his father, to the effect that whatever the consequence might be he could not part with Robert; and they must sink or swim together. The countenance of the young man brightened at this intimation, and he returned to his father with a light heart.

The fact of William sending for his son was greatly annoying to Marquis, who reasoned correctly enough, that two men were quite sufficient to prospect, and would be much easier kept than three. It appeared to him to be throwing a chance away. He accordingly went back to remonstrate with Mark for being, as it appeared to him, chicken-hearted; but when he beheld the intense grief that was depicted in his countenance, it so completely softened the heart of Marquis that he could not muster courage to breathe a single sentence of reproach, but turned away and left them.

When I learnt from Marquis his motive for seeking this interview with Mark, I ventured to hint that he had yet to learn what were the feelings of a parent towards his offspring, or he never would have dreamt of interfering with such noble and sacred sentiments.

The Marks now took the forward, and Marquis and me the backward direction; but the prospect for us was anything but cheering. We had neither tent nor cooking utensils, for it was absolutely necessary for our friends (the Marks) to take those things along with them.

As for myself, I had nothing in the shape of blankets (which are indispensable in that country), except a very small thin rug; and, as I have said before, all the money I possessed was forty shillings. We bought five pounds of flour, for which we paid fourteen shillings, and when we had the opportunity borrowed a pan of a traveller to boil or bake in. Jim conceived the idea of boiling the flour with water into a sort of hasty pudding. This answered an excellent purpose, for it seemed to appease our hunger for a greater length of time than it did when made into cakes. Of course, we had nothing in the shape of salt, but that was a thing easily dispensed with.

The only fault this flour had, "there was too little of it." One day we met with a traveller, who made us a present of a little brown sugar, which we used to our hasty pudding—a luxury we enjoyed exceedingly. The men who keep those public-houses on the road allow their customers to sleep on the floor of their houses, or in their outbuildings, free of expense, so we smuggled ourselves amongst the customers, and therefore did pretty well in that respect. At these houses above Lillooet the charge is 6s. 3d. each meal, but below that place 4s. 2d. They likewise profess to sell flour and bread, but frequently will not confess with any, simply to compel people to buy meals. Marquis indulged himself with an occasional supper, but I could not afford it, and walked many a day 25 miles with a small piece of bread and water. Jim frequently urged me to deal a little more liberally with my stomach; but my money was to be spun out to a fearful distance, and I had such a dread of the almost certain prospect of starvation that I determined not to spend a single cent. more than absolute necessity compelled me to do.

Marquis took a different view of the subject—declared he would have something to eat so long as his money lasted, and let the morrow provide for itself. I had not the least doubt that had I become destitute of money Jim would have shared his last shilling with me; but I was well aware he had not sufficient for his own purpose, therefore I resolved to make

the little I had serve me if possible. I accordingly struggled on day after day living on a small portion of bread and water, till with hunger and fatigue I was so much reduced in strength that frequently when I sat down to rest, or to drink, it was with difficulty I could regain my feet. Could I but have obtained one good meal a day, I would not have taken the least harm. I often thought what a fool I was to starve myself in that manner when I had money in my pocket; but then all I had would not have paid for four meals, and then what was to be done.

I was often amused at the struggle that took place in my mind, arising from a ravenous appetite on the one hand, and an inclination to save for future emergencies on the other. Seeing other men go into the houses to eat, my hand would involuntarily find its way into my trousers pocket—seize the little money it contained—pull it half way out—turn the coins over and over—then drop them down again. Then I would draw the money out with a fixed determination to buy food, but somehow or other my resolution would suddenly forsake me ; and after turning the few dollars over in my hand half-a-dozen times, down they would go again to the bottom of my pocket with a clash. Then the smell of the viands which issued from the house would drive me ravenous. Seizing the coins with a vice-like grip, which threatened to penetrate the flesh of my hand, I felt determined not to loose my hold till I placed some of them in the hand of the eating-house keeper for a dinner—marched with a firm step up to the door, resolving to eat at all hazards—when suddenly I would imagine I heard a voice say, "If you do, you will rue it—eat now if you like, and starve afterwards." I would instantly wheel round, and rush from the house; and thus for several days this strange warfare went on in the mind, and I continued to live on bread and water.

Strange to say, when I came to the last shilling, which I paid for a single cup of bad coffee, it seemed to give me little concern. Once or twice when Marquis was taking supper he pocketed for me a piece of bread, which served the next day.

One night, after having nothing to eat all day, I paid 25 cents. for a pint of butter-milk, there being nothing else to be had at that house, except a very indifferent supper for 6s. 3d., which, of course, I did not partake of. I always had a

particular dislike to butter-milk, but on that occasion it was particularly palatable.

Next morning I started with a light stomach and a heavy heart, and lame as a dog, for I had blisters on my feet the size of half-crown pieces.

At a short distance from the house I observed a piece of dry dirty bread, black as coal, lying on the ground—perhaps thrown there by some filthy Indian; a dog would scarcely have eaten it. No matter, I looked at it with a longing eye, but was noticed by some men who were standing about, and could not find an opportunity to pick it up, and I left it very reluctantly. That same bread was picked up immediately afterwards by a young Englishman and eaten.

Such is hunger. I may here remark that mine was not an isolated case; hundreds of cases were as bad and many worse than mine.

When starting one morning I found myself in a dreadfully broken-down condition; it was with great difficulty I could set one foot before the other. I overheard one man say to another about me, "That poor old man will never see the next house." No doubt, my then present appearance would warrant that assertion, for my back and belly were fast approaching each other, my back-bone forming a half circle, and my knees at every step coming into violent contact. I had, no doubt, the appearance of a very old man. However, contrary to their expectations, I did see the next house and all the houses on the road, but I had a hard struggle for it.

I could compare the sensation of extreme hunger to nothing but this: a string through a hole in my back fastened to the inside of my belly, and somebody behind lugging at it. It was a curious fancy, but it seemed to convey that idea. At last I was obliged to submit, and on two occasions pay 6s. 3d. for a meal.

Having tramped day after day with next to nothing to eat, nature became completely exhausted. I could obtain neither bread nor flour; paid my dollar and a half and sat down to eat, but having been so long without flesh meat, it turned me quite sick, and I could not eat it. I put the beef and bread into my pocket, which made me a rare feast the next day. The next time I was necessitated to buy a meal, the enormous quantity I ate made me ill for some days after. Marquis could not take supper that night, having made himself ill

with eating huckle berries, which we sometimes met with on the road: they are wholesome, but he ate too many. The huckle berry is about the size of our black currant—a sort of blaeberry, and grows on a bush six or eight feet in height. One day we sat down in a ravine to drink water; an Indian camp was hard by, and the place was densely studded with those berries. It appeared the Indians claimed this place as their garden, but we were not aware of it at the time, and James Marquis quite innocently broke off a branch loaded with berries, and sat down to eat them. He had no sooner done so than the Indians came buzzing about us like bees from a hive. We had only one travelling companion with us at the time, and none of us were armed. This man had been in the country a few years, and had a slight knowledge of the Chinook language. We learnt from him afterwards the meaning of some of the expressions the Indians made use of. It was to the effect that they would sell us as many as we liked, but we had no business to help ourselves; and how would the white man like the Indian to break into his garden and steal his fruit; that the white man had no more right to steal the Indian's fruit than the Indian had to steal the white man's fruit. All this was sensible enough, and went to prove that even those half savage Indians had some idea of right and wrong. But the fact is, we were not aware that we were stealing. Had the place been fenced around we would at once have understood it to be some one's private property; but as such was not the case, we of course had no other impression than that we were at perfect liberty to help ourselves. The Indians, however, did not discern that we were doing this in ignorance; they seemed astounded at the liberty taken, and from their gestures, it was evident we had got into trouble. The chief stood at a distance brandishing an immense club: his manner was alarmingly vehement; he raved and frothed at the mouth with rage, and frequently made use of the words, "siwash mammerloose," which meant they (the Indians) would murder us. James looked pale as death—his lips were like marble; the other man trembled like an aspen leaf, and I was almost petrified with fear. Marquis, however, daringly persisted in eating away at the berries, professing to give no heed to the chief. I could see that serious mischief was brewing, and urged Marquis to desist, for the rage of the chief increased tenfold when he saw that Jim set him at defiance. As luck

would have it, just at that moment eight or ten white men came up, with whom we had been travelling a few days, but who had now been lagging behind; some of those men were armed with guns, and the others with revolvers, the appearance of which had the effect of cooling down the Indians, for they immediately slunk away from our presence. Had some one made us each a present of a ton weight of Cariboo gold it would not have been a more agreeable sight to us than were the faces of those white men at that moment; for had they not come up at that time we, undoubtedly, would have been *mammerloosed*.

We learnt afterwards that a few hours previous to our adventure with the Indians, three white men had been plucking huckle berries at the same place, which had greatly exasperated the savages, and the fact of us doing the same thing immediately afterwards accounts for the warm reception we met with. Some of the Indians armed with knives followed those white men with the intention of mammerloosing them, but on their approach the whites wheeled round and confronted them.

One of the white men having a revolver levelled it at the chief, threatening to bore a hole through him if they molested them. The Indian cooly bared his breast and told him to fire. "Kill me," says he, "and then *nica tillicums mammerloose*," *i.e.*, my friends will kill you. It seems, however, after all, that he had no particular fancy to have his brains blown out, for he allowed them to depart unmolested. It has been previously stated that the Indians in those parts are not particularly hostile so long as they are not meddled with. Nevertheless, it is a fact that they will commit murder where there is a prospect of plunder. We were told frequently that when a favourable opportunity presents itself, the savages do not scruple to draw a knife across the white man's throat, or dispatch him by battering in his skull, in order to possess themselves of his provisions, blankets, and dollars. Those statements have of late been confirmed by reports which have reached this country, narrating some horrible butchering of white men perpetrated by Indians in British Columbia, and all for the sake of plunder.

We had now completed about a hundred miles of our return journey, and soon reached the great mountain where we suffered so much from thirst; and here Marquis and I unfortu-

nately got separated, and saw no more of each other till we met at New Westminster, some eight days afterwards. It happened in this way. We sat down to drink before climbing the big mountain. Jim started again a short time before I did, for the purpose of gathering huckle berries, and requested me to follow in a few minutes. He had taken the right direction; but other two men and myself, as bad luck would have it, took the wrong trail, which had been an Indian one; got ten miles out of our way, and lost ourselves in a dense forest. When at a stand-still, we luckily met with some friendly Indians, who put us on to a track that led to one of the Government Cariboo roads, which was in course of making about ten miles farther ahead. I had nothing whatever to eat, but going over a large mountain I found half a biscuit, and a little further on a whole one, which in all probability had been lost. This we considered providential, and one of my companions having a very small piece of rancid bacon, which we could not have eaten under ordinary circumstances—we made a fire (having plenty of lucifer matches with us) and cooked the bacon, which he divided amongst the three of us. I thought I never in all my life ate anything so palatable; hunger had a wonderful charm in giving to the meanest eatables a rich flavour. I was now without money and without food, and I had lost my old friend Marquis, which was the greatest want of all. While I had James Marquis with me I had a genuine friend—always a mighty consolation in times of trouble; but now that he was gone, my spirits failed me. It is true, I had two white men for companions, but they were comparative strangers to me, and in looking after themselves had quite enough to attend to. I felt indescribably wretched; indeed, all the hunger, thirst, and privation I had endured was as nothing in comparison to what I suffered mentally.

I was constantly haunted with the dreadful presentiment that I would die on the road, and my wife and children would never know my fate, for who would take the trouble to write to them. This silly over-sensitiveness caused nine-tenths of my mental suffering. I was not the only one out there, however, who pined about those left behind; I met with numbers quite as chicken-hearted as myself. He who possesses a tender feeling for his wife and children possesses a sentiment he need not be ashamed of; but, depend upon it, tender feel-

ings are not the right sort of goods to take out to British Columbia, and if he cannot leave his tender feelings behind he had much better stay at home with them. I believe the more callous-hearted a man is the better he is adapted for an adventure like this.

After the Indians had pointed us out the right direction we recovered our spirits a little, for we had the cheering prospect of employment at the road-making. At all events, we were certain of something to eat. When we reached the road-makers' camp (it being Sunday) the men were lounging in their tents, and to my great astonishment I heard my name called out in all directions, and before I had time to think I was surrounded by a dozen hearty fellows, all struggling to shake hands with me. I recognized in them some fellow-passengers of ours, principally Canadians, with whom we had sailed from New York. They were all disappointed Cari-booites, and were now working on the roads. What a god-send was this road-making: it rescued scores from absolute starvation. Meeting with those men was an agreeable surprise; and when I beheld so many familiar faces, all my troubles, both mental and physical, seemed for the time to vanish. It was scarcely necessary to throw out a hint that we needed food: our wants were immediately anticipated. The foreman having been solicited, we were set down—on the ground, of course—to partake of a splendid repast, consisting of boiled bacon and beans, bread and coffee. The camp had dined a short time previously, therefore the remainder was still warm and comfortable. What quantity we ate I cannot say, but it was something enormous, for lumps of boiled bacon did certainly, for a considerable time, disappear with marvellous rapidity. Our appetite satiated, we passed an agreeable hour, narrating to each other our misadventures. It was the old story over again: hairbreadth escapes, hunger, and intense suffering. We applied for work, but could not obtain it, owing to their want of tools. But the foreman told us that seven or eight miles further on was another gang of men at work; we were to mention his name to the foreman there, and he was certain we would be set to work. We accordingly took leave of our friends, and when we reached the other camp the men were at supper, and here again we "put ourselves outside of an excellent meal."

All those men (sixty in number) were perfect strangers to

us, but they gave us a hearty welcome. Two of us applied for work and succeeded ; the other man went on, and I never saw him afterwards. We engaged ourselves for two months at 40 dollars per month and board. Now that I had got work, I felt exceedingly thankful, for I was certain of plenty to eat, and at the expiration of two months would have sixteen pounds in my pocket.

I had no tent, but two young men (gentlemen's sons) from London shared theirs with me, which they had made with branches of trees. It was cold at nights, and I suffered for want of blankets. The first night I slept uneasily, and had an exciting dream. It was that I had returned home ; and when I entered the house, was greeted with exclamations of surprise—my wife and children clinging around my neck shedding tears of joy at my safe return. After the first burst of feeling had subsided, I sat down on the squab by the kitchen fire, and one of my little girls immediately sprang on to my knee– threw her little arms around my neck, and kissed me passionately. One of my other children wishing to occupy her place, seized hold of her to drag her from me, when she uttered a piercing scream, which aroused me from my sleep, when lo ! and behold ! instead of being at home with my wife and children, I found myself lying on the ground in the wild woods of British Columbia, with nearly the whole thickness of the world between us. What my feelings were at that moment is beyond the power of language to describe. I had been snatched from a perfect state of imaginary bliss to as perfect a state of real misery and despair as the human mind is capable of. The rebel angels hurled from the throne of heaven to the regions of the damned could not have experienced a more terrible revulsion of feeling than I did at that moment, and for some time I lay perfectly prostrate with horror at the awful disappointment. "Oh, God, have mercy upon me," were the first words that escaped my lips, followed by a moan of as deep despair as ever found vent from a human bosom.

But how wonderful it is, with what earnestness men will invoke Divine aid when in great distress, and how soon forget to pray when delivered from their troubles. According to the ancient proverb—

> "The devil was sick, and the devil a saint would be :
> The devil got well, and the devil a saint was he !"

I commenced work on the following morning, but was extremely weak and ill. Having slept so long on the damp ground, with but little to support nature, I felt as if it was taking my life away inch by inch. The second night I had a serious attack of a complaint similar to the croup, which almost choked me. I thought it was going to be all over with me.

My bed mates were wakened up in a fright with the loud strange noise I made in trying to breathe; however, I caught my breath again, and retained it. Besides all this, having had frequently to plodge through holes knee deep, and going wet shod, gave me the gout again in my foot. This time, fortunately, it was only a slight attack, and went off in a few days. I worked a day and a-half in great pain, which the foreman eventually observed; and being a humane man, he requested me to lie awhile to see if I got better. I did so; but next morning brought me no relief; therefore, at my request, he paid me for the work I had done, and after stuffing my pockets with bread and beef, I crawled away as best I could. The distance to Lillooet was 23 miles, and how I got over the ground is a mystery; but, sure enough, I reached there that night more dead than alive, and I was fifteen hours in performing the journey.

That was a dreadful day for me; besides, the gout in my foot, one of my heels was festered—the sinews of my legs terribly sprained—every step I took gave me the most acute pain—and altogether I was a pitiable object. I thought death that day would have come to my relief, and welcome it would have been. Indeed, on twenty previous occasions I thought I could have gladly welcomed the grim monster; but, still again, when I thought of my wife and children, it inspired me with fresh courage, and I struggled on. I thought of the dreadful state of suspense in which they would be, not knowing my fate. I wrote in my memorandum book my address, with the following words—"Should death overtake me, will some kind friend send the intelligence to my poor wife at the above address.

However, contrary to my expectations, I survived it all.

It is impossible to calculate the amount of hardship a man can endure until he is put to the test. Certain it is, he cannot lie down and die just when he likes.

An amusing incident took place between two Englishmen,

with whom I was well acquainted—fellow-passengers of our from Liverpool. The name of one was Knapton ; the other Smith. Those two men in returning from Cariboo, disappointed like hundreds of others, suffered considerable hardship. Knapton was a short, thick-set, muscular fellow, capable of great endurance ; while Smith was considerably deficient in physical stamina : both were young men.

One evening, after a hard day's tramp, with next to nothing to eat, Smith found himself completely used up, and had a decided impression that he was about to give up the ghost.

He came to a dead stand—sank down to the ground, and called out to his friend, "Knapton, I am done : I cannot go an inch further." "Nonsense," says Knapton, "we have got seven miles to walk yet to the next house, and if we don't look sharp all the bread and flour will be worried up by other travellers, and we must starve." "No use talking," says Smith, "nature is exhausted, and if I had the world for doing it, I could not move another foot." "And what do you propose to do?" inquired Knapton. "Do," replied Smith ; "I can do nothing but lie down under this tree and die." Knapton, whose heart was in the right place, had, nevertheless, a rough method of showing his good feelings; and not believing the case to be so desperate as all this, replied, "Then you must die, and be d——d : I must go and look after something to eat." "What!" faltered Smith, "is it possible you can thus leave me to my fate?" "Why, what in all the world am I to do," replied Knapton. "It appears you have quite made up your mind to die, and if I remain with you without food I will soon die too; and, as you are well aware, I have a wife and family to live for—whereas, you are a single man—therefore, it would not be half so serious a matter you dying as it would me ; besides, what's the use of two men dying when one will do." Poor Smith gave himself up to despair—cast a look upon Knapton that would have melted a heart of stone, and ejaculated, "Oh, God! here I must die, and not a friend to close my eyes in death"—wrapped himself in his blanket—heaved a heavy sigh, and commenced, he thought, the process of dying. Sure enough, Knapton went on and left him, but quite satisfied in his own mind that they would meet again. Knapton obtained a supply of food at the next house, and after anxiously wait-

ing a couple of hours, and just when he was seriously contemplating the necessity of returning to seek him, to the unspeakable delight of Knapton, who should turn up but his old friend, Smith, who staggered into the log-house, seemingly quite astonished to find himself not dead.

Knapton narrated this incident to me afterwards in the presence of his friend with great gusto, and many a jolly laugh we had at the expense of poor Smith.

Going down towards Lillooet I met with an Irishman, and we waddled on together. On one occasion, while resting, about a dozen Indians came out of the wood and surrounded us. They seemed disposed to subject us to a very close scrutiny. One of them took my coat, which was hanging over my arm, and examined it minutely both inside and out. He then took my wide-awake hat off my head, and put it through the same process; then turned the collar of my waistcoat, and gave it a careful inspection; and concluded his manœuvres with me by deliberately walking half-a-dozen times around me, and examining me with as much curiosity as though I had been an animal of rare species. Having gratified his curiosity so far as I was concerned, he immediately turned his attention to my friend, the Irishman, who, following my example, became quite passive in his hands, and allowed the same liberties he had taken with me. He had some bread tied up in a common red and white cotton handkerchief. The Indian took the bundle out of his hand—deliberately untied it—possessed himself of the crumbs and small pieces, and returned the largest piece to the Irishman. They could speak a few words of broken English, and the Indian expressed a wish to purchase the handkerchief. He held it up, and made use of the word, "much?" Half-a-dollar said the Irishman. It was a bargain at once; the Indian paid the money, and tied the handkerchief around his head in great glee. It is said the Indians regard the English, but dislike the Americans They name the English "King George men;" the Americans, "Boston men." They associate the word Boston with everything they dislike, or that is useless. Should they possess a bad musket, a bad fish hook, or a bad—no matter what—they term it a Boston thing. When the purchase of the handkerchief was concluded one of them inquired of me as follows: "Boston men?" I answered in the negative, "King George men,

yes," I answered. They immediately, one and all, shook hands with us, and one of them bid us good bye, and they took their departure.

I found, by experience, that this was the proper way to deal with the Indians. Had we resented those liberties, in all probability it would have aroused their savage nature, and they might have attacked us.

As already stated, I reached Lillooet in a miserable predicament. A bread baker (a man of colour) made me a cup of coffee, with bread and butter, for a quarter dollar, and gave me a piece of cold mutton into the bargain, and allowed me to sleep on his shop floor. It appeared that there was nothing very seriously the matter with my health more than what something to eat and a night's rest would, in a measure, repair; for next morning I found my condition considerably improved.

One of my feet being through to the ground, I employed a shoemaker to cobble me a small piece on to the bottom of my boot, the charge for which was a dollar; but I pleaded poverty—he was an Englishman, and let me off for half-a-dollar. I bought two pounds of bread, for which I paid a half dollar.

My money was now nearly *played-out*. The word "played-out" is extensively used among the Americans, and has a peculiar significance. Anything that is used up—finished—come to an end—is "played-out." If a man has lost his health, his constitution is "played-out;" if he is reduced in circumstances, his means are "played-out;" if he has lost all his money, his money is "played-out;" if he has got all the gold out of his claim, his claim is "played-out;" if he has been deceiving the public, and is detected, his tricks are "played-out." England, in the estimation of the Yankees, has lost her prestige. She is no longer a first-rate power: she is going back in the world. England, they say, is "played-out."

My money was about "played-out;" and I was distant 120 miles from Douglas—three lakes to cross, at a dollar each; and if I failed to gain employment, one pound more in the steamers to Victoria. There was nothing for me but to trust to the chapter of accidents, so off I set to the first lake, four miles from Lillooet; and to make short a long story, I succeeded in getting the privilege of working my

passage over all the three, in the shape of loading and unloading the cargo.

Two of those captains were exceedingly kind—one of them allowing me to sleep in the firehole of his steamer all night, the other supplying me with bread and meat; but the heart of the third was made of flint. I had gone to sleep in a hay shed (the first comfortable bed I had found for some time), by the side of a lake. The boat came in at one o'clock in the morning. I immediately rose with a few other men to unload the cargo for our passage over. We worked several hours at extremity, and when we had finished, being very weak and faint for want of meat and drink, we respectfully asked him for a cup of coffee, but he refused. I think it no disgrace to tell (for hundreds of men were compelled to do the same out there), that several times in coming down I was obliged to beg for a piece of bread, and twice I succeeded. But I found myself a bad beggar—my voice faltered—I trembled every limb, and altogether I made a bungling job of it. The first time I tried on the begging business I met with a terrific rebuff; it was at one of the roadside public-houses, kept by a Yankee. When I entered his house, I found him busily engaged with another man playing at cards on the counter. I asked for assistance in few words, couched in terms as civil and respectful as I knew how; but with a horrid oath he ordered me out of his house. I thanked him for his courtesy, and left him to his own reflections.

I will now relate what I consider a striking incident, and which had a great deal to do with promoting my better luck afterwards. In crossing the lakes, a gentleman happened to be on board, who turned out to be Archdeacon Wright, of Victoria He noticed my distressed appearance, and entered into conversation. When he learnt that I belonged Wolsingham, he manifested great kindness towards me.

Strange to say, he was, in former years, an intimate acquaintance of Squire Wilkinson's, of Harpley Hall, near Wolsingham, and had frequently been there on visits. He was well acquainted with Bishop Auckland. I found the Archdeacon a free, communicative, and intelligent gentleman.

After we crossed the last lake, the Archdeacon put a sovereign into my hand, saying it would give me present relief, and I might give it him back when I got employment. I thanked him with heartfelt gratitude, and when I returned

the sovereign a few weeks afterwards he told me if ever I needed a friend I was to apply to him. The Archdeacon advised me, now that I had the means, to get a good meal, which he thought I stood in much need of. I was not long in carrying his advice into effect, which put new life into me.

He acquainted me with his whereabout at Douglas, and requested me to call upon him, and he would render me every assistance in his power to obtain employment.

He then took the stage waggon, which was then running between Douglas and the first lake.

I had now only thirty miles to walk to Douglas, and after resting a few hours, I started from the lake about two o'clock in the afternoon, in company with an Irishman and a Canadian, with whom I had recently become acquainted on the road. We jogged on together fifteen miles to the half-way house, kept by a canny Scotchman. While I was occupied kindling a fire by the side of a stream near the dwelling, my two companions went to ask the Scotchman for a supply of flour; but soon returned with lengthened visage, and the not over-cheering news that he would not grant the favour, although they offered to pay any price for it he thought proper to charge, providing it was within our means. We were now at a loss to know what to do, for although we had fasted only about twelve hours, we were hungry and faint, and as night was approaching, and being fifteen miles from Douglas, we saw little prospect of reaching it that night. I proposed going to the Scotchman myself to urge further the request, but my two friends declared it would be perfectly useless, for all their earnest appeals had failed to touch his callous heart. It was clear the Scotchman had made a very unfavourable impression on their minds; and they denounced him to me in the most bitter terms. Indeed, the epithets they indulged in were couched in language that, to say the least, was anything but creditable to themselves.

I said it could be no hanging matter to make another attempt, and resolved to do so. When I entered the house, I found him busily occupied with some papers, apparently invoices. I urged the request in as civil terms as I was capable of, but received no reply. Indeed, he did not deign even to raise his head; and I kept on repeating the request at intervals for at least half-a-dozen times, but still received no more answer from him than had he been a marble statue.

I was at a loss to know what opinion to form of him, for he certainly appeared to be a problem very difficult to solve. I was perplexed, amused, annoyed, and interested with the man's manner, but having waited several minutes with no better success, I was just thinking I would be compelled to abandon the siege, and had come to the very rash conclusion that the fellow was either a fool or a brute, when he actually raised his head, and opened his mouth, and I heard the pleasing intimation, "Weel, weel, ye sal hae a bit flour." I thanked him kindly, and he immediately weighed us 2 lbs. of flour each, and charged us only 15 cents. per lb., the price he had paid for it. He then lent us an old frying-pan, and a lump of bacon skin to grease it with. Goodness knows how many people had used this bacon before us, for it was black as a coal. That, however, did not in the least degree blunt our appetite, and we lost no time in converting the dust into dough.

The method of baking in the woods is as follows:—The flour is mixed with water in the pan, and stirred about with a stick—worked with the hands to the proper consistency, and flattened out the size of the pan bottom, but allowed to remain on the fire only till the dough is sufficiently set to enable it to stand on edge. It is then placed against a stone before the fire till done. The most difficult part of the operation for a hungry man to perform is to muster sufficient patience to wait till the thing is cooked.

We sat with watering mouths watching the baking process, and thinking the stuff would never take leave of its pasty condition. When it was done, or thereabouts, we commenced operations; and although our cake was without kneading, or even a piece of salt, we ate it, and drank from the running stream with a relish that no mortal man can form the least idea of who has not experienced the cravings of extreme hunger.

I sometimes thought it was almost worth the while to get well starved for the sake of the great pleasure one derived from eating under such circumstances.

We had finished our repast, and were consulting with each other about the necessity of applying to our host for the privilege of sleeping in his stable, when he sent his servant man to say, "that as it was now dark we had better go no further, but stay all night, and we were welcome to sleep in the house, for he had several bunks unoccupied, and we could have one

each free of expense. Of course, we gladly accepted the offer; went into the house and thanked him with feelings of gratitude.

There were three Englishmen besides myself lodging there that night, and we passed a pleasant evening discoursing about happy Old England, and days gone by. Our worthy host occasionally joined in the conversation; he was a man of few words, but I saw enough of him to convince me he was an honest, straightforward, well-meaning man. He was one of those sort of men who are a great deal better than they appear to be at first sight, and improve upon acquaintance. I learnt another lesson on this important subject, viz., the folly and injustice of condemning a person on the first interview.

We rose about six next morning greatly refreshed with our comfortable sleep; and returning sincere thanks to our excellent friend for his hospitality, we took our departure. After walking a few miles we sat down to rest, and were overtaken by a waggoner with an empty waggon. We immediately recognized in him one of our English fellow-lodgers. He was on his way to Douglas, and offered us a ride in his waggon. Being very lame, I gladly accepted the offer; but my two friends declined on the grounds that the road being so uneven, the shake of the waggon would do them more harm than walking would. I went in the waggon, however, and left them behind, but soon proved their fears to be well founded. I certainly fell in for a jolting of the most genuine description. What with deep cart-ruts and ugly stones I thought the life would have been shaken out of me. Every now and then down went one side of the waggon into a great hole, and up went the other, which threatened to turn the great caravan-looking machine upside down. Next moment up went the down side, and down went the up side, which, ever and anon, gave me a remarkable quick passage to the opposite side of the vehicle, where I landed with a soss; and thus I was kept pitching and rolling about like a ship in a storm. Somehow or other, I had no inclination to give up the amusement. Unpleasant as it was, it was a change, at all events; and there was something so exceedingly ludicrous and laughable about the affair that I was quite fascinated with the novelty of the thing, and determined to carry it out to the end.

But what surprised and amused me more than all the rest was the cool and quiet manner in which the waggoner took all this; for those terrible upheavings and convulsions seemed to produce but little effect upon him, and was incapable of knocking him off his perch. There he sat at the head of his machine, rolling and wabbling about, but with an easy motion that was quite astonishing. Constant practice had given him the knack of accommodating himself to this peculiar motion, the same as a sailor can suit himself to the motion of a ship. About three o'clock in the afternoon I was set down at Douglas safe and sound.

It was Sunday, the sixth of July. I had, therefore, accomplished that eventful 500 miles in 25 days.

I immediately repaired to the little domicile of our worthy friend, John Pearman, the bread-baker; but I was so greatly reduced in bulk that some time elapsed before he could bring me to his recollection; and when he recognized me, exclaimed, "Good God, what in all the world has become of you, for you seem to have almost entirely disappeared." "A considerable portion of me evaporated," I answered, "in the shape of perspiration, while passing over the mountains; another large portion of me was devoured by the mosquitoes; and the remaining *small* portion now stands before you." Pearman burst into a loud laugh, saying, "Well, I have seen many serious and sudden changes in my time, but I declare I never beheld anything like this."

I put myself into the scales, and was found wanting nearly three and a-half stones. I likewise had the curiosity to measure the slack in my trousers waistband, which was a comfortable fit twenty-five days before.

I could scarcely credit my own vision; for it now had an overlap to the incredible number of *fifteen inches*. Not a particle of my belly remained; there was simply a cavity it had previously occupied.

My corpulent form having pined away to a considerable distance from my clothes, they were left dangling about me strangely—my breeches backside hanging in broad deep plaits down to the calves of my legs, which gave me a most comical and laughable aspect. Indeed, many a one had a good giggle at my expense; but I consoled myself with the old saw, "A man will live after being laughed at."

To those who are suffering from that disease called obesity,

instead of applying to Mr. Banting for a specific, allow me to recommend *a single trip to Cariboo*, which, I venture to affirm, will prove an effectual cure.

After answering his earnest inquiries respecting the rest of our party, Mr. Pearman said, "I have been confidently expecting your return daily. So many disappointed men have come down, and I have heard such fearful accounts of suffering from them, that I made myself certain none of you would ever reach Cariboo. As for yourself, I fully expected you a fortnight ago. Being so stout, I did not think you would be able to climb many of the mountains; and as you did not put in an appearance, I began to think seriously you had *kicked the bucket*."

As it was Sunday, I had no intention of seeking an interview with the Archdeacon till the following morning; but going out in the evening, I accidentally met with him, in company with the clergyman of the place. The Archdeacon immediately proposed going to the blacksmiths' shops to apply for me work; and although they both used their influence to the uttermost, it was of no avail. So many men had previously returned from the mines that every vacancy was filled up; besides, my broken-down appearance undoubtedly told heavily against me. I suppose I was more likely to become a fit subject for the grave-digger than a wielder of the blacksmith's hammer.

I must here explain that the blacksmiths' business being so pressing during the summer season, they are necessitated to work on the Sundays.

The Archdeacon requested me to call upon him next morning and he would give me a letter of introduction to an intimate friend of his—the manager for the Hudson's Bay Company at Victoria, and expressed great confidence that I would be successful.

As Mr. Pearman had to work all night at his baking business, and his shop being confined to such narrow limits, he could not possibly afford me sleeping accommodation, not even an area of six feet by two on the floor. He was exceedingly sorry, but there was no help for it; therefore, I was under the necessity of seeking lodgings elsewhere.

Not being in circumstances to pay a dollar for a bed, I went out about eleven o'clock with the intention of seeking the dwelling of one of the blacksmiths to beg leave to sleep

in his smiths' shop, when passing along the street I observed a respectable-looking man standing at the door of a public-house, of whom I began to make inquiries; but he soon interrupted me by saying, "My good fellow, don't think of such a thing; come into my house and I will give you a better place to sleep in than a blacksmith's shop." The tone of his voice strongly indicated kindness of heart, and when we approached the house lamp, I perceived that he had an open, pleasing, and benevolent expression of countenance. It struck me forcibly that, if there was any truth in the science of physiognomy, that man possessed a disposition which did great credit to humanity. This proved to be the landlord of the house—a Scotchman—Macdonald by name. He showed me upstairs to a room that contained a number of sleeping berths, one of which I occupied, and where I enjoyed a most refreshing sleep. Next morning, when returning thanks to Mr. Macdonald for his kindness, he cast a searching glance upon me, and said, "Judging from your present appearance. I think a little of something to eat would do you no harm." I was then shown into a room where I partook of an excellent breakfast. The kind-hearted fellow would not listen to any expressions of gratitude; and from his blithe countenance, it was evident it gave him great pleasure to relieve the wants of his fellow-creatures.

He had never seen me before, and in all human probability would never see me again; therefore, he could not be actuated by any selfish motive; it was pure benevolence that prompted him to the action.

What a happy world this would be did every man possess the humane feeling of Mr. Macdonald.

It is a law of our constitution to dislike those who cause us pain, and to love and admire those who give us pleasure; therefore, to the end of my life will I remember Mr. Macdonald with feelings of gratitude and pleasure.

Whenever this pleasing incident occurs to my mind, the suggestion is accompanied by a most ridiculous and absurd notion: It is a wish that at some future time I may meet with Mr. Macdonald *in great distress*, simply to gain the pleasure of relieving his wants.

The steamer, *Governor Douglas*, was to sail at eleven o'clock for New Westminster; and after another fruitless attempt to obtain employment, I sought an interview with the Arch-

deacon, who immediately applied to the pilot of the steamer, and gained me the privilege of working my passage down. Armed with the Archdeacon's letter of introduction, I parted with friend Pearman, and started in excellent spirits. We reached New Westminster about seven in the evening, and the moment I stept on shore I met with an agreeable surprise. There was my old friend, James Marquis, looking thin, it is true, but, nevertheless, tolerable in health. It was a glorious meeting between us.

The morning we lost each other Marquis kept sauntering along gathering huckle berries, never doubting but that I would follow him. An hour passed away, and he began to think me long in coming. He sat down to wait, and made inquiries of all the travellers that passed, but could hear no tidings of me. He waited several hours—became quite alarmed, and eventually gave me up as lost. He was apprehensive that I had either fallen over the cliffs and was killed, or been murdered by the Indians; and thus he was kept in painful suspense for some days, when he chanced to meet with the man who left me working on the road, and who informed him of my safety.

Marquis had run out of money, but met with an acquaintance, who lent him a few dollars; therefore, he took little harm. The steamer, *Enterprise*, belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, was waiting to convey us to Victoria. Marquis remained at New Westminster a few days longer, but I sailed that evening, and arrived at Victoria about two o'clock next morning. I laid down against the post-office until there was sufficient daylight to enable me to read the list of names (hanging outside) of those persons for whom there was letters. To my unspeakable delight, I found my name on the list; and when the office opened at nine o'clock I received the letter, which was from n y wife.

With trembling hands, and a palpitating heart, I opened it and read that all were well at home, which removed a heavy weight from my heart.

I may here explain that letters are not delivered at the dwellings; personal application must be made at the post-office. The letters are arranged alphabetically, and passed through the window to the applicant.

On the arrival of each mail; quite a scene is presented in front of the post-office. From 20 to 200 persons may be seen

standing in the street, one behind another, forming a line sometimes a hundred yards in length, each waiting anxiously his turn; and it is no uncommon thing to have to stand from one to three hours before his turn arrives; and should it chance to be raining, the undertaking is anything but a pleasant one. Nevertheless, if the rain damp his skin, it fails to damp his ardour, for great is his anxiety to receive intelligence from home. While some are going others are coming, and the crowd continues sometimes three or four days at a stretch. It may seem incredible that so much time is occupied in distributing a few hundred letters; but the plan adopted involves a long and tedious process, as a great number of letters have to be examined for each applicant. For example, Smith applies for a letter—there may be a hundred letters bearing addresses beginning with the letter S, and the whole of those hundred letters must be looked over to ascertain if there be one or more letters for Smith—and thus it is with all the rest. Thousands of people apply for letters, and perhaps there is not one for more than one person in ten, yet the whole have to be gone through in the way described.

Letters not applied for at the time are kept at the post-office till called for, a list of the owners' names being posted outside.

I sent a letter to my wife with the next mail, which was lost in the ill-fated steamer, *Golden Gate*—destroyed by fire on her passage from San Francisco to Panama, when 199 men, women, and children met with the most horrible of deaths. In consequence of this, my friends at home were kept in painful suspense some weeks longer than they would have been had the letter reached its intended destination. I likewise wrote to Little in California, and in due time received a reply to the effect that he had been to the post-office every day for a fortnight, but hearing no tidings, he was afraid that something serious had happened to us. Having read such fearful accounts of suffering in our direction, he had totally abandoned the idea of paying a visit to the Cariboo mines—built himself a house and store in Grass Valley, and recommenced his former business. He then sent to England for his wife and family, who have since gone out to him.

Before resuming the thread of my narrative, if I may be allowed the digression, I will relate two or three incidents connected with the burning of the *Golden Gate*.

An English gentleman, who had resided in California a number of years, and realized a considerable fortune, was returning to England with his wife and family, and all the gold he possessed. This gentleman was one of the saved, but was conveyed back to San Francisco bereft of wife, children, and everything he possessed in the world.

Another gentleman divested himself of his clothing—placed his money in his hat, which he tied round his neck, and swam for the shore, reaching it in an exhausted condition. On recovering his breath, he looked up and beheld a female floundering in the waves near the shore. The sight inspired him with giant strength—he sprang to his feet, tore the hat and its contents from his neck, plunged into the foaming surge, and rescued the poor woman from a watery grave. The following incident is of thrilling interest—an act of humanity and heroism, performed by one of the male passengers, which entitles him to immortal praise, and which cannot be read without feelings of deep emotion.

Being almost surrounded with the flames that were rushing from the hold of the vessel, this man sprang from the side of the ship and seized a spar, which he observed floating on the surface of the water. Immediately afterwards, another poor fellow, battleing with the watery element, came drifting in the same direction, and likewise seized the spar just in time to save himself. But the piece of timber not being sufficiently large to sustain them both, began to sink. The eyes of the two men met; they were comparative strangers to each other, and no words were exchanged; but the brave-hearted fellow who first owned the piece of wood, seeing that the second comer could not possibly live without it, gave it up to him—abandoned it altogether, and swam for the shore, but his strength failed him, and *he sank to rise no more.* The man to whom he gave up the spar *was saved.*

The next and last incident to which I will refer will be read with feelings of a different nature.

After the fire had broken out, numbers of the passengers, frantic with terror, threw their gold and valuables about in all directions; indeed, the deck was literally covered with gold dust and coin of every description. One of the ship's crew, a "darkey"—a powerful fellow, and a good swimmer—thinking it an excellent opportunity for enriching himself, collected an enormous quantity of gold, secured it about his per-

son, and struck out for the shore; but having miscalculated the weight he was able to sustain, became exhausted with his load, and the precious metal he had possessed himself of gave him a speedy passage to the bottom of the sea; therefore, this noble nigger *died rich*.

CHAPTER VI.

EIGHT MONTHS' LIFE IN VICTORIA.

On the morning of our arrival in Victoria from British Columbia I presented the Archdeacon's note of recommendation to the manager for the Hudson's Bay Company, who, without hesitation, gave me immediate employment in their blacksmith's shop to finish spring-traps used for catching beavers.

Although the work was light, being weak and lame, I worked in considerable pain; but in the course of a few weeks nearly recovered my usual strength. I considered myself exceedingly fortunate in so easily gaining employment, for hundreds of excellent mechanics were unable to get a day's work, and were bordering on starvation. How they managed to keep life in was a mystery difficult to fathom.

James Marquis was fortunate enough to obtain a situation under one Mr. Trutch, who had a government contract for making one of the roads to Cariboo. Marquis lived in the house with his employer, and was pretty comfortable. His duty was to work in the gardens, and attend upon the horses and cows.

Passing along one of the streets on the first day of my arrival from the upper country, I chanced to meet with a former travelling companion—a Scotch Canadian—who sailed with us from New York. This young man did not attempt the diggings; being a joiner, he soon found employment in that line, and lived quite alone in a wooden shanty. Feeling lonely by himself he offered to share his little house with me, which offer I gladly accepted, for I knew him to be a kind-hearted young man, and was certain we would get on well enough together. Our rent was a dollar per week. The dimensions of our cot measured 8 feet by 10. Two bunks, 6 feet by 2, placed one above the other—shipboard fashion—

with a straw mattress to fit, were the places in which we slept. In this diminutive place we performed all our domestic duties. Our household furniture consisted of a large clothes' chest (which made an excellent seat), a small square table, a portion of a broken looking-glass, and an arm chair minus a leg. A small iron stove, with two 6-inch diameter holes on the top, upon which to place the pans, enabled us to cook our victuals tolerably. My fellow-lodger put all his washing out, which was expensive in Victoria; and as I was wishful to act on the principle of economy, I bought a wash-tub and did my washing and mending at nights after I was done my day's work.

By using strict economy, I managed to live for 10s. 6d. a-week; whereas, had I lived at a boarding-house, it would have cost 25s. per week, that being the lowest charge for board and lodging alone.

This was a marvellously rough sort of life, and formed a strange contrast to what one had been accustomed to at home.

Coming in from work, hungry and tired—firewood to provide and prepare—the fire to make on—supper to cook—the things to wash up—the floor to sweep—shirts, towels, stockings, &c., to wash and mend, and all the paraphernalia connected with housekeeping to attend to, there was not much comfort belonging to it. Had I been brought to this state of things direct from the comforts of home it would have been perfectly intolerable; but the privations I had experienced during the few previous weeks had prepared me for any sort of an uncomfortable life, no matter how rough it might have been; indeed, the hardest labour, and the most comfortless home that can be imagined, would have been a life of luxury compared to that we had experienced while passing over the mountains of British Columbia.

I had by this time made a grand discovery. It was simply this: "I had found out the real value of a good wife and home comforts."

How few of us can properly appreciate those blessings until we are deprived of them.

Although a wooden shanty is not the most comfortable place in the world to live in, yet the accommodation it affords is infinitely superior to that which numbers of poor fellows had to put up with, their only home being a canvas tent pitched in the woods in the outskirts of the city. The hunger

and distress that prevailed in Victoria was fearful to contemplate. Hundreds of men who had enjoyed a good position in life at home had come out to British Columbia (some with a considerable sum of money), to try their luck at the Cariboo gold mines; but disappointed, came down to Victoria reduced to a state of absolute want.

One party started for the diggings with several hundred pounds in money, and a couple of mules laden with provisions. A few months afterwards they returned to Victoria without a cent in their pockets, or a shoe to their feet, and half dead with hunger.

To give an idea of the absurd notions some men entertained regarding gold digging, a party of six young gentlemen, attired in fashionable cloth coats, peg-top trousers, fancy waistcoats, and white kid gloves, made statements to the effect that they would go up to Cariboo—secure a claim—work out a few thousand pounds worth of gold—return to England in the autumn to spend the winter with their friends—back again to British Columbia in the spring to work their claim; and after two years, return home about as rich, they thought, as the Marquis of Westminster; and as a proof of their sincerity, they actually took saddle bags with them to put the gold in. By and by, those young gents told a different tale, when I met with them in Victoria in great distress.

I was made acquainted with several remarkable instances of reversed fortune, some of which fell under my own observation.

A young man—a waiter in one of the first-class club-houses in London—having scraped together a little money, emigrated to Vancouver's—took a public-house in Victoria, and was doing well. One day a poor distressed, ragged, and hungry-looking man entered the bar and begged for something to eat, when, to the utter astonishment of the young publican, he recognised in this poor man a gentleman who, twelve months before, was a constant visitor at the club-house, in which he (the young man) was waiter. When this recognition took place it was hard to tell which of the two men were most surprised. It appears that formerly this gentleman during his visits to the club-house had acted with great liberality towards this young man in the shape of gratuities, in consideration of which the publican presented him with a new suit of clothes, and gave him a situation under him as barman.

A young man belonging London—a notary by profession—left an income of £400 a-year, and went out to British Columbia. He was unsuccessful, and returned to Victoria penniless. He held letters of introduction from the Duke of Newcastle to Governor Douglas, and to the manager of the Hudson's Bay Company, and was set to work in the blacksmiths' shop as a labourer, and occasionally into the office to assist in book-keeping. He was an intelligent young man and a clever penman. Although he had never before seen the inside of a blacksmith's shop, he was wonderfully quick in learning, and eventually became competent to screw bolts, and do other work at the vice. This was a marvellous change for him; but, nevertheless, he submitted to it with pretty good grace. His father, who was a respectable solicitor in London, sent him £50 to take him home; and the day he received the money was certainly the most happy of his life.

A foreman engineer, who had a salary of £200 a-year, with a house and garden in Glasgow, gave up his situation—left his wife and five children, and went to British Columbia. While sleeping one night among strangers on the road to Cariboo he was robbed of all his money, and had to find his way back to Victoria as best he could. Meeting with some of his former travelling companions, they took him with them to the Stickeen River, a few hundred miles from Victoria, to which place there was a great rush, caused by a gold excitement. It was a difficult and dangerous route—rapid-running rivers were to navigate with canoes, where the Indians were extremely hostile and treacherous. Several were drowned or murdered, and this man was supposed to be among the missing.

A foreman shipbuilder, belonging the neighbourhood of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, left his wife and family for the Cariboo diggings; but failing in the undertaking, commenced packing provisions on his back from the Forks of Quesnelle to the mines a distance of 60 miles. He made two or three trips under, a load of *one hundred pounds' weight*, by which means he earned sufficient money to keep him during the season, and bring him down to Victoria; but could not obtain employment, and passed the whole winter in great distress.

Page after page might be filled with examples of this sort—of men who had given up situations of from one to five

hundred pounds a-year, and emigrated to British Columbia confident of success. How terrible was their disappointment.

Although hundreds of good workmen could not meet with a day's work, nevertheless a few of those, whose hands had never before been soiled with that degrading thing called "manual labour," were taken pity of; but as they were incapable of performing skilled labour, the work given to them was generally of the most menial description. Frequently I have seen them employed carrying lumps of wood and sacks of coal on their backs—working on the roads with hack and shovel—splitting up firewood—cleaning out yards, pigsties, and even places of a much more filthy description, and glad they were of the opportunity.

This was a pretty state of things for those "aristocrats" (as they were denominated), who had been in the habit of looking down with contempt upon the poor, honest, hard-working man; and although my heart ached when I beheld their fallen condition, I could not help thinking this would teach them a lesson that would do them an immense deal of good. I often thought if men would use the same amount of energy at home in their respective callings that they are under the absolute necessity of doing when thrown upon their own resources abroad, few, indeed, need seek a home in a foreign land.

As I have previously stated, great distress prevailed in Victoria; but the pangs of mental anguish which some of the poor fellows suffered were much more terrible than those which were the result of mere hunger. Giant despair laid fast hold of them, and a few put an end to their sufferings by suicide. A dead body was occasionally found in the woods and in the water.

One morning we found a body floating in the bay by the company's wharf, and its distressed appearance led us all to the conclusion that it was a case of suicide. The body floated about for several hours before the authorities gave themselves the trouble to convey it away. Eventually, however, an inquest was held, and when the jury had sat an hour they arrived at the wonderful conclusion, "that the man was found drowned"—a fact we could have made them acquainted with in less than half a minute had they applied to us at the blacksmith's shop. After remaining in the water all night it would have been a marvellous thing, indeed, if he had been found *not* drowned.

A Scotchman settled the matter in another way. On his arrival at Victoria he experienced a disappointment at the appearance and prospect of things that gave him a remarkable liking for whisky; and judging from his manner, he seemed bent on finishing the whole of his money by drinking before he entered into any other speculation. However, if such was his intention, he failed in the undertaking. Before he quite finished his money he managed to finish himself, and was found dead in his tent a short distance from the city.

The surprise to me was, that so few suicides took place, for there were numbers sufficiently wretched to be driven to that extremity; and it is my firm belief that not one of them was an iota more miserable than I was myself; and I venture to affirm that not one of them had less reason. Indeed, I had not the shadow of a reason to be unhappy, for I had constant work—was earning fifty shillings a-week, and saving four-fifths of it; therefore, I had every prospect of having the means to return home in the course of a few months—a privilege that would have rendered hundreds out there perfectly happy.

To speak the honest truth, I was downright home-sick, and experienced such an ungovernable inclinatian to be at home that I often thought I could not possibly exist another moment longer without seeing my wife and children, and felt a strong desire to rush into the sea and swim across the ocean.

Such like notions convinced me that I was going crazy; indeed, for some time previously I had experienced a strange sensation in my head, which led me to think that my brain was being turned.

All this took place within the first three months of my life in Victoria. After that, I gradually recovered; but for the first two months I meditated by day, and was kept awake at nights with fretting till my health began to suffer seriously. I applied to the doctor, who told me that my only complaint was mental anxiety. "Have you no work, and can get nothing to eat," he inquired, "that makes you fret so much?" "I have steady work, plenty to eat, and I am saving money into the bargain," I replied. "Then, in the name of common sense, what have you got to despond about? Look around and you will see hundreds of poor fellows walking the streets in a starving condition. Were you similarly situated, then you might have reason to despair. You are not right in your

head," he went on to say, "or you would express gratitude, and be quite content." "I perfectly agree with all you say, doctor," I answered; "and neither you nor any one else can tell me better than I know the folly of such behaviour; but the simple fact of the matter is, I cannot help it." He gave me a few words of encouragement, a bottle of physic to correct my stomach, and I left him.

That I could not avoid this despondency was fearfully true. I endeavoured to reason myself out of it—a thousand times I cursed my own folly, and my friend, James Marquis, paid me frequent visits, and used every means in his power to rally my spirits; but it was all of no avail. There was the monster eternally knawing at my very heart's core, which threatened to crush me physically and mentally.

At last, fear came to my aid, and did for me what reason failed to do. I began to see that if I persisted in this fretting business, instead of getting home, I would find my way into Victoria Cemetery.

But perhaps that was not altogether the cause of the favourable change that took place in my spirits. As time progressed, I became richer, and every pound I saved was bringing me, I thought, nearer home; and to scrape together sufficient money for that purpose was my greatest ambition. I, therefore, led the life of a miser, barely allowing myself the commonest necessaries of life; and that which cost the least, I liked the best. But, strange to say, when I had accumulated sixty pounds, which was more than sufficient, I thought less about home than I had ever done before, which seems to argue that so far as intellectual enjoyment is concerned, we enjoy the anticipation of a thing more than the realization of it.

Days and weeks passed away, and every boat that arrived from New Westminster brought crowds of disappointed Caribooites, but brought no tidings of our friends, the Marks, which was a source of great anxiety to Marquis and me.

We were harrassed daily with alternate hopes and fears—hopes that they might be successful, and fears for their safety.

One night after I had been in Victoria about seven weeks my fellow-lodger and me were talking about them, as we were in the habit of doing constantly, when who should walk into our shanty but Edward and Robert Mark. My heart leapt with joy when I beheld them, but was disappointed to learn

that their father was still in British Columbia, more than 300 miles from Victoria. We now learnt the particulars of their adventure from the day we parted with them. They said the road we travelled over to Williams Lake was a beautiful garden walk compared to the road they met with after we separated. It was truly awful, not only with mountains, but with mud likewise—a perfect slough of despond, the travellers forming excellent representatives of Bunyan's Christian, for each carried a large bundle on his back. For miles together every step they took sank them to the knees in tenacious sludge, and it not unfrequently happened that when the traveller had succeeded in extricating himself, he found that one of his long top-boots was left behind, and considered it fortunate that his leg was not left in it. In some cases he totally failed in recovering his boot, and lost sight of it for ever, where it must remain for the antiquary of future generations to discover by what means the extraordinary deposit had been made.

Besides all this, immense numbers of trees, which had been blown down, lay thick across their path. Over them they had to scramble the best way they could, frequently tumbling topsy-turvy into a deep puddle-hole which lay on the other side. While this was going on, they often expressed their satisfaction at my absence, for they were certain I never would have struggled through it. Perhaps it was fortunate for me that I did return, because it is just possible I might have been made a companion for the lost boots.

The young men related to me the following amusing, and rather alarming, incident:—One night, while they were camping, Robert had occasion to leave the tent, which he did unperceived by the others, who were fast asleep. When entering the tent on his return he accidentally placed his hand on one of his father's feet, which instantly aroused him from his slumber, and looking up, perceived something crawling into the tent, which he believed was a bear. He raised his foot and delivered a tremendous blow right in the face of poor Bob, which sent him head over heels to the outside of the tent; William at the same moment calling out in a most excited manner, "Ned, where's the revolver; here is a bear;" and seizing the deadly weapon, levelled it at his son. Robert, just in time to prevent the accident, roared out at the highest pitch of his voice—"Hold on, father; it is only me." "God

deliver us!" exclaimed William; if you had been a moment longer in speaking you would have been a dead man."

On the fourth of July they reached the long-wished-for Cariboo country; but the account they gave of the place was a tale of inconceivable misery.

They commenced operations in Antlers Creek, where they prospected about a fortnight; but their strenuous efforts proved abortive, and they, like the great majority, left the place disheartened and disgusted, having suffered great hardships.

Mark, in his pamphlet, says—"Quite satisfied and sick of the place, we packed up our trap-sticks and walked off on the 20th of July. The ground was white with hoar frost, and the morning was cold as Christmas. I felt a glow of pleasure when I got my back turned upon one of the most disagreeable and inhospitable places man ever lived in."

On their journey downwards William was taken ill, and almost died on the road. Once they lost themselves in the wood, and suffered greatly; altogether, they had a wretched time of it. At Pemberton Lake they met with an Englishman, with whom William commenced sawing wood, and he remained some months making good wages. They could have realized a considerable sum of money had they been able to find a market for their timber.

The two young men lived some weeks in Victoria before they found employment, and in the meantime we managed to stow them away in our little shanty, and they lived with us about five weeks. At nights they rolled themselves in their blankets and slept on the floor, that being the only sleeping accommodation we had to give them.

From leaving San Francisco to the time they returned to Victoria (four months), they never once had their clothes off. Often did they wonder what would have been their mother's feelings had she known the miserable life they were leading, for at home they had every possible comfort. They were both boiler-smiths by trade, and eventually Robert got an occasional week's work at that business, and Edward obtained constant employment in our blacksmith's shop. They then rented a shanty and lived together.

In the early part of November, William Mark came down to Victoria. I was most agreeably surprised with his appearance. When we parted on the 24th of June he was thin,

pale. and careworn : now he was looking healthy and cheerful. He remained with us about a fortnight, and then sailed for San Francisco ; and as Robert had little work in Victoria, he accompanied his father to San Francisco, and found employment in a boiler-builder's shop, where he continued for some length of time. William sailed for Old England, and reached home in safety on the 4th of February.

How strangely different things turn out to what we anticipate.

The day after that on which the Prince of Wales attained his majority was kept a universal holiday, and great rejoicing took place in Victoria. His birth-day falling on the Sunday, the event was commemorated on the following day. A procession was formed, headed by a brass band, which had sprung into existence a short time before. The Governor gave a magnificent ball in the evening at one of the principal hotels. Horse-racing and other amusements was had recourse to. Altogether, it was a tidy affair ; and those of Her Majesty's subjects who had the means enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

A circumstance occurred, however, which rather marred the pleasure of the day. Some mischievous scamp, who possessed more money than prudence, gave a man of colour 40 dollars to allow him to fly a Confederate flag on the top of his house. This gave great offence to many of the American tradespeople. An urgent appeal was made to the Governor ; but his reply was, "that although he deeply regretted the outrage had been committed, he had no power whatever to interfere in the matter ;" consequently, many of them refused to take part in the procession.

I lived with my Canadian friend about four months, and then went with three of my fellow-workmen into an old dilapidated wooden house belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, who allowed us to live in it rent free. My three friends were the notary, before alluded to ; a blacksmith from London, and a coppersmith from Liverpool. They were all disappointed Caribooites, and jolly, agreeable companions all of them.

This old house of ours stood in the outskirts of the town about 150 yards from the Governor's dwelling, in a rather lonely situation some 30 yards off the main road. It was built upon a rock, and consequently we gave it the name of

"Rock Villa." It consisted of two apartments, on the ground floor, each measuring 18 feet square; therefore, we were not in the least degree inconvenienced for want of space. One of those rooms was totally uninhabitable; indeed, it was in such a dilapidated condition that it was quite unmendable. We, therefore, made a lumber room of it; in fact, it answered the purpose of kitchen, pantry, wash-house, and bath-room. The other room was in tolerable repair, and with a little cobbling we managed to make it pretty comfortable. The roof, however, did not appear over flattering, but as yet there had been no rain to test its real condition. The fireplace and chimney were built of brick, but of a much more recent date than the building, and presented quite a substantial appearance. The fireplace was a very wide one, but had no grate in it. We built the fire in it on the ground, and our pans when cooking were suspended over the fire by sundry pieces of crooked iron, which dangled from inside the chimney. Furniture we had none, except a very small table, barely sufficient for the accommodation of my three friends, who messed together. I never went in *Co.* with any one in the eating line, always preferring to have only myself to consult about what was best to eat. We each made ourselves a bunk to sleep upon, which were placed one in each corner of the room. At the end of my bunk I erected a fixture table made of rough deal, which, when it required cleaning, I swept with the broom, or scraped with a knife. As it regards our sitting accommodation, one of my friends used his clothes chest as a seat, and the other two a plank of wood, resting on a couple of old bottomless nail casks. I made a sort of square stool out of huge lumps of wood for my own use, which answered my purpose admirably. This stool possessed one very excellent quality: it was not possible to upset it with anything like fairplay, for, to speak within bounds, it could not weigh an ounce less than half a hundred-weight. This was certainly a splendid specimen of joinering skill, and would have made an excellent foundation for the Poet Cowper to build his Sofa upon.

When my three friends thought proper to pass an evening in our own house (which was seldom), we generally contrived to make a concert. Our friend, the notary, was an excellent singer, and the rest of us possessed sufficient musical talent to enable us to chime in not inharmoniously.

We each had acquaintances in Victoria, who occasionally

paid us a visit, some of whom were remarkably intelligent, and then we spent the evening both agreeably and profitably.

The society of our friend, the blacksmith, was courted by all who knew him; he was generous-hearted, and a natural wit. The notary, who had a large development of the organ of imitation, frequently amused us with displays of mimicry; and thus in the midst of this strange life we sometimes contrived to enjoy ourselves.

We did no evil, and we feared none from any one, and when we turned into our bunks at night did not even take the trouble to bolt the door; therefore, any one who thought proper to pay us a midnight visit would meet with no resistance The fact is, we had very little for any one to steal; therefore, we were under no apprehension of being robbed.

As I said before, my fellow-lodgers seldom spent the evening in our own house, but frequented the billiard-rooms; therefore, I was left entirely alone, except when I received an occasional visit from James Marquis.

I retired to rest when it suited me, and left the door unlocked for my three friends to enter when they thought proper, which was often among "the wee short hours ayont the twal."

Things went on in this way till a circumstance occurred, which made us very particular about having the door locked in future. It was nothing less than a little adventure with a burglar. One Saturday night the blacksmith and coppersmith had gone out, but the notary being unwell, remained in the house with me. We retired about ten o'clock, leaving the door unfastened as usual. About two o'clock next morning as our two friends were entering the house, a great burly fellow rushed out of it, and took to his heels. It was moonlight, and they gave immediate chase, but the legs of the burglar soon carried his body out of harm's way. We were aroused from a sound sleep with the tumult, and cries of "police" and "stop thief," but could not divine the cause of the alarm, until our friends, who soon returned in an excited state, informed us that a man had been in the house, and inquired if we had been robbed of anything. We procured a light, but nothing was missing, although the coat, trousers, and waistcoat belonging to my other fellow-lodger were bundled together and placed behind the door ready for removal The midnight-prowler had been disturbed in the middle of his work, and his designs frustrated. Strange to

say, I never had more than two or three pounds in my possession at one time till that night, and I had twenty-seven pounds in my pocket. I had allowed a portion of my wages to remain in the hands of the company till it amounted to 130 dollars, which I had drawn that day with the intention of placing in the bank; but being too late, I found it closed, and was obliged to keep the money in my pocket till the Monday.

The fact of me having this amount by me was unknown to any one, and when I went to bed, took the precaution to place my trousers containing the money under my head.

However, our distinguished visitor did not do me the honour of a visit to my side of the house. What he might have done had he known that I possessed this money, I know not. Victoria was swarming with cut-throat fellows, who were starving, and who were capable of committing the blackest of crimes.

Ever afterwards during the absence of my friends, after carefully locking the door, and making all secure, I sat reading and smoking, with a very formidable weapon, in the shape of a dagger, at my elbow. However, we were never molested afterwards in any form, and things went on as before.

Nothing now appeared to disturb our tranquillity, except a few dozens of intruders in the shape of rats and mice that were in the habit of amusing themselves at nights with running races over us. By and by, however, I found them amusement of a different description. I constructed for their special use a very peculiar and interesting-looking instrument, which seemed to take their attention wonderfully. It was an old-fashioned trap, known by the name of *Samson's Post.* Depend upon it, Samson gave them a mauling, and soon thinned their ranks, till there was scarcely one left to tell the tale.

Those gentry disposed of, peace and harmony reigned triumphantly throughout our dwelling, until the rainy season set in, and then torrents of water *rained* triumphantly through it. The roof of our house, which we had before suspected of being no better than it should be, turned out much worse than we had anticipated, for it offered very little resistance to the heavy showers that were continually descending. We endeavoured to divert its course into other channels by sticking sundry pieces of zink into the roof in all directions, but it persisted in being through in spite of us, and although we were

sitting rent free, we found we had got a bad bargain, and regularly *dropped upon*. Frequently, while sitting eating our supper, we did not merely get dropped upon, but the water came down upon us in continuous streams– running down the back of our necks—pattering into our plates, and making a fearful mess of our bit humble meal, which was extremely annoying; indeed, the patience of Job never could have withstood it.

But this was not the worst part of the affair. It so happened that that portion of the roof directly over my bunk was by far the most leaky part of it; and it was no uncommon occurrence to wake up in the middle of the night, and find myself completely drenched; and was obliged to get up—make the fire on, and sit over it till my wearing apparel and blankets were dried.

This was too much for human nature. It would have exhausted the patience of half-a-dozen Jobs; and I saw clearly that I would be obliged to flee for shelter, and, sure enough, I was eventually compelled to take up my bed and walk.

Notwithstanding those drawbacks, there was a touch of the Robinson Crusoe romance in this real life, which one could sometimes enjoy exceedingly.

I next took up my abode with Robert Walker, a blacksmith, belonging Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He was one of the most honest and warm-hearted fellows in the world, and we lived comfortably together during the remainder of my stay in the colony.

CHAPTER VII.

MR. FRASER, AND THE CARIBOO GOLD MINES.

When I first arrived in Victoria from British Columbia I learnt, from newspaper report, that hundreds of men, furious with disappointment, were anxiously inquiring for the whereabouts of Mr. Donald Fraser, the Victoria correspondent of the *London Times*, whose misrepresentations had lured them from their homes; and it was intimated that should those men happen to meet with that worthy, they would lynch him to a certainty. They considered themselves sold, and were determined to wreak their vengeance on the author of their misfortunes.

But the bird had already flown. Mr. Fraser having got an inkling of the true state of things, thought it prudent to make himself scarce in Victoria, and transplanted himself to the more genial soil of California, where he could vegitate in the sunshine of his own agreeable reflections without let or hinderance. I had not the pleasure of seeing Mr. Fraser; he was absent during the whole of my stay in Victoria.

It is quite certain that those flattering articles of his, which appeared in the *Times* from time to time, in the years 1861 and 1862, and which set all the world in an uproar, contained a great amount of truth; but the misfortune was, they did not contain *all* the truth—any unfavourable statement was carefully avoided. Mr. Fraser told us that in Cariboo there was a fabulous quantity of gold, which I believe to be in a great measure true; but, at the same time, he quite forgot to tell us that, in the great majority of cases, every twenty shillings worth of gold cost thirty shillings getting. He told us that the voyage from England to Vancouver Island cost only forty pounds; but he entirely neglected to inform us that it would require five times that amount to take a man from Victoria to the diggings, and give him a chance of success when he reached that distant locality.

Mr. Fraser, when contrasting the Australian gold fields with those of British Columbia, made a statement to the effect that the great drawback at the Australian diggings was a scarcity of water with which to wash the gold, whereas in British Columbia there was an abundant supply of that requisite, which gave the Cariboo miners an immense advantage over those of Australia. All this was in accordance with the truth; but he quite over-looked the important fact that in Cariboo there was twenty times *too much water*, which of all other drawbacks was the greatest.

Mr. Fraser not only left unsaid those things which he ought to have said, but said those things which he ought not to have said. He told us that the gold in Cariboo was found at a depth of from one to six feet, and the diggings quite dry. That statement was simply false from beginning to end. Some were as much as 80 feet in depth; but, generally speaking, the gold was found from 10 to 30 feet below the surface, and the shallowest diggings I heard of were 10 feet deep, and not one of them dry.

He stated that Indians were collecting gold at the rate of

one ounce per diem each man. Although I made frequent inquiries, I never could hear of an Indian seeking gold at at any time, or under any circumstances. I will never forget how frequently we were laughed at by the Indians, during our backward journey, for being such fools as to walk that immense distance, and expose ourselves to those great hardships for the sake of gold. I have reason to believe that at the time Mr. Fraser wrote, the Indians in that remote part of British Columbia had no knowledge of the value of gold.

An intimate acquaintance of mine in Victoria related to me the following incident:—"I, with a party of twenty," said he, "were travelling the Bentick Arm route to Cariboo. One day, when very much fatigued with our journey, we chanced to meet with a party of Indians, whom we endeavoured to persuade to render us some assistance. We showed to them some half dollar pieces, which we promised to give them if they would carry our packs for us a certain distance. The appearance of the coins (which the Indians evidently thought were very pretty things), had the desired effect, and they consented. When we reached the prescribed destination we offered them the money, but they refused it; at the same time pointing with their fingers at the buttons on our coats, signifying, that if we had no objections, they would take the buttons in preference to the dollars. We immediately cut some off our coats and shirts and gave to them, with which they appeared delighted, and went away perfectly satisfied; *and so did we*, for the transaction suited us exactly."

If I mistake not, Mr. Fraser insinuated that he had been to the Cariboo mines, and wrote from actual experience and personal observation. I made inquiries of at least twenty different individuals as to the truth of that statement, and the replies, without exception, were, "that he never was at Cariboo." I was told by a respectable tradesmen at Lillooet that Fraser was never higher up the country than that place, which is at least 250 miles below Cariboo. It was whispered in Victoria that Mr. Fraser had certain motives, and some of them sinister ones, for thus deceiving the public—which motives the reader will be made acquainted with presently.

He is remarkably clever, and possesses a wonderful talent for putting false constructions on things, and twisting them into a shape suitable to his own interest and convenience. One of my fellow-passengers of the homeward voyage had

been in Vancouver Island and British Columbia some four years, and had been to the Cariboo diggings two successive seasons. From him I learnt many particulars respecting Mr. Fraser and the gold mines. This gentleman, who was well acquainted with Fraser, had dined with him on several occasions, and had been engaged to make reports to him respecting the mines; and although his statements were written impartially, he declared to me that after his reports had passed through the hands of Fraser he could scarcely recognise them, so seriously had they been tampered with, and made to bear a different construction to what had been intended.

Independent of the unenviable notoriety which he gained by his unfair interference with the gold mines, Mr. Fraser bore but a very indifferent character among the Victorians. He was represented as being unprincipled, designing, and selfish in the extreme—one who was capable of doing any mean action for the sake of gain. He was designated a clever villain, and had been more than once hissed in the streets of Victoria. Whether he had merited such a wholesale denunciation I am not prepared to say.

With respect to Mr. Fraser's motives for misrepresenting the gold mines, it was said he owned immense quantities of land in and around Victoria, and thought to enhance the value of his property by luring people away to Vancouver Island. But did he not out-wit himself in this matter? Would it not have answered even his purpose better to have spoken the honest truth—to have let the world know that in Cariboo there was an abundance of gold, *but men with money were indispensable to work it?*

This might have induced capitalists to go out and take with them labouring men—then employers and employed might all have done well. Instead of this, thousands of men were induced to go out who had means barely sufficient to land them in the country, and were consequently totally unable to effect anything, and left to starve. Victoria gossip had it that Mr. Fraser had another very powerful motive, and that was to please the Governor. It might be inferred from this that the Governor was implicated in the matter, but such was not the case. The Governor is an honest man, and would scorn the action; but of course he is anxious to witness the prosperity of the country, and would gladly listen to anything

favourable to it. Mr. Fraser thought by this means to gain favour with the Governor, and he had a motive in gaining that favour.

He had taken a fancy to one of the Governor's daughters, or to some of the Governor's money, and expressed a wish to marry the girl. Possessing riches and an oily tongue, he contrived to wheedle the Governor out of his consent.

Fraser offered the young lady his hand (his heart being out of the question), but the offer was indignantly rejected; and she told her father she would decidedly prefer being laid in Victoria Cemetery to being made the wife of old Fraser; and so ended the matter.

I cannot vouch for the truth of this: it was the gossip of the place, and must be taken for what it is worth.

Great injustice has been done to the gold fields of British Columbia on *both* sides of the question. Interested parties exaggerated in their favour, while disappointed, ruined men exaggerated in the opposite direction. It was difficult to arrive at the truth even from parties who had been to the diggings, because those who were successful praised them to an undue extent, while the disappointed ones denounced them as a complete failure.

Land-owners, steamboat-proprietors, packers, storekeepers, publicans, bread-bakers, &c., &c., constantly had their wits at work to keep up the gold excitement, for so long as thousands of men rushed to the mines, they continued to pocket thousands of dollars; indeed, those were the men who generally got hold of the money, and not the gold miners. It is no uncommon thing for men to be supplied with quantities of gold dust by interested parties, and engaged to exhibit it to travellers on the road.

Those men represent themselves to be owners of rich claims—are extremely lavish in their praises of the mines—exhibiting, at the same time, large quantities of dust and nuggets to the wondering eyes of the weary disheartened traveller, who becomes fascinated with the sight of the precious metal, and starts off again with renewed vigour for the golden El Dorado.

About three miles above Lillooet, when on my return journey, I was overtaken by two Canadians, who had been up nearly to the mines, but returned quite disheartened.

When we reached Lillooet, we chanced to meet with a man

who had in his possession two large leather bags, well filled with dust, besides several beautiful nuggets, one of which weighed half-a-pound. This glittering exhibition had evidently affected the brain of one of those Canadians, for he actually shouldered his pack and started back again over all those hundreds of miles to Cariboo.

The stratagems employed to deceive the public are wonderful. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of gold dust is taken up to British Columbia from Victoria in steamboats secretly, and brought down publicly. Next morning a flaming account appears in the papers of so many thousand dollars in dust coming from the mines; and away goes the story over all the world; whereas, the fact is, perhaps, not one half of it has come direct from Cariboo, and sometimes none of it.

An engineer in one of the river steamboats, with whom I was well acquainted, let me into this secret. He had been eye-witness to as much as fifty thousand dollars, worth going up at one time.

A great amount of business is done in Cariboo in the buying and selling of claims, and some of those transactions are mixed up with a fearful amount of swindling.

For example, a party owns a claim; but finding it is not a paying concern, consider it their business to get rid of it as speedily and at as high a price as possible; and as a gold claim, like every other thing, sells according to its supposed worth, they consider themselves justifiable in giving it a fictitious value, and try to catch a flat. In order to accomplish that object, they have recourse to the following artifice:—They take all the gold their claim has produced for perhaps several weeks, and to swell out their pile, borrow dust of their friends if they can. This large quantity of gold is placed in the sluice boxes every day, and is taken out every night in the presence of spectators, who are always on the alert to witness the gold panned out of rich claims, and who have the impression that it is the produce of *one day's work*. By this means their claim acquires a rich character—speculators come up and purchase it for a large amount, thinking they have made a splendid bargain. But by and by, after they have begun to work it, they find to their sorrow that they themselves have been sold as well as the claim, and are ruined men. An old trick, practised in Australia and California,

was revived at the Cariboo diggings. Gold dust is fired from a musket into the claim in all directions.

The intended purchaser, in order to satisfy himself that it is a genuine affair, washes several pans of dirt, and finds that every panful contains a quantity of the precious metal. A bargain is struck, and the new owner commences operations, but soon finds that his claim is *played-out*, and he is taken in and done for.

But a gold commissioner is appointed to inspect the mines personally, and report the real state of things to the Government.

All the world would suppose that through this official the truth would be arrived at. Nothing of the kind; we shall see how the screw is worked with the gold commissioner.

During his stay at the diggings he, of course, lodges at one of the boarding-houses, which is a regular store and grog-shop combined. As a matter of course, the storekeeper is intensely interested in keeping up the gold excitement. The commissioner, thinking him a likely person to give him correct information, makes numberless inquiries; and there is no mistake about him getting stuffed to his heart's content. The storekeeper owns a share in a claim, and has four or five partners working it; they are all tarred with the same brush, and it is decidedly their intention to deceive the gold commissioner. Having buried several distinct heaps of gold in the claim about twelve inches below the surface, the trap is set, and they are quite prepared to receive the Government official. When that important personage arrives, the following conversation takes place:—"Well, my boys, what are you doing?" "Taking out 300 ounces per day, sir," is the reply. "Bully for you," is the official's rejoinder; "but," continues he, "are you quite sure you are doing that amount?" "You bet we are," chime in one and all. "But," says he, "I must prove this beyond the possibility of a doubt—I must dig and wash it with my own hands." "You are quite welcome, sir," is the reply. "Well, where must I begin?" "Anywhere you like, sir, cannot go wrong—that corner, good as any place" (directing his attention to a place where a heap is concealed.) Off goes the commissioner's coat—in goes the spade—out comes the gold, which is quite satisfactory—away goes the report to the Government, from the Government to the newspapers, from the newspapers to the whole world, and

that is an official account which no one at home dreams of disputing.

It may be supposed that the commissioner will sometimes detect the trick, and so he does, but what of that? This government-appointed has not the least objection to have dust thrown in his eyes, *providing it be gold dust*, and so is the business squared.

Some men are interested in keeping the quantity they are taking out a secret, and are doing more than they will confess to.

It is quite true that there is a great amount of gold in Cariboo; but, as the reader will now perceive, not so much as has been represented.

Gold-mining in any part of the world is a precarious business, but especially so in British Columbia. The gold is more "spotted," as it is termed—that is, it is found in places; and when a person is fortunate enough to strike the lead he generally finds something considerable; but striking it is the difficulty. The lead, I was told, is a narrow streak of gold some six or seven inches in width, and takes a very irregular course. Sometimes it will be found in a straight line for a short distance, and then suddenly turn off at right angles. Sometimes it assumes the form of a zig-zag, then a half circle; in other places it is found to wind about in a serpentine form; indeed, the deposit does not seem to have been made according to any fixed rule, but as chance or some unknown law has directed.

The lead in some places contains an immense quantity of gold, in others a mere sprinkling. Sometimes it breaks off suddenly—is completely lost, and is to be found nobody knows where. Sometimes it will merely touch the corner of one claim—go direct through another, and then again break off close by one side of the next claim, and strike in again on the opposite side, missing that one altogether. One party may be taking out largely, while the claim adjoining contains no gold whatever. Fifty parties may dig fifty holes each, and not find gold in paying quantities; while another party will drop upon a rich place the first attempt—therefore, gold-hunting is a perfect lottery. The lead may be designated the nucleus of the gold deposit, the dust being found more or less on all sides of it. The coarse gold is found on the bed rock, which is often very uneven in its surface. Sometimes the

rock is found to rise within twelve feet of the surface of the earth, then to dip down to a considerable depth, and then rise again, resembling the waves of the sea. Where the bed rock is flat and smooth gold is seldom or never found, but where it is ragged and uneven there the precious metal is found lodged in the cracks and crevices. In some places the ground above the bed rock contains a considerable quantity of fine gold: this is called "pay dirt," which signifies that it will pay to wash it over.

The ground allowed for each claim is one hundred feet square, containing an area of ten thousand square feet. No one is allowed to hold more than one claim at one time. The claim-owner acquires his right to dig from the miners' certificate, supplied by the gold commissioner. Its cost is twenty shillings, and is available for twelve months. Those who are working for hire do not require a certificate. All claim-owners ought to procure a certificate. Some, however, neglect to use that precaution, which is foolish and dangerous, for then they have no protection. For instance, if an owner go on digging without a certificate, any person who holds one can turn him out of his claim, and take possession of it, and he has no redress, except physical force.

Should he happen to strike it rich, ten to one but an attempt is made to eject him; then the matter becomes serious, and often ends in bloodshed, for he will sooner die on the spot than give up his rich claim; and as there are five or six men on each side, perhaps more than one life is sacrificed in the fray.

There is a magistrate at the diggings every season to settle disputes, but under those circumstances the revolver and not the magistrate is consulted, and *that* settles the business between them. There is a law in existence amongst the miners to compel every one who owns a claim to commence working at the beginning of the season not later than a certain day which is specified. Should he neglect to take possession at the appointed time, he forfeits his claim, and it can be "jumped"—that is, any other person is at liberty to take possession of it.

The opening out and working of gold claims is attended with a serious amount of labour and expense. Generally speaking, the gold is found in the ravines between the mountains, and down those ravines frequently pour torrents of

water. Large flumes have to be constructed to divert the water from its usual course, then in many cases deep shafts have to be sunk to reach the bed rock—a water wheel to construct, which is placed in the flume, and pumps to fix to keep the shaft clear of water. Those, however, who have not the means to erect a water wheel must work the pumps by hand. A windlass is to fix for drawing up the dirt—sluice boxes to make for the washing process, and who knows what to do besides. All this is done at an expense of several hundred pounds, and then perhaps the claim does not contain half sufficient gold to pay expenses, and they find themselves ruined men. There is nothing on the surface to indicate the whereabouts of the gold below; therefore, it is all chance work. Sometimes a party of men will have completed the apparatus described, and got it into good working condition; when some night, while they are all fast asleep, a heavy fall of rain will take place, and down comes a perfect sea of water, which carries away in a moment the whole of their machinery; and next morning, when the poor fellows look out, they find not a vestige of their handy-work left behind.

Those are a few of the obstacles which stand in the way of the gold miners' progress.

The surface or open diggings are those which are carried bodily down to the bed rock; and enormous quantities of earth have frequently to be removed before the gold is reached.

A party of five or six are fortunate, indeed, if they complete their preliminary work the first season, and get on with collecting gold the second one

There are different descriptions of gold-washing apparatus, but the sluice is by far the best adapted for the purpose, where there is an abundant supply of water. It is simple in its construction, and effectual in its operation. It consists of a series of wooden troughs, eight inches in width, and the same in depth, placed end to end, one resting upon another, till they reach at least a hundred feet in length; and placed to form an incline to allow the water to pass freely along them. Several pieces of wood about an inch in height are fixed in the troughs at intervals, which are termed "riffles," to catch the gold The dirt is thrown into the sluice boxes, and all is carried away by the water, except the gold, which is left in the riffles. The prospecting pan is a broad shallow dish, made of galvanized iron or zinc. The prospector places a shovelful

of dirt in the pan, and mixes it thoroughly with water. He then imparts to it a peculiar motion, not unlike that given to a sieve when sifting corn, which causes the gold to fall to the bottom. During this shaking process, he continues, at short intervals, to dip the edge of the pan into the water, taking in a fresh supply; and each time he gently tilts up one side of the pan to allow the water to run out again, which carries with it at each operation a portion of the dirt, till eventually nothing remains but the pure gold.

By this means the prospector is qualified to judge from the quantity whether or not the ground he is prospecting will pay working.

There are a few claims in Cariboo which yield enormous quantities of gold. Three men, named respectively Steel, Abbot, and Cunningham, each owned a claim, which yielded from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds worth of gold *daily*.

It is said that British Columbia is as rich as was California in its palmiest days. But the misfortune is, the great expenses in Cariboo swallow up the takings till, in the majority of cases, the gold is rendered valueless. Numbers of claims, yielding forty shillings a-day to each man, were abandoned, that amount not being sufficient to pay expenses. One party of men owned a claim which produced one thousand pounds worth of gold weekly, but it did not pay. The *Press*, one of the Victoria dailies, once said—"There is, we believe, an abundance of gold in Cariboo, *but how to get it* is a problem thousands are trying to solve."

Some years ago, a London gentleman, hearing that the coalowners in the North of England realized large fortunes, thought he would speculate in the coal trade. He accordingly purchased a colliery, which employed some 300 men. Finding, in a short time, however, that it was not a paying concern—and hundreds of pounds disappearing in the shape of wages—he gave it up in despair, saying, "he believed his colliery would have paid very well had it not been for *the confounded pitmen* who ran away with all the profit.

Those confounded expenses in Cariboo runs away with all the profit. In the summer of 1862 the price of flour ranged from 4s. 2d. to 6s. 3d. per lb. Beans and bacon about the same. In the provision line flour, beans, and bacon are the staple commodities. Tea and coffee from 12s. 6d. to 16s. 8d.; sugar from 4s. 2d. to 5s. 3d. per lb. Beef, 2s. per lb.

(the oxen are driven up and slaughtered on the spot.) A small box of lucifer matches, 2s. 1d.; candles, 1s. each; salt seldom to be got at any price; a glass of spirits, 2s. 1d.; and nails were worth *twenty-five shillings per lb.*, and frequently not to be had even at that price.

A man walked 35 miles (up to the knees in mud at every step), to obtain a few nails which had been left in some old sluice boxes. The supply of provisions frequently ran short, which caused great inconvenience, and sometimes actual suffering; and more than once, according to the newspaper accounts, numbers were compelled to rush from the place to avoid death by starvation. One man told me he walked four successive days from one place to another in Cariboo in search of flour, but could not get an ounce.

The wages paid to experienced miners were forty shillings a-day, but that was little more than sufficient to find a man with provision. Hundreds offered to work for their board, but could not get the privilege. One party of men actually offered to work for their victuals, and give a dollar a-day each man into the bargain, but their offer was refused.

Their object was to husband their money till the water subsided sufficiently to allow them to prospect.

In the spring of 1862 several hundreds of men made a most fatal mistake in rushing to the mines too early in the season—before the snow was off the ground, and before provision had been got to the place. The consequence was, the little supply they carried on their backs was exhausted in a few days, and they were compelled to beat a precipitate retreat, several dying of absolute hunger and exposure. One of the survivors told me that when they reached Cariboo there were seven feet of level snow on the ground; at nights they spread their blankets and slept on the snow. The heat of the body having thawed it, the next morning they found themselves settled down to the ground. One great drawback to the gold mines of British Columbia is the shortness of the season: not more than three working months can be calculated upon, the snow lying on the ground seven or eight months in the year to the depth of 12 or 15 feet. It may appear strange, but is nevertheless true, that a few men pass the winter at Cariboo. But to winter in Cariboo is a fearful undertaking. Incarcerated in a log hut, living on beans and bacon for eight successive months, they suffer greatly from scurvy; besides, the cold is

unbearable. I was in company with a man in Victoria, who had passed the previous winter in Cariboo. He told me that all the gold in the place would not tempt him to do it a second time. Although he kept on a large wood fire all night long, and slept under a perfect mountain of wool consisting of five pairs of thick blankets, it was with the greatest difficulty imaginable he could keep up the heat of the system, so fearfully intense was the cold.

In the month of October Cariboo is generally buried deep in snow; and during that month, in the year 1862, the mule trains, it was said, were caught by the snow, and a great number of men with seventeen hundred pack animals perished in the storm.

Not a few pages might be occupied with narratives of the hardships and sufferings of the Cariboo adventurer. Even the successful are exposed to greater danger in some respects than are the unsuccessful. The lucky gold-digger is watched and dodged continually by the prowling cut-throat villain who always follows in the wake for the purpose of plunder—ever on the alert to pounce upon his prey at the first opportunity. During my stay in the country several horrible murders and robberies were perpetrated at the Cariboo gold mines.

In the year 1862 a prize essay was published on Vancouver Island—its resources and capabilities as a colony—by Charles Forbes, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S. Eng. Surgeon, Royal Navy.

To this author I am indebted for many valuable facts connected with the colony—contained in the following chapter, and given in his own words.

CHAPTER VIII.

VANCOUVER ISLAND, AND VICTORIA ITS CAPITAL.

"Vancouver Island is separated from British Columbia on the east by the Gulf of Georgia, and from the territory of the United States on the south by the Strait of Juan de Fuca. By these two narrow channels its insulation is complete.

"The island is of an elongated oblong form, extending 300 miles from north-west to south-east, and has an average breadth of 50 miles, with an area of 15,000 square miles. The Rev. Thomas Milner, in his Gallery of Geography, says—"It possesses no navigable rivers, but is penetrated deeply by several

arms of the sea, which form excellent harbours. The surface is finely timbered; the valleys have fertile soil; and the natural resources are varied and valuable."

"Captain Cook passed along the west coast under the impression that it belonged to the main-land. He entered the bay, which received from him the name of 'Nootka Sound,' from an Indian village at the spot.

"Captain Vancouver, who had been one of his midshipmen, first threaded the separating channels; and the island is, therefore, properly called after him.

"'The early history of this important region,' says Charles Forbes, Esq., 'can be nowhere better studied than in the voyages of Cook and Vancouver.'

"Brought into special notice about 83 years ago, Vancouver Island was the cause of a dispute, a political rupture, and very nearly of a war between Great Britain and Spain.

"In 1788, certain individuals, subjects of Great Britain, agents of a mercantile house in Canton, purchased from the natives the land about Friendly Cove, in Nootka Sound, the latter, at the same time, according to their customs, conferring sovereignty on Mr. Meares, the purchaser, by doing homage to him.

"Dwelling-houses, warehouses, &c., were erected, and on the English leaving for a season, these were left in charge of the Chief Maquinna, Mr. Meares intending to return in the following year. In the meantime, a Spanish officer arrived with two ships of war, and took formal possession of the place, claiming sovereignty over the whole. The dispute was referred to the respective Governments of Great Britain and of Spain, and on the latter attempting to justify the measure, a fleet was promptly fitted out by the former, and a declaration of war was imminent.

"This prompt measure brought Spain to terms, and Nootka was eventually given up, Captain George Vancouver, of the Royal Navy, being sent out on the part of England to receive the transfer, and at the same time survey the coast and prosecute a voyage of maritime discovery.

"From this period onwards the country was visited only by fur traders, and it was not until 1843 that any settlement was formed on the island. In that year the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company started a trading fort in the harbour, and on the land which now forms the site of the City of Victoria.

"In 1849, the island was granted by charter to the company on certain conditions, but in a few years it was formed into a regular colony.

"In 1858, the existence of gold in the banks and on the bars of Fraser River was made public, and a great rush took place to the new 'Dorado Gold Mines,' capitalists and land speculators flocking to the scene of speculation, enterprise, and adventure.

"Since that time the progress of the colony has been rapid, the City of Victoria springing into existence as if at the touch of a magician's wand.

"Charles Forbes, Esq., in describing the surrounding scenery, says—'Before the observer stretches an undulating park-like country, backed by wooded hills of moderate height—the sea face formed of a succession of low, rounded, rocky promontories, with outlying reefs and islands. From Fishgard Light, which guards the entrance to the harbour of Esquimalt, past Victoria Harbour, Beacon Hill, and sweeping on by Cadborough Bay, this same character of country obtains, its sloping pastures, studded with oak and maple, giving from the general appearance the idea of a country long occupied by civilized man, and covered with flocks and herds.'

"To the north, outlying groups of islands, some low and undulating, others bold and picturesque, stud and spring from the glassy sea; and in the east the horizon is bounded by the American Continent, grandly outlined and defined by the noble proportions of Mount Baker, towering in its mantle of perpetual snow, from the giant shoulder of which stretches in a south-easterly direction the serrated snow-clad range of the Cascades.

"More than eighty years ago, Vancouver, in his voyage, thus wrote—'To describe the beauties of this region will on some future occasion be a grateful task to the pen of the skilful panegyrist. The serenity of the climate, the innumerable pleasing landscapes, and the abundant fertility that unassisted nature puts forth, require only to be enriched by the industry of man, with villages, mansions, cottages, and other buildings, to render it the most lovely country that can be imagined; whilst the labour of the inhabitants would be amply rewarded in the bounties which nature seems ready to bestow on cultivation.'

"Sir Bulwer Lytton says—'Already on the Pacific Van-

couver Island has been added to the social communities of mankind. Already on the large territory west of the Rocky Mountains, from the American frontier up to the Russian domains, we are laying the foundations of what may become hereafter a magnificent abode for the human race.'"

Forbes states—"Situated between the parallels of 48° 20" and 51° N. lat., in from 123° to 128° W. long., Vancouver Island, from its insular position, enjoys a climate much less rigorous and more equable than the corresponding area on the Continent off the shores of which it lies.

"The climate of Vancouver in the succession of its seasons, and general thermal conditions, approximates closely to that of Great Britain, modified by special circumstances connected with its physical geography.

"Situated close to a continent, the mountain ranges of which are clothed or capped with perpetual snow, surrounded by an ocean remarkable for its extremely low temperature, certain local peculiarities present themselves to the observation of the climatologist, and these are well and specially marked in the S.E. end of the island, owing to its proximity to the Olympian range of mountains in Washington territory.

"This range running east and west presents its northern aspect to Vancouver Island, and since on this aspect the snow remains on the mountain peaks all the year round, the winds which blow from this direction are occasionally cold and chilling, The balmy breezes of the south, laden with moisture which would materially modify the arid heat of the later summer, are intercepted by this range—their moisture condensed and heat obstructed; if they do blow home, they come not like the genial south-breathing incense, and bringing fertility, but more like an easterly wind in Europe—dry, chill, and cold.

"On a clear summer day, when the direct rays of the sun are scorching, and labour or exercise on the dry and heated surface of the earth is overpowering, a gentle southerly breeze may be blowing, so gentle as not to make itself felt in the open, yet so cold as to make the heated traveller long for an extra covering if he seeks the shade. In like manner, to the hot day succeeds a cold night. The heat obtained from the caloric rays of the sun during the day is quickly radiated from the surface of the earth, and down from the mountain peaks comes creeping the heavy cold air to spread itself over the surface of sea and land.

"Setting in about the middle of November, the rains are frequent until April, the weather in general taking the following course:—

"After the gales with rain, which generally mark the period of the equinox, fine clear weather sets in, and continues until about the middle of November; at this period rain begins to fall continuously for days, and gales of wind are frequent on the coast. The barometer ranges from 29·50 to 30·10, and falls rapidly on the approach of a southerly gale. Rising gradually to 30·20 and 30·50, a northerly wind springs up, and three days of fine clear weather, with hoar frost, generally follow.

"After the third day the barometer slowly falls, and again the gale springs up, and the rains come down, to be succeeded after a few days by a rising glass; and frosty weather, which as the season advances becomes more intense, and is accompanied by hail and snow. The latter seldom lies for any length of time. There have been known, however, a few remarkably severe exceptions.

"These exceptional seasons occur in all climates, and here only prove the rule, that an open wet winter characterizes Vancouver Island.

"During this period the appearance of the landscape is gloomy; the sombre dark green foliage of the pine throws a heavy shadow on the bare rocks; the warm brown carpet of fern has, in a great measure, disappeared; the bramble has died down; the thickets of rose, of raspberry, and of sweet brier are but naked skeletons, and nothing is left to gladden the eye but the graceful clusters of the wax-like snowberry, contrasting with the beautiful green of the young and springing pines.

"In the month of March winter begins to disappear, and bursting from the teeming earth with the first warmth of spring and early summer, numerous bulbous plants raise their beauteous heads, arrayed in the loveliest colours, to welcome the coming season.

"The delicate lilac petals of the kamass; the beautiful blue collinsia with its starry eye, bringing to remembrance the "Forget-me-Not" of the old home; the graceful trilium in its glossy setting of dark green leaf; and amongst the broken rocks and gnarled roots of trees, springing lightly on its delicate stem, the graceful drooping erythronium, or dog-tooth

violet. The wild ribes, with its scarlet blossom, gives early evidence of life, and amongst the dead leaves of a bygone year, smiles a bright encouragement and welcome to the opening buds. The spring grass and young shoots of the fern give a covering of tender green to the earth, over which, during the dark months of winter, the solemn pine has been brooding. The oak unfolds its leaf, the maple gently opens unto day, the willow, alder, and aspen fill the hollows with their yellow green light; the gooseberry and the currant, the raspberry and the rose, in their native thickets, burst into leaf and into blossom.

"Numberless minute but lovely flowers spring through the grassy carpet, or in groups of rich and gorgeous colouring, irregularly scattered by nature's hand, clothe the but now dead and naked rock with a bright mantle. The surface of the earth is teeming with life, the air is redolent of the odours of a thousand blossoms, and the face of the whole country, sweeping on in graceful undulations, is literally a garden of roses. In the months of June and July vegetation attains its most vigorous growth, and its progress is most remarkable.

"In August and September the want of rain begins to be felt, the summer heats parching the ground and scorching the pastures After the break of the season the fine weather of the later autumn (the Indian summer) sets in, and the mellow tints on leaf and spray give the chief charm of the year to the lovely landscape, while they proclaim that its beauty is for a time about to pass away.

"The prevailing winds during the summer months are from S.W. to N.W., blowing freshly during the day—the nights tranquil and clear.

"Northerly winds occasionally prevail, and for such a latitude as Vancouver, are quite exceptional in their character, being hot and dry. Blowing gently from the north, they sweep over the land, heated by the rays of the summer sun; and gathering fragrance in the pine woods as they pass, they fill the air with a transparent haze, and give an almost tropical appearance to the landscape.

"The absence of thunder storms is a remarkable fact. Distant thunder is heard at times, but very rarely does the electrical discharge take place over Vancouver.*

*The Indians say they never had any thunder till the white man took it.

" Such is a brief outline of the nature and succession of the seasons in Vancouver Island.

" The chief and most striking differences between Great Britain and Vancouver Island appear to be, that in Vancouver the spring is somewhat later and colder—the summer drier, the sun more scorching, though the average mean temperature is the same.

" The autumn of the American climate is finer than that of the European, and the fine weather (the Indian summer) extends further into the year. The winter months in ordinary seasons are much the same as in the West of England in the severe and exceptional, like the Midland Counties and East Coast of Scotland.

" Such also are a few of the objects of beauty and interest which present themselves to the observer and admirer of the varied charms of nature on his first approach to, and landing on, the Island of Vancouver.

" The whole area of the island comprises about ten million acres, the greater proportion of which is mountain and barren rock. There are probably about 250,000 acres of valuable farming land in the districts of Victoria, Saanich, Cowitchan, and Nanaimo ; in Comax, an unexplored district, about 300,000, and with other outlying portions, in all about one million acres available land.

" Heavy timber now covers many fine districts, which, as they become cleared, will be available for cultivation.

" The price of clearing varies in different localities, averaging from £6 to £14 per acre.

" The richer alluvial soils, bearing willow, alder, poplar, &c., are readily and cheaply cleared by fire ; the sandy soils, bearing heavy timber, are more expensive and difficult to clear, owing to the great size of the roots of the pine trees. Near to towns and settlements the cost of clearing is becoming less, owing to the increased value of firewood.

" In the agricultural districts, however, there is enough open prairie land for farming purposes, into which the settler can put his plough, and at once raise his crops, the clearing of the timber from the land keeping pace with the wants of a farm for outbuildings, fencing, &c., &c.

" The upset price of land is one dollar, or four shillings and twopence per acre. Payment is made by instalments spread

over three years. Land may be pre-empted on a system which enables a man at once to settle himself on a given number of acres proportionate to his condition, whether married or single. The former having a wife resident in the colony can pre-empt 200 acres, and for every child under eighteen years of age, also resident, ten acres in addition.

"After two years' occupation of the land, on its being shown that improvement to the extent of ten shillings per acre has been made, a certificate of improvement is granted, which gives full and absolute right to the holder to sell, lease, or mortgage all the rights, in fact, of proprietorship. An individual, therefore, having a wife and six children, may pre-empt and settle at once upon a farm of 260 acres. Abundant material for building rough temporary dwellings and out-houses are around him, and under his foot he has a rich and virgin soil.

"The price of some of the more important agricultural implements and produce is as follows:—American ploughs, £4 to £5; waggons, £40; good horses, £30; yoke of oxen, £24 to £40; sheep, from £1 to £1 12s.; pigs, twopence halfpenny per lb. live weight; hay, £5 per ton; wheat, 6s. 3d. per bushel.

"The soils of Vancouver Island may be thus distinguished and described:—

1st. A poor gravelly soil, with a thin coating of vegetable mould, bearing large timber of superior quality, coarse grass, and little underwood.

2nd. A calcareous sandy loam, of good quality, producing excellent crops of vegetables, and very suitable for clover and other lime plants.

3rd. The rich dark brownish black soil, humus, resulting from the decay of vegetable matter, mixed in some localities with alluvium of variable depth and resting on the clay subsoil, which itself overlies trap and concretionary limestone.

"The poverty of the soil first described is due to its inability to retain moisture. The winter rains and the more congenial showers of spring alike percolate the mass, and drain off into lagoons, leaving the hot sun of dry summers to desiccate the surface.

"The second soil or sandy loam is always ready for cultivation, and the third, and by far the richest, only wants sub-

soil drainage to carry the heaviest crops of wheat and other cereals

"The land already taken up and occupied is held by companies and private individuals, the chief holders being the Hudson's Bay and Puget Sound Companies.

"It is distributed in larger and smaller portions. the above companies holding respectively 7,000 and 2,000 to 3,000 acres. These companies and individuals hold by purchase, originally at the rate of £1 per acre; but this, however, has been since reduced to an upset price of one dollar, or four shillings and twopence an acre. There are holdings of land from one hundred to four hundred acres: a few amount to upwards of one thousand acres. There are also many farms, of from forty to one hundred acres, enclosed and under cultivated grasses and rotation crops.

"Lands occupied by tenants are generally held by agreement from year to year, and rents are paid in money. In all farming operations the same tools and implements are made use of as in Great Britain.

"In preparing the land, the following measures are necessary, and generally adopted:—

1st. Boulder and other loose surface stones are carefully removed.

2nd. It is necessary to clear the land, with pickaxes, of bedded boulders, the presence of which would not be known until the plough came in contact with them. Ditching and draining are the next steps, and the land is then broken up by the plough with a yoke of bullocks, which are much preferred to the horses of this country on account of their steadier draught.

"The land is now left as a summer fallow until the early part of October, when the grain is put into the ground.

The crops generally raised are—wheat, barley, oats, and peas. The green crops are—turnips (Swedes), mangel-wurzel, vetches, potatoes, and all kinds of vegetables—cabbages and pumpkins attaining a very great size.*

"Of the cereals wheat does the best; of the leguminous plants peas are the most profitable.

Nowhere does the potato flourish more, or attain a better

*My friend Marquis had seen a cabbage 38lbs. in weight. I have heard of them attaining the enormous weight of 50lbs.

flavour; it is grown in great quantities by the natives on all parts of the coast.*

"The rotation of crops in virgin soil is—wheat after fallow, then a crop of peas; wheat again or oats, and then a fallow is made for turnips, and by this time the land will be pretty clean.

"After turnips, a crop of barley or oats (spring sown) is raised and followed by potatoes, the land being well manured and thus mended. After this, farming operations are conducted on the same rotation (four course system) as in Great Britain.

"The average production of wheat is twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre, 64lbs. to the bushel; of oats, forty bushels per acre, weight 36 to 46lbs.

"Potatoes two hundred bushels per acre, and of very superior quality. The following are the usual quantities of seed sown per acre:—of wheat, one and a-half bushels; barley, two and a-half; oats, two and a-half to three bushels; peas, two to two and a-half bushels; vetches, two and a-half. The yield of barley varies according to the cultivation of the land from 24 up to 40 bushels per acre."

All fruit trees bear profusely, and the fruit is of the finest quality. Farm and garden produce find a ready market, and bring high prices.

"The animals employed in the field and farm-yard are horses, oxen, and mules, the latter being of great and special value. Pigs are easily reared, and poultry also.

"Sheep generally do well, the Southdown especially, which do best, the merino sheep being too loose in the wool to suit the wet winter climate. Fleeces are light, the quality of the wool good. The meat is excellent, of the finest and most delicate flavour—fit to kill at two years old. Lambs are dropped about the beginning of April—a favourable season—and little loss is experienced, except from the occasional attacks of native dogs or wild animals. Some of the finest Southdown rams have been imported at a great expense by the Hudson's Bay and Puget Sound Companies.

*The Indians have a novel, but very effectual method of cooking potatoes. A hole is made in the ground, and a quantity of pebble stones put into it. A fire is then built, and the stones heated to a red heat. The potatoes are placed on the stones, a quantity of water thrown in, and the whole instantly covered up with turf to confine the steam. In about fifteen or twenty minutes the potatoes are taken out beautifully cooked. The Indian name for potatoes is Wapatoos.

"An agricultural and horticultural society has been formed, and was very successfully inaugurated in the autumn of 1861. The first exhibition was held in October, prizes being awarded to the exhibitors of the best horned cattle, sheep, stallions, and brood mares (thorough bred and for farming purposes), and also for pigs. Amongst the cereals—for wheat, barley; and oats, and amongst the leguminous plants, for field peas, of the root and leaf plants—for Swedish and bullock turnips, parsnips, mangel-wurzel, carrots, beets and potatoes, cabbages, squashes, celery and tomatoes.

"Among the settlements on the island the Cowitchan Valley, some fifty miles from Victoria, is one of the most important, and has already attracted a considerable number of settlers. It is about fifteen miles wide upon the sea coast, narrowing rapidly in a westerly direction to the width of about six miles. The soil is usually from two to three feet in depth. resting on a sufficiently retentive subsoil of blue clay or gravel,

"The earths, chiefly light, very porous, and composed of due proportions of clay, sand, carbonate of lime, and humus, are well constituted for absorbing and retaining moisture, and the general colour from brown to black, with the entire absence of chalky or white earths, would likewise indicate a favourable soil for receiving and retaining heat. The soil is rich, as may be seen from the abundant crops of potatoes, one of the most exhausting of plants, raised by the natives on the same patches of land for a series of years."

I witnessed the departure of the first settlers; they numbered 150, and sailed from Victoria in one of the Government gunboats, accompanied by the Governor and suite. The Governor's object in going to Cowitchan was to purchase the land off the Indians, who then occupied it. The price he offered to them was a pair of blankets each. (The Indians have a particular liking for blankets.) The offer was immediately accepted, and the white men at once took possession. The Indians were quite delighted with their bargain, and expressed great satisfaction at having the whites brought amongst them.

"The species and varieties of plants growing in this rich and fertile district are exceedingly numerous. Growing on the meadow lands are the following:—

White pea, (five to six seeded) wild bean, ground nut, a

species of white clover, reed meadow grass, bent spear grass, wild oat, wild timothy, sweet grass, cowslip, crowsfoot, winter cress, partridge berry, wild sun flower, marigold, wild lettuce, nettles, wild angelica, wild lily, brown-leaved rush.

"The fern attains the enormous height of from six to eight feet, and the grasses have all a most vigorous growth.

"The chief economical woods are the oak and pine, and the following list comprises a general summary of the trees and shrubs met with :—Oak, red or swamp maple, elder, trailing arbutus, crab apple, hazel, red elder, willow, balsam poplar, various species of pine, balsam fir, cedar, barberry, wild red cherry, wild blackberry, swamp gooseberry, several kinds of currants, bear berries, red elder, mooseberry, snowberry, blueberry, bilberry, cranberry, whortleberry, red and white mulberry, yellow plum, choke cherry, black and red raspberry, white raspberry, prickly purple raspberry, prickly gooseberry.

"The Comax Valley is another fine agricultural district, containing about 300,000 acres of arable land, and in its general characters it closely resembles the Cowitchan Valley.

"Barclay Sound, situated close to the entrance of the Straits of Fuca, has a very important geographical position—a somewhat open sound, studded with numerous islands. At the upper end of the sound a very remarkable cleft in the mountain range, known as the Alberni Canal, leads after a course of 25 miles to a level country of considerable extent, heavily timbered with the finest specimens of pine and other woods perhaps anywhere to be seen.

"Bears, racoons, mink, hair and fur seals are numerous; deer of two kinds in large herds. From this locality was sent the magnificent spar, erected in Kew Gardens as a flag-staff.

"Besides the above-named trees and shrubs found in Cowitchan, and other districts on the east, on the west along the whole coast are found white fir, spruce fir, balsam fir, white pine, yellow pine, cedar, alder, vine-leaved maple, broad-leaved maple, willow, dogwood, yew, a tree resembling the Scottish larch, yellow-cypress, crab-apple, cottonwood. hemlock oak, aspen, arbutus, service tree, &c., &c.

"The Douglas pine, or yellow fir, called sometimes by woodmen the "Oregon Red Pine," is the most important of all these trees above designated by their popular names. It grows to an enormous size, and is one of the best woods for large spars known.

"It can be obtained of one hundred and fifty feet in length, and has squared forty-five inches for ninety feet—makes admirable lumber, and may be procured in any quantity. This is *the* tree of the colony, and is probably worth all the others put together; it is the commonest tree on the north-west coast, ranging from the Columbia River to far north of Vancouver Island. This wood is sawn into lumber, shipped to San Francisco, the Sandwich Islands, down the South American Coast, and in large quantities to Australia; and this is the wood which, since the diminution of the supply of Riga spars, has been so prized in Europe for masts.

"The French, Spanish, Sardinian, and Dutch Governments have been supplied with masts and spars by a company who have established saw mills, &c., at the head of the Alberni Canal in Barclay Sound.

"In the English Merchant Service they have been largely used, and have given great satisfaction, being universally considered the finest masts ever imported.

"The extraordinary size, straightness, and uniform thickness of the trees, their strength and flexibility, the regularity and beauty of the grain, their durability, freeness from knots and sapwood, place them almost beyond competition in point of quality, and especially fit them for the masting of large vessels.

"The oak found in the southern part of the island is small in size, but admirably adapted for ships' knees, &c.

"Yellow cypress yields a fragrant wood, close grained, and capable of a good polish; from the bark is manufactured, by the natives, many articles of wearing apparel, caps, hats, &c., and baskets, large and small.

"It is also woven into rope, which is strong and durable, used for fishing lines, short whale, and spear lines, and canoe purposes generally From the root, plank can be obtained, which is very handsomely veined, and bears a light polish, all fitted for ornamental work.

Hemp nettle *(urtica cannabina)* grows wild around Indian lodges, and is used by the natives to make a capital twine, which is manufactured into nets, &c.

"In her coalfields the colony of Vancouver possesses almost inexhaustible wealth.

"This valuable carboniferous deposit, which extends round

the whole of the northern part of the island, is at present only worked at Nanaimo. At this place there are three mines at work, namely, Newcastle Island, No. 3 Pit, and Parkhead Level and Slope.

"The area of land belonging to the company which work this coal is about 6,000 acres, of which probably more than one-half are coal beds.

"The area of coalfield explored by bores is nine hundred thousand square yards. In these new explorations a seam 4 feet 6 inches in thickness, with a dip of 4 in 21, or nearly 2 in 5, has been found and proved a good clean hard coal. It is inferior to our best English coal, but, nevertheless, by far the best found on the Pacific.

"The outcrops of two other seams, apparently underlying the one proved, have been found—one measuring six feet in thickness, the other three feet six inches."

The miners work seven hours a-day, and earn twelve shillings and sixpence in that time; artizans, eight and fourpence to ten shillings; labourers, six and threepence to seven and twopence; and, in addition, all receive medical attendance, house, and allowance of fuel, gratis. The price of coal in Victoria was generally ten dollars per ton, sometimes as much as twelve dollars. The price at the pits' mouth averaged six to seven dollars, or from twenty-five to twenty-nine shillings per ton. Coal was discovered here in the year 1850.

"The specific gravity of the coal is 1·24; its chemical composition—carbon, 66·93; hydrogen, 5·32; nitrogen, 1·02; sulphur, 2·20; oxygen, 8·70; ash, 15·83; thus closely resembling much of the Chili coal, and some of Borneo—the chief approximation being in the relative proportions of hydrogen.

"The whole deposit has undergone much disturbance from the action of volcanic forces in the neighbourhood; faults are very numerous; and the members of the sedimentary stratified rocks of this coalfield are disturbed and twisted about in a very remarkable manner.

"Nanaimo is situated about seventy miles north of Victoria on the east coast, and at present has only communication by sea. Measures are being taken to open a road direct to Victoria, which, when effected, will prove of the greatest value to both places. Owing to the great range of tide, which is

sometimes as much as sixteen feet, the harbour of Nanaimo presents peculiar facilities for the construction of docks.

"Large quantities of this coal is shipped to California.

There is an Episcopal Church and Wesleyan Chapel at Nanaimo. Its population is about 300.

"The Vancouver fisheries are inexhaustible. Salmon, in millions of many species, abound in all the seas, lakes and streams of the island, and neighbouring continent. Great quantities are annually caught by the Indians, and a considerable export trade is carried on by the Hudson's Bay Company.

"Trout, some of them from four to six lbs. in weight, are found in all the streams and lakes on both sides of the island.

"Eulachon—a very delicious fish, of the size of a large sprat or small herring, classed by naturalists among the salmon family. It visits the north coast of the island annually in large shoals, and every spring ascends the rivers of the continent as far south as the Columbia, for the purpose of spawning.

"Immense quantities are taken by the Indians, who manufacture from it an oil much esteemed by inland tribes, and it forms an article of trade between them. The oil is obtained by immersing the fish in a small quantity of water and applying heat; it is then skimmed off, and when properly filtered, is a very fine pellucid oil of a delicate pale yellow colour.

"Some of the northern natives allow the fish to become half putrid, and then express the oil by pressure upon boards.

"There is every promise of most valuable deep sea fisheries. Cod, the true "Gadus," is found on the west side of the island The fish averages about two feet and a-half in length, with a girth round the shoulders of eighteen inches; it is well flavoured, and good eating.

"Halibut is found in great abundance round the whole coast. Their size is often enormous, and the quantity in which they are found may be estimated by a statement of an official of the Hudson's Bay Company, that in forty-eight hours' fishing, a vessel of six hundred tons might be laden with them. At certain seasons this fish is very delicate, far excelling in tenderness and flavour its congener of the Atlantic seas.

"Sturgeon is plentiful off the mouth of the Fraser River, and runs to an immense size. Isinglass, made from this fish, is exported by the Hudson's Bay Company.

"Herrings are in countless thousands. Not so full flavoured

a fish as the herring of the European seas, it is less suited for salting, but makes a most excellent bloater, equal to anything exported from Europe.*

"The smelt, a very delicate fish, is captured by boat loads.

The haddock and the whiting are found, and the pilchard is said to have been seen in the Gulf of Georgia.

The dogfish is taken in incredible quantities by the natives of the various sounds on the west coast. As much as two thousand gallons of oil have been obtained from this fish in a season by one tribe of Indians, and that a very small one. Considerable quantities are exported annually by the Hudson's Bay Company.

"Several varieties of rock fish and of deep sea perch are found. One species of the latter, very plentiful, often reaches 6lbs. to 8lbs. in weight.

Great quantities of small fish are caught and dried by Chinamen, who export them to British Columbia.

"Salmon and halibut are both put up and well preserved in hermetrically sealed tins by parties in Victoria.

"Seal oil is obtained in considerable quantities, and sent to England.

"The list of birds shows Vancouver Island to be a resting place for many migratory species. Insect life is too limited to keep the feathered tribes stationary.

"In Vancouver the sportsman will find abundant use for both rod and gun, and as a hunter he may distinguish himself in the forest, the puma, the bear, and the wolf being worthy of his prowess." In the summer of 1862 two or three panthers were shot in the immediate neighbourhood of Victoria.

"Deer-stalking may be enjoyed to any extent, if the term be admissable in a country so thickly wooded.

"Great numbers are shot annually, and the great red deer, or "elk," as he is properly called, is, indeed, a prize any sportsman may be proud of.

"Two species of grouse are found on the island, the blue and the ruffled grouse. The latter only is stationary; the former comes in the spring to breed, and is popularly known as the drum partridge, from the drumming noise made by the male bird. In the early part of May the hen bird is hatching, the nests generally having from ten to eleven eggs.

"In September these birds disappear, and it is not known

*At the shops about thirty of these herrings are bought for sixpence.

where they go to, as they are never seen again till the following spring, when unfortunately they fall a prey to the prowling Indian. A law, in some degree protective, is in force, inflicting a penalty for dealing in game after and before a certain date; but nothing will ever stop the poaching propensities of the natives, nor is it natural that it should.

"Grouse shooting begins on the 12th of August, but the sport is very different from that enjoyed on the breezy moors of Yorkshire, or of Scotland, and more resembles pheasant shooting. The cover is very thick, and the birds quick on the wing; he must fag hard, and have a ready eye and finger, who would make a bag. One or two couple of well broken active spaniels are best for the thick underwood—pointers or setters are in a measure lost, and there is no fur to distract the spaniel and draw him from feather. Down amongst the thick fern and tangled thickets of rose and sweet briar, where along a gentle hollow ripples a tiny stream, is the place to find "Tetras." With a rush and a whirr he is on the wing, and a good snap shot must he be that stops and bags the noble bird ere he shoots amongst the branches of yonder pine.

A good retriever is invaluable; and perhaps the best dog of all, a well broken Irish spaniel, an animal with strength and dash, and yet obedient to command, will give most sport in this country.

"The birds when sprung take to tree, where they may readily be bagged by any poacher.

"In the early winter, snipe and wild duck afford good sport: the former has some specific difference—the eye sees at once that it is not the same, though very like the snipe of Great Britain—its flight is straighter, and the bill is slightly turned up.

"Excellent trout fishing may be had on every stream, and in all the arms of the sea into which fresh water runs. In the former, the yellow burn trout, and in the latter sea trout rise readily to the fly; the red and brown hackle, and a fly with a purple body, and a drake's wing, being very killing. Trolling with minnow and spawn are also effectual, and are the only means by which salmon can be caught, these lordly gentlemen refusing to show a fin to any fly either in Vancouver or on the Continent.

"Close to his own door every man who loves the rod and gun may enjoy good sport in a fine climate nearly all the year round.

"List of Animals found in Vancouver Island as adopted in Vol. VIII. *Pacific Railroad Report.*

American Panther or Cougar
Wild Cat
Grey Cat
Dusky Wolf
Red Fox
Fisher, Black Cat
Mink or Minz
American Sable or Pine Marten
Racoon, Black-footed
Beaver
Black Bear
Brown Bear
Wolverine
Common Otter
Red or Pine Squirrel
Red Deer, "Elk"
Black-tailed Deer
Ermine
Musquash, or Musk Rat
Sea Lion
Hair and Fur Seals
Sea Otter
Mountain Goat

"List of Birds found on Vancouver Island. Names adopted from Vol. IX. *Pacific Railroad Report.*

Pigeon Hawk
Sparrow Hawk
Gos Hawk
Sharp Shin Hawk
Western Red Tail Hawk
White-headed Eagle
Great Horned Owl
Snowy Owl
Saw Whet Owl
Pigmy Owl
Harris's Woodpecker
Gairdner's Woodpecker
Red-breasted Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker, or Log Cock
Red-shafted Flicker
Red-backed Humming Bird
Night Hawk
Belted Kingfisher
Olive-sided Fly Catcher
American Robin, or Thrush
Varied Thrush, or Painted Robin
Western Blue Bird
Ruby-crowned Wren
Golden-crested Wren
American Titlark
Macgillivray's Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Andubon's Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Louisiana Tanager
Barn Swallow
White-bellied Swallow
Violet Green Swallow
Warbling Flycatcher
Blue-headed Do.
Winter Wren
Rock Wren
Slender-bill Nuthatch
Chestnut-backed Tit
Western Purple Finch
Pine Finch
Western White crowned Sparrow
Golden crowned Do.
Oregon Snow Bird
Chipping Sparrow
Western Song Sparrow
Townsend's Fox Sparrow
Black-headed Grosbeak
Oregon Ground Robin
Western Meadow Lark
Brewer's Blackbird
Redwing Do.
American Raven
North-Western Fish Crow
Steller's Jay
Band-tailed Pigeon
Blue Grouse
Ruffled Oregon Grouse, or Partridge
Sandhill Crane
Great Blue Heron
Surf Bird
Backman's Oyster Catcher
Black Turnstone
Wilson's Snipe
Telltale Tattler

LIST OF BIRDS—*Continued.*

American Coot or Mud Hen
The Swan
Canada Goose
White-cheeked Goose
Hutchin's Goose
Snow Goose
Millard, or Stock Duck
Green-winged Teal
Baldpate, or American Widgeon
Big Blackhead, or Scaup Duck
Canvas-back Duck
Golden Eye, or Whistle-wing Duck
Bufflehead Duck
Harlequin Duck
The Long-tailed Duck, or South-southerly
Velvet Duck
Surf Duck
Goosander
Red-breasted Merganser
Hooded Merganser
Violet Green Cormorant
Short-tailed Albatross
Glaucous-winged Gull
Suckley's Gull
Great Northern Diver
Black-throated Diver
Red-throated Diver
Red-necked Grebe
Western Grebe
Hornea Grebe
Western Guillemot
Marbled Auk

"LIST OF TREES AND SHRUBS, OF ECONOMIC VALUE, FOUND IN VANCOUVER ISLAND.

The Douglas Pine, or Oregon Red Pine
Spruce Fir
Yellow Fir
Balsam Fir
Hemlock Spruce
Wild Cherry
White Pine, or Weymouth Pine
Yellow Pine
Cedar—the Oregon Cedar
Yellow Cypress
Arbor Vitœ
Yew
The Oak
The White, or Broad-leaved Maple
Vine Maple
The Oregon Alder
Oregon Dogwood
Arbutus
American Aspen
Oregon Crab Apple
The Willow
Cottonwood

SHRUBBERY UNDER GROWTH.

The Hazel
Red Cornel, or Willow
Holly-leaved Barberry, or Oregon Grape
Mock Orange, or Seringa
Red, White, and Black Raspberry
Three kinds of Gooseberry
Serviceberry
Elder
Sallatberry
Huckleberry
Blackberry (Rubus)
Snowberry
Salmonberry
Oregon Buckthorn
Honeysuckle
Ivy
Hawthorn
Fly Blossom, or Bearberry
Wild Rose

GRASSES, LEGUMINOUS PLANTS, &c., &c.

White Clover
Reed Meadow Grass
Bent Spear Grass
Sweet Grass
Wild Timothy, or Herd's Grass
Wild Oat
Broad-leaved Rush
Cowslip

Gold was found at various parts of the island, but the quantity was too small to be remunerative.

In the summer of 1862 was issued the following

PROCLAMATION.

"Vancouver Island, 8th August, 1862.

"The Governor, with the advice of the council, directs it to be notified

"That, to any person or persons who shall first discover a profitable gold field within the colony of Vancouver Island, and make known and describe to the Colonial Government the site and limits of the tract of land comprised in his or their discovery, there shall be paid the sum of one thousand pounds sterling (£1,000), provided the monies received for licenses issued for working the said tract of land be equal to that amount; and provided always that there shall have been proved, to the satisfaction of the Local Government, that there has been *bona fide* raised and produced from the said tract of field, within six months of the issue of the said licenses, an amount of gold equal in value to not less than ten thousand pounds (£10,000).

"By His Excellency's command,

"WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG."

An exploring expedition set out, but returned unsuccessful. Subsequently, however, intelligence has reached England to the effect that gold has been found in paying quantities within twenty-five miles of Victoria.

"PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.—The great chain of rocky mountains from the N.W. to S.E. form the axis of elevation of the western coast of North America; and the physical geography of British Columbia and of Vancouver Island is due primarily to this mountain range, and secondarily to the eruptive elevatory forces of that great line of volcanic action of which Mount Baker, Mount Ranier, and Mount Helen are the vents.

"The range of the rocky mountains is composed generally of igneous hypogenic rocks, having, resting on and flanking them silurian deposits, associated with gold-bearing rocks.

"It has been recently ascertained, however, by Mr. Banerman, of the North American Boundry Commission, that in the vicinity of the 49th Parallel, this range is mainly composed of contorted, false-bedded, stratified rocks—very full of ripple mark, with some interstratified basaltic traps.

"These beds rest on a gneiss-granitic mass, which is exposed at Pend Orielle Lake, about half way between the Columbia and Kootaine Rivers.

"This granite is the central geological axis of the country, and it divides the unaltered rocks of the Eastern Slope from those of the western side, which are principally black slates and limestones, contemporaneous with the lower beds of the rocky mountains; but they are very much altered and disturbed both by granatic and greenstone rocks. It is remarkable that only one greenstone dyke is exposed to the eastward of Pend Orielle Lake, in the Valley of the Kootaine River; while the amount of metamorphism in the rocks increases as we pass westward from the Columbia to the Pacific, or Valley of the Fraser River.

"This great range, then, runs in a N.W. and S.E. direction, at an average distance of from 350 to 400 miles from the coast.

"Parallel to this, running in the same general direction is the Coast Range, which sends down westerly numerous rugged mountain spurs to meet the sea, and to form deep inlets.

"This range, composed of plutonic, metamorphic, and trappean rocks, permeated throughout by a system of metalliferous quartzose veins, and trappean dykes, sends off a branch known as the Lillooet Spur, to terminate at the Fraser River, west of Hope. Between the range and the spur is enclosed a chain of lakes, which, with their portages, are of great importance as a means of transit to the upper country. A succession of elevated plateaux of the tertiary age, stretch westerly from the base of the rocky mountains and their flanking ridges to this Lillooet Spur of the Coast Range, and, cutting its way through the friable materials of this deposit, bursting through the mountain passes at Yale and Hope, the Fraser River, with its golden waters, flows onwards to the sea, bringing down, in its spring and summer torrents, those lighter particles of gold which, accumulated on its banks and bars, have been the means of directing attention to, and developing the wealth of, the rugged upper country, whence the noble stream derives its springs of life.

"Sweeping on past Yale and Hope, the river leaves its rocky barriers behind; and, rolling on in graceful sweeps, passes the rising city of New Westminster to empty its flood into the Gulf of Georgia. During the latter part of its course it flows a tranquil, steady stream, through tertiary and allu-

vial deposits, carrying with it sedimentary matter to be deposited as banks and shoals, the nuclei of future 'green fields and pastures new.'

"The colony of British Columbia, which thus extends its western borders to the sea, has a noble barrier for the protection of its shores. An outlying ridge, another parallel chain of mountains, cut off, however, by the sea from the Continent, with which, in its physical geography, it is connected, forms an archipelago of islands, the chief of which is the sister colony of Vancouver.

"The whole northern and western sea face of British Columbia, as far south as Howe Sound, is a rugged mass of plutonic, trappean, and quartzose rocks, with associated semi-crystalline limestones. Cut up by numerous inlets and arms of the sea, it needs no protection against the winds and waves, but sends out its adamantine promontories to meet them.

"Far different, however, is the coast line from Howe Sound, or Burrard's Inlet southwards. Stretching in a semi-circle, the convexity of which touches the foot range of mountain above Langley on the Fraser, and reaching south past Bellingham Bay into United States territory is a deposit of loose friable sandstones and alluvium, the same through which the Fraser River cuts its way. These sandstones at Burrard's Inlet and at Bellingham Bay contain seams of lignite, the associated friable sandstones when hardened and partially metamorphosed showing impressions of a dicotyledonous plant allied to the maple.

"All geological evidence tends to prove that the last upheaval of this Continent and outlying islands was slow and gradual, occurring in the post pleistocene, or most recent tertiary epoch. And the existence of this belt of sandstone and alluvium, which is of such vast importance to British Columbia, is due, in the first place, to *such* upheaval and deposition of alluvial matter; in the second place, to the protection of the outlying insular barriers, Vancouver and its dependencies.

"The great importance (physically speaking) to British Columbia of this barrier group of islands will be at once apparent to any one who takes into consideration the powerful effects of the violent storms which rage on this coast in the later autumnal and early spring months, together with the sweeping currents, which, rushing irregularly in all direc-

tions, carry everything but the hardest rocks along with them. Without such protection as is thus afforded, the loose friable materials of the district indicated must have been long since swept away.

GEOLOGY.—"The special physical geography of Vancouver, in so far as regards its form and feature, has been already briefly given: it now remains to say a few words on its geology.

"The geological structure of a country like Vancouver, owing to practical difficulties, can only be arrived at by deductions from partial observations, such as are afforded by sections on the coast, by ravines, water courses, and mountain summits. Covered by a thick vegetation, it is impossible in the summer months to penetrate the valleys to any good purpose, and in the winter months the task is too arduous, if not impracticable. Enough, however, is apparent and known to show the general geological character of the island.

"An axis of metamorphic gneissose rock is found in the south-western extremity of the island, having, resting thereon, clay slates and silurian deposits, or, at all events, rocks of the Palœozoic age. A black bituminous-looking slate is brought from that locality, as also from Queen Charlotte's Island;* but no observer has yet seen it in situ, and no true or definite account of it can be obtained. A great deposit of clay slate has existed along the whole south and west; but, shattered and broken up by intruded trappean rocks, it has been almost entirely removed by the subsequent glacial action which grooved and furrowed the dense crystalline felspathic traps. Masses of lenticular or concretionary limestone are interspersed throughout this formation, and afford good lime for economic purposes. Along with the traps, other rocks of igneous origin have been erupted, and at the Race Rocks a remarkably beautiful dark green hornblendic rock is found massive, studded with large and perfectly formed crystals of quartz.

"The sedimentary rocks are—carboniferous sandstones and grit, limestones and shales, of both the cretaceous and tertiary ages. These, in patches, fringe the whole coast from the extreme north, round by the Straits of Fuca to Nootka Sound,

*Queen Charlotte's Island is situated some two or three hundred miles higher up the Pacific. It is inhabited by a superior race of Indians, who cultivate potatoes and hold potato fairs.

and enter largely into the formation of the numerous outlying islands in the Gulf of Georgia.

"As shown by the associated fossils, the coal field of Nanaimo is of cretaceous age—the whole deposit has undergone many changes of level, numerous extensive faults existing.

"The sandstones, with lignitic beds, at Burrard's Inlet and at Bellingham Bay on the mainland, are, on the contrary, almost horizontal; in general, loose and friable in their structure; in some cases, slightly metamorphosed by the intrusion and contact of heated rock, and containing, as fossil testimony of age, impressions of the leaves of a maple-like tree.

Upheaval, subsidence, and denudation had all done their work on the dense crystalline rocks of the axis of the island, and on the cretaceous beds of Nanaimo, long before the tertiary sandstones and lignites were elevated by the slow upheaval of the post glacial period.

"Associated with this coal field, and scattered over the neighbouring islands, are numerous nodules of 'Septaria,' a calcareous clay charged with iron, of as great value as hydraulic cement.

"Copper pyrites and peroxide of iron are found in various localities giving promise of mineral. In Queen Charlotte's Island, to the north, a very good peacock copper ore has been obtained in considerable quantities, and at Barclay Sound on the S.W. Coast, in the metamorphosed rocks of that locality, another pyritic ore of copper has been found, as also at Cowitchan on the east coast. Traces of gold are to be found in the clay slates and permeating quartz veins, disseminated in fine particles throughout the mass, and also as auriferous iron pyrites.

"In the neighbourhood of the coal measures are salt springs, from which a supply of salt may be readily obtained. These occur at Admiral or Salt Spring Island, and at Nanaimo.

"The general lithological character of the whole island is as follows:—Amongst the metamorphic and erupted rocks are—gneisso (gneisso granitic) killas, or clay slate, permeated by quartz veins, quartz and hornblende rocks, compact bituminous slates, serpentine, highly crystalline felspathic traps (bedded and jointed), semi-crystalline concretionary limestone. Amongst the sedimentary are sandstones and stratified limestones (crystallized by intruded igneous rocks), carboniferous sandstones,

fine and coarse grits, conglomerates, and fossiliferous limestones, shales, &c., &c., associated with the seams of coal.

"The most remarkable feature in the geology of the south-eastern end of the island is the scooping, grooving, and scratching of the rocks by ice action. The dense felspathic trap already spoken of is ploughed into furrows six to eight inches deep, and from six to eighteen inches wide.

"The sharp peaks of the erupted, intruded rocks have been broken off, and the surface smoothed and polished, as well as grooved and furrowed, by the ice action and sinking land, giving to the numerous promontories, and outlying islands which here stud the coast, the appearance of rounded bosses, between which the soil is found to be composed of sedimentary alluvial deposit, containing the debris of tertiary and recent shelly beaches, which have, after a period of depression, been again elevated to form dry land, and to give the present aspect to the physical geography of Vancouver Island.

"As might be looked for in a country so marked by glacial phenomena, the whole surface of the land is strewn with erratic boulders. Great masses, of many tons weight, are to be found of various igneous and crystalline, as well as of sedimentary rocks, sufficiently hard to bear transportation and attrition.

"Granites and granitoid rocks of various descriptions are to be met with, trappean rocks of every kind of whinstone through the whole series; mica schist, with garnets; breccias and conglomerates.

"From these granitic boulders, and from the sandstones of the outlying islands, valuable building material is obtained.

"Some of the grey granite equalling in beauty and closeness of crystalline texture the best granite of Aberdeen or Dartmoor.

"Although the last upheaval of the land, which took place at a geologically recent period, failed to connect Vancouver Island with the North American Continent, it, at all events, was sufficient to effect, to a great extent, the junction of numerous insular ridges, and thus to form a connected whole of what *was*, and might have continued only to be, an archipelago of scattered islets. The upheaving force elevated and connected those, and brought to the surface the great clay, gravel, and sand deposits of the northern drift, which had swept over, and been deposited on, the submerged land. These sands, gravels, and clays, were now to form the surface soil of land, prepared for the habitation of man.

VICTORIA, the capital of Vancouver Island, contains 6,000 inhabitants, with a floating population of about two more thousands.

"'The native or Indian population,' says Forbes, 'of the whole island is estimated at 18,000, and is generally in a very degraded state; efforts are being made by missionary clergymen of various churches to bring them into something like civilization; and, no doubt, in time, on the plastic minds of the young, such efforts will bear fruit, but from the adult much cannot be expected.'

"Occasionally industrious, trustworthy individuals are to be met with amongst them, but as a body their labour cannot be depended on, and with one or two slight exceptions, at present forms no point of consideration in the labour market. Like all uncivilized races, they have an invincible dislike to hard and continued manual labour, but they show in their rude carvings and imitative jewellery an aptitude for handicraft, and their acuteness in barter is remarkable.

"The dialects of the various tribes are derived from the five great divisions of language spoken on the mainland.

Deep gutterals characterize them all, and from the constant repetition of sounds that can only be expressed by the letters X T L in conjunction, give an idea to the hearer of what the ancient Mexican language must have been. A jargon, called Chinook, is the medium of communication with the white races: it is composed of the mutilated words of the English, French, and Spanish languages, with a mixture of the native dialects—the words strung together without the slightest attempt at grammatical construction.

"The energies of this people are at present only called forth and directed to the pursuit of the chase and of revenge; degraded, they do not scruple to live by the prostitution of their women, and under the influence of 'fire-water' commit great crimes. On the whole, their behaviour is wonderfully good, and the settler need fear no injury or molestation so long as he keeps the natives at a proper distance—manifests no want of confidence, and avoids giving to, or taking with them, intoxicating drink.

"They are quarrelsome, however, among themselves," says Mr. Milner, "and at one period raised the war-whoop in the streets of Victoria." I have heard from report, on one occasion being greatly disaffected about something or other, they

assembled in large numbers around the Governor's dwelling, assuming a most threatening attitude; great danger was apprehended from them. The Governor, who knows well how to control the savages, ordered them to be liberally supplied with *bread and treacle*. This stratagem had the desired effect; they were quite delighted, and went away perfectly reconciled.

It is the opinion of some that eventually the Indians will die off before the white man. In 1862 small-pox swept off hundreds of them in British Columbia and Vancouver Island. In the outskirts of Victoria whole families of Indians were found dead lying one upon another.

The City of Victoria stands upon a very pretty site, forming a gentle slope, and situate on the east side of the harbour, which is formed by an inlet of the sea; the sea itself, however, is hid from view by an intervening ridge which runs along the shore, clothed with trees and underwood.

"Victoria Harbour," says Mr. Forbes, "is a little more than two miles eastward of Esquimalt. The entrance is shoal, narrow, and intricate, and with S.W. or S.E. gales, a heavy rolling swell sets on the coast, which renders the anchorage outside unsafe, while vessels of burthen cannot run in for shelter unless at or near high water. Vessels drawing fourteen or fifteen feet water may, under ordinary circumstances, enter at such times of tide, and ships drawing seventeen feet have entered, though only on the top of spring tides.

"The channel is buoyed, and every means has been taken to make the entrance as safe as possible, and doubtless the harbour is susceptible of improvement by artificial means.

"Originally selected by the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company as the depôt of their establishments, in consequence of the quantity of good clear land in the immediate neighbourhood, and the harbour being sufficiently spacious for the few small vessels in their employ, was as a site in these respects admirably chosen, but it has been a fatal mistake at a later date not to have adopted Esquimalt as the commercial port.

"The inlet of the sea, which forms the Harbour of Victoria, runs northerly for some miles, with an average breadth of a few hundred yards, and at one point is separated by but a very narrow neck of land from Esquimalt Harbour.

"Through this it was proposed to cut a canal, and so connect the two harbours." The plan was not carried out, but before I left the country a railway between Victoria and

Esquimalt was in contemplation; the company was formed, the prospectuses issued, and the money subscribed, and there is little doubt by this time the work will have been completed, which will be of immense advantage to the colony.

The town of Victoria has sprung into existence during the last five years. "Originally the site of a depôt and trading establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company, it has, under the influence of the neighbouring gold regions, become a place of considerable importance."

"Being a free port, it puts no restraint on commerce, but admits without duty, and burthened with but few charges, all the necessaries of life. As has been previously stated, the site is an admirable one, the only drawback being the comparative inadequacy of the harbour. A sweep of level land broken by a few ravines rises gently to a moderate elevation from the rocks which bound the harbour.

"The soil is partly clay and partly gravel: the objections to the former can be readily obviated by drainage, for which the sloping declivities on every side afford great facilities. Starting from the corner of Fort and Government Streets as a centre, with a radius of three-quarters of a mile, the plan of the town describes two-thirds of a circle stretching round the harbour. The streets, which have boarded footpaths on each side, are sixty feet in width, and conveniently laid off, crossing each other at right angles."

The bulk of the buildings is of wood, but the good substantial brick buildings cannot count less than a hundred, including the Hudson's Bay Company's stores, which are very commodious, and a hotel of gigantic proportions, built during the summer of 1862—a building that would do credit to the best town in England.

The Bank of British North America is built of grey granite, which is found on the island.

A few speculating persons realize a considerable income by small wooden shanties, which they had built and let to labouring men at from four to six dollars per month—money in advance. They are put up at a very light expense, one year's rent amounting to double the original cost.

A Frenchman in Victoria owned 60 of these shanties, each of which he let at six dollars, or twenty-five shillings per month. His income from this source was, therefore, *nine hundred pounds a-year*.

The stores, the shops, the hotels, and restaurants would many of them grace a town of fifty instead of five years' standing.

There were 64 public-houses in Victoria, some of which were rented at £300 a-year.

"There are numerous churches and school-houses belonging to Christians of nearly all denominations, and are thus represented in Vancouver Island, viz., Church of England, Church of Rome, Wesleyan, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Hebrew. The Episcopalian Churches are each under the superintendence of a Bishop, with efficient staffs of parochial and missionary clergy.

The Hebrew community has many members.

"A collegiate school for boys and a ladies' college have been established in Victoria—the former conducted by clergymen, men of high scholastic attainments, the latter by ladies, devoted to their important duties.

"The Roman Catholic Church has, under the direction of the Bishop, a very efficient system of schools.

"A girls' school, presided over by sisters of charity, was established in 1858, and a boys' school was opened in the following year. Sunday schools are conducted by ladies and teachers members of the different churches.

"The literary productions of the colony were limited to two daily newspapers, which have each a weekly as well as a daily issue. The prices charged are—for the daily £2, for the weekly £1 4s. per annum.

"There is an hospital for the relief of the sick, and a charitable institution supported by the French residents.

"An hospital, originating in the benevolent exertions of the chaplain to the Hudson's Bay Company and the police magistrate of Victoria, was established temporarily in a small building in the town of Victoria in the year 1858. In the summer of the following year a building, capable of providing accommodation for twenty patients, was erected by His Excellency the Governor, at an expense of between £400 and £500.

"The institution thus established is supported by subscriptions and donations, and is under the management of a committee elected annually by the subscribers, the medical care and supervision being vested in one or other of the resident

practitioners in Victoria, who alternately take monthly charge.

"A hook and ladder company has been formed to stay the scourge of fire. A small but very efficient police force has been established," and in the winter of 1862 I had the pleasure of witnessing the introduction of gas into the town. One great drawback to Victoria was the want of good water on the spot: there were a few draw-wells in the place, but the water from them was brakish. The principal supply was brought from a distance in carts at a considerable expense. It was confidently hoped, however, that this great defect would soon be removed, as a water company was in course of formation, and an abundant supply of pure spring water could be obtained within three miles of the city, which it was proposed to convey through wooden pipes.

"Several shipbuilding yards have been established in the harbour, and many small river steamers have been launched.

"A foundry also supplies the wants of the community, and affords means of repair to the machinery of coast and ocean steamers.

"Among the public places of amusement may be mentioned a neat little theatre and lyceum. A library, associated with a literary institute, was spoken of.

"The athletæ have a gymnasium, and the admirers of horse-racing enjoy their favourite sport on a beautiful race-course which runs round Beacon Hill, a promontory overlooking the sea, about a mile from the town.

"The Government buildings—structures of brick in a frame, work of wood—are situated on the south side of James' Bay, near the Governor's residence. They comprise a central building, with treasury and land office, court-house, and register office appended.

"The only other edifices are the jail and police offices, built of solid stone work.

"The Government of Vancouver Island is vested in a Governor appointed by the Queen in a Legislative Council and House of Assembly.

"The Legislative Council is composed of five members nominated by the Governor.

"The House of Assembly, at the time I speak of, consisted of thirteen members, elected by registered voters.

The following list will show the areas in square miles of the

towns and districts returning members, with the number of voters in each :—

Name of Town or District.	Area.	No. of Voters.	No. of Members.
Victoria Town	3 square miles.	331	2
„ District	12 „	97	3
Esquimalt Town.....	1 „	50	1
„ District	21 „	61	2
Nanaimo	80 „	32	1
Lake District	25 „	57	1
Saanich	37 „	29	1
Snooke	25 „	15	1
Salt Spring Island	95 „	29	1

"The House of Assembly, presided over by a speaker, is elected triennially. A colonial secretary and a colonial treasurer preside over special departments. An attorney-general, a registrar-general, and clerk of the writs complete the staff.

"The Judiciary of the colony dates from an order in council of 4th of April, 1856, when Her Majesty did constitute a Supreme Court of Civil Justice of the Colony of Vancouver Island, with a Chief Justice of said Court, a Registrar of said Court, and a Sheriff of Vancouver Island." And Her Majesty did further authorise and empower the said Supreme Court to approve and admit Barristers and Solicitors, the former to be members of the Inns of Court of England and Ireland, or advocates in the Quarter Sessions of Scotland, &c., &c.

"By patent from the Governor, the functions of the Chief Justice are extended to criminal matters.

"The common law of England is in force, as were also the statutary laws, up to the time a Legislative Council and Assembly were given.

"There are two branches of the Supreme Court, viz., the Supreme Court and the Summary or Inferior Court : the former has original jurisdiction in all matters involving the recovery of a sum exceeding fifty pounds, with an appellate jurisdiction from its inferior branch to an amount of £50 ; the inferior branch has an original jurisdiction in all matters up to £50. The Chief Justice also acts under patent from the Governor as Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court of Vancouver Island.

"There is a police magistrate, with an efficient constabulary force. Four or five persons hold commissions as Justices of the Peace, whose duties are confined to Victoria and Esquimalt. There is also one for Nanaimo, and one for Barclay Sound.

There are three practising barristers, and four practising solicitors.

"Taking into consideration the nature of the population of Vancouver, varying as it does through every degree of civilization from savage life upwards, and amongst representatives of nearly every nationality under the sun, it would not be a matter of surprise if the statistics of crime in a colony so situated were found to be large in their relative proportions. But these statistics show a smaller amount of crime than might have been anticipated.

The charges before the police magistrate resolve themselves into the following categories, viz., misdemeanours, common assaults, assault with weapons, larceny, desertion, recovery of wages, selling spirits to the Indians.* "In the year 1859 the charges under these heads were 1,048; of these, 832 were convicted, 216 acquitted. In the year 1860 charges were 758, convictions 548, acquittals 210. In 1861 up to June there were 399 charges, 306 convictions, and 93 acquittals.

An examination of the calendar shows that the crimes brought for trial to the assizes were murder, larceny, perjury, burglary, and obtaining goods on false pretences.

From November, 1860, to November, 1861, the cases tried of all classes numbered 51; of these, 18 were convicted, sentence of death being in no case carried into execution during that period—the severest sentences being 18 months' and two years' imprisonment, with hard labour; 33 cases were discharged either through acquittal or no prosecution.

"Capital commands a high rate of interest: 18 to 25 per cent. per annum can be obtained on the best securities.

"The great want of capital is shown by the fact that, on one occasion, Government requiring money, even on such security, it could only be obtained at the rate of 24 per cent. per annum for four months.

"The interest of money and increased value of investments in property have, since 1858, realized from 15 to 30 per cent. per annum.

"Both English and American coin is current in Vancouver Island and British Columbia. Public feeling is strongly in favour of a decimal currency. Accounts are kept in dollars

*A heavy penalty is inflicted on publicans for supplying Indians with spirits, and on white men for procuring it for them.

and cents. by wholesale, as well as retail dealers, Government alone keeping accounts in £ s. d."

The matter was under consideration when I left Victoria, and in all probability the Government has since adopted the decimal system. There is no copper coin in circulation in these parts, and the smallest silver coin is a *Bit*, as the dime is denominated, which is ten cents. or fivepence. The English sixpence is likewise termed a "Bit." A shilling represents a quarter dollar.

"Cariboo coarse dust is sold in Victoria at from fifteen dollars and a-half to seventeen dollars and a-half per ounce.

"The finest of all has been found in Lightning and Nelson Creeks, averaging eighteen dollars and a-half in the bar.

"Discounting is not in fashion with the bankers of Victoria. The exchange business is chiefly with San Francisco. Drafts on Portland Oregon (U.S.), are also frequently in demand. United States drafts are frequently in the market, and can be bought at a discount of 2 to 5 per cent. Government and navy bills are sold at from 1 per cent. discount to 1 per cent. premium, and remitted to England. They form the basis of nearly all the exchange required. Coin is wanted for both these descriptions of exchange; it is scarce, as it can generally be better employed in buying gold dust. Drafts on Portland and San Francisco.

"The Bank of British North America receives deposits, for which a charge is made of one-fourth per cent. per month.

"It draws on the principal commercial places in Canada and in Europe, issues notes of exchange, and discounts a little, but does not buy gold dust or bars.

"There is one other banking establishment—M'Donald and Co.—doing business in much the same way, but purchasing gold dust and bars, drawing on San Francisco and London.*

The House of Wells, Fargo, and Co., in Victoria, do a banking and exchange business. They buy and sell exchanges, and gold in bars, drawing on San Francisco, and other principal places."

The rates of wages were high, but the great influx of emigrants was giving them a downward tendency. Shoeingsmiths, joiners, and house-carpenters were in greatest demand; their wages were from 12s. 6d. to 16s. 8d. a-day.

*The Bank of British Columbia was established subsequently.

Shipwrights and stone-cutters, 20s. a-day; labourers' wages, 4s. 2d. to 6s. 3d. a-day. The cost of shoeing a horse is twelve shillings and sixpence

The price of provisions in Victoria, in the year 1862, was, as near as I can remember, as follows:—Beef, from 8d. to 1s. per lb.; mutton, 1s.; pork, 1s.; veal, 1s.; potatoes (in the shops), 1½d. per lb.; of the Indians, about 14 lbs. for a quarter dollar, or one shilling and a halfpenny;* onions, 7½d. per lb.; flour, 2½d. per lb.; oatmeal (American), 6d. per lb.; venison, 4d. per lb. Sometimes a whole deer can be bought of the Indians for 4s. 2d.

Flesh meat was higher than in the preceding year, owing to the previous unusual hard winter, which effected the wholesale destruction of the cattle. They were found dead in the woods in all directions, and were devoured (many of them in a putrid state) by the Indians, who said they never lived so well in all their lives, and went about shouting "Hi-you, Muck-a-Muck." The word Hi-you means plenty—abundance—great quantity. Muck-a-Muck means something to eat.

Groceries, &c.—Tea, 2s. 6d. per lb.; coffee, 1s. 6d.; sugar, hard, 9d.; moist, 4d. and 5d. per lb.; butter (Californian), 2s. 1d. per lb.; butter raised on the island, 4s. 2d. per lb.; cheese, 1s. 6d. to 2s.; eggs in summer, 3s. per dozen; in winter, 6s. per dozen; milk in summer, 3d. per pint; in winter, 6d. per pint; bacon (American), 9d. to 1s. per lb.; English, 1s. 6d. per lb; pearl barley, 4d.; rice, 5d. per lb.; hermetrically-sealed tins of preserved beef, mutton, fowl, &c., containing 2 lbs. each, 1s. 6d.; pickles, 1s. 6d. per bottle; molasses (treacle), 6d. per pint. Fish of excellent quality can always be procured at a cheap rate, and oysters in abundance are found in the creeks in the immediate neighbourhood.

The Indians capture the salmon, and hawk them in the streets. A salmon, from 6 to 8 lbs. weight, can be bought for 6d.; and when the supply is extra good one 20 lbs. weight can be purchased for a quarter dollar. The market is usually well supplied with wine, beer, and spirits, which are sold at moderate rates. Publicans realize large profits, each of the above-named articles being sixpence per glass.

*The Indians refuse all coin that does not bear the impress of the American Eagle.

There are two small ale breweries in Victoria.

"Materials for housebuilding are plentiful and cheap; lumber costs £3 to £3 10s. per 1,000 feet; bricks, from £1 10s. to £1 15s. a thousand. Lime and sand in abundance: the former costs 2s. a bushel.

A convenient comfortable house to accommodate six persons can be built for from £100 to £150. Of course, for a smaller family proportionate fractional sums. Six-roomed houses or neat cottages, with all convenient out-houses, built of wood and plastered, cost, according to style, from £200 to £400. Of sandstone and brick, at an increased expense of one-fourth; of brick alone, one-third more.

"House rents are high, 18 to 24 per cent. per annum being the usual rate of interest for brick buildings; 40 to 50 per cent. for wooden structures."

The Hudson's Bay Company carry on an extensive wholesale and retail business in Victoria. Their merchandise consists of ales, wines, spirits, draperies, groceries, crockery, hardware, cutlery, firearms; every variety of gentlemen's wearing apparel, mechanics' tools of every description; indeed, it would be difficult to mention any article in common use they do not deal in. But the most profitable branch of their traffic is with the Indians in the fur trade; from this source has sprung the immense wealth of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The following paragraph, taken from an article which appeared in one of the Victoria papers, will give an idea of the immense profits derived from these skins supplied by the Indians:—

"Three martin-skins are obtained for a coarse knife, the utmost value of which, including the expense of conveying it to those distant regions, cannot be estimated at more than sixpence, and three of these skins were sold last January in London for five guineas. With the more expensive furs, such as the black fox or sea-otter, the profit is more than tripled; and but a few years ago a single skin of the former species was sold for fifty guineas, while the native obtained in exchange the value of two shillings."

One of the company's vessels, *The Princess Royal*, a fine craft of five or six hundred tons burthen, is constantly engaged conveying skins from Victoria to London, returning with a general cargo.

A paddle steamer, belonging the company, is navigated along the coast and on the rivers of the Continent, for the purpose of collecting these skins, and the crew of the vessel is frequently exposed to great danger from the Indians.

On one occasion, during the summer of 1862, the captain and his men had an adventure with the savages, which was narrated to me as follows:—"While they were at anchor in one of the rivers a large number of hostile Indians came down upon them, threatening instant destruction to them, and to accomplish their design conceived the bright idea of *turning the steamer upside down* to drown the white men. They accordingly arranged themselves in their canoes on one side of the vessel, and seizing the paddle wheel, or any part where they could secure hand-hold, applied their united strength, the only result being a very narrow escape to several of them from drowning in their futile attempts to capsize her. The engineer regretted that he had no steam or he would, he said, have set his nick-nacks a-going and *spang-hewed* the red-skin'd devils."

They had great difficulty in ridding themselves of the savages.

The want of female domestic servants was greatly felt in Victoria, Chinamen* and other men acting in the capacity of house servants. However, in the autumn of 1862, this inconvenience was relieved to some extent; three or four vessels from England, which sailed round by Cape Horn, landed on the shores of Vancouver a considerable number of females.

One of these vessels, sent out by the London Emigration Society, brought 63 young women, whose ages ranged from 20 to 35.

An old building, belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, was fitted up for their reception as a temporary residence, and they were made as comfortable as circumstances would permit. The arrival of those girls was anticipated several months, and formed the main topic of conversation; and on the first intimation of the approach of the vessel with its fair freight the inhabitants were at once on the tip-toe of expectation, and turned out *en masse* to witness the disembarkation. This was quite an event to the Victorians.

*Numbers of Chinamen occupy themselves with washing and ironing and make an excellent living. Nearly all the washing is done in Victoria by Chinamen; they appear to be an exceedingly industrious race of men. The cost of washing a shirt is a shilling; a pair of socks, an under flannel, a collar, a handkerchief, or any such like little thing, cost sixpence each washing.

The whole of these young women were clean and tidy; many of them were good-looking, and all presented quite a respectable appearance, and in the majority of cases their future conduct did not belie that supposition. There were, however, a few black sheep in the flock, whom, I am sorry to say, entered upon a disreputable course of life.

In the course of a few days after their arrival the majority of these young women obtained good situations. A few had offers of marriage, and entered upon the matrimonial state, which, I believe with one exception, proved happy unions. A publican in Victoria took unto himself one of them for a wife, when three weeks after their marriage, to his utter astonishment and dismay, his spouse presented him with *a fine healthy boy*.

Besides the 63 females, this ship brought a number of male passengers, one of whom I became well acquainted with.

He told me that the excellent regulations of the vessel were carried out to the very letter. Unlike the Yankee ships, abominable arrangements, the male passengers were made to occupy one part of the vessel, and the females the other; and under no circumstances whatever were the two sexes allowed to associate, or even speak to each other.

CHAPTER IX.

THE HOMEWARD VOYAGE.

The Archdeacon more than once intimated to me that he was positive I would do well in Victoria if my wife and family were settled out there, and urged me to send for them. He was connected with the London Emigration Society, and through his influence I could have brought them out for fifty pounds. But they would have had to sail round Cape Horn—a six months' voyage of 20,000 miles—which would have been a serious undertaking for a woman with several young children. Had I been with them the case would have been different. But to expose them to such a serious amount of privation unprotected was a thing I could not agree to; and I, therefore, came to the conclusion, that as "the mountain could not go to Mahomet, Mahomet would go to the mountain." Accordingly, on the 6th of March, 1863, I parted with all my friends

—bid adieu to Vancouver Island and British Columbia, in all human probability for ever, and sailed in the steamship *Pacific* for San Francisco.

When I turned my back upon the country, it was with a strange mixture of feelings which I cannot describe. That was certainly a stage on which I had witnessed some marvellous performances, and the few preceding months was a period of my life replete with incidents which will ever stand out in my memory in bold relief.

We had a rough but quick passage, occupying only between three and four days. In consequence of an opposition line of boats having commenced running between San Francisco and New York, the fare was reduced to fifty dollars.

The opposition steamers were the *Moses Taylor* for the Pacific side, and the *American* for the Atlantic side.

They took the Nicaragua route, where the Isthmus is crossed a few hundred miles higher up the Pacific than Panama. There is no railway, but several hundred mules are in readiness to convey the passengers across the Isthmus. The *American*, while on her passage to New York, encountered a severe gale off Cape Hatteras, and barely escaped shipwreck, the details of which will be entered into in due course. Like many others, I felt disposed to patronise the opposition; but not being in good health, the fear of delay which would take place on the Isthmus deterred me—besides, the fare was the same in both. I, therefore, took my passage in the steamship *Sonora*, belonging to the Old (Vanderbilt) Line, which sailed on the 12th of March. The opposition boat sailed on the day previous. We had on board the *Sonora* 400 passengers, only about half-a-dozen of whom were Englishmen. Amongst these few Englishmen I recognised one William Anthony, of Clay Cross, Derbyshire, with whom I became acquainted on board the *Brother Jonathan*, while on our outward voyage between San Francisco and Vancouver Island. From the first moment we met a great amount of sympathy appeared to exist between us.

Anthony had left a wife and seven children, and I had left a wife and the same number of children. He regretted leaving his family, and I regretted leaving mine, which subject formed the main topic of our conversation, and which may account for the reciprocal feeling.

Often when we were discoursing about our wives and chil-

dren, I observed a tear glisten in his eye, which betrayed a sentiment I greatly admire, and which gave me an involuntary liking for him. After landing on Vancouver Island I saw no more of him until we met on board the *Sonora* at San Francisco. He was unsuccessful in the gold-digging speculation, and had worked in the Nanaimo coal mines until he accumulated sufficient money to pay his passage home. Another of the Englishmen was Mr. Cotton, an elderly gentleman, a resident of Leicester. Although he was 74 years of age, he looked many years younger—was hale, hearty, and weighed seventeen stones. He was the picture of good health, and we often remarked that he had every appearance of living to be a hundred years old. He was of an exceedingly cheerful disposition—an agreeable companion, and was, consequently, a great favourite with all the passengers.

He had been out in the United States, and at the Californian gold mines for 22 years, and was now returning to spend the remainder of his days with his friends at home. But the sequel will show how uncertain are all human anticipations. Passing down the Pacific Coast, we noticed, with melancholy interest, the spot where the ill-fated steamer *Golden Gate* was destroyed by fire, and so many lives sacrificed.

We found that the Mexican fortifications at Acapulca had been destroyed by the French war ships, and that a great portion of Aspinwall had been destroyed by fire.

The steamer *Northern Light* was in readiness at Aspinwall to convey us to New York. Our homeward voyage was rather barren of events. One or two incidents, however, took place, which may not be without interest.

I had almost forgotten to notice a popular error that exists respecting the twilight in the tropics.

It has been frequently asserted by travellers that about the West India Islands there is no twilight—that darkness prevails immediately after sunset. This is fallacious, and ought to be rectified. Probably the twilight in the tropics is of shorter duration than it is in northern latitudes; but the difference is not such as to attract particular notice.

All went smoothly on for a few days after leaving Aspinwall, and no fears were entertained, except from the danger of falling in with the *Alabama*, which was known to be cruising about.

Every piece of canvas that appeared above the horizon was

deemed to be certainly the *Alabama*, and great excitement prevailed among the passengers.

It was whispered that our captain had special reasons for fearing an encounter with the *Alabama*.

The Confederates owed him a debt, he was no way anxious to see them discharge. It was said that some ten months previous he had captured and destroyed a Confederate trading vessel—a fact the captain of the *Alabama* was cognizant of, and promised to hang him on the yard arm the first time they met. I cannot vouch for the truth of this story; but certain it is that our captain betrayed considerable anxiety.

He carried no lights during the night time, and took us round the west coast of Cuba, which was several hundred miles out of the usual course. Day and night he sat on the hurricane deck, carefully scanning the horizon until we neared the blockade squadron, which seemed to greatly relieve his anxiety. We did not all participate in the alarm of the captain, knowing from report that Captain Semmes never interfered with the passengers or their property. Our only apprehension was, that we might have been placed on some of the West India Islands, and there left to find our way home as best we could, which would have been extremely annoying to those of us whose means were almost exhausted. However, we never came in contact with the *Alabama*, a circumstance we did not regret. When off Cape Hatteras, on the east coast of North Carolina, we encountered a gale of unusual severity. During forty-eight hours the sea ran mountains high, presenting the appearance of a vast caldron of boiling soap-suds, our vessel playing at pitch and toss with a vengeance. No one could live on deck during a considerable portion of the storm, so terrific was the wind, and all passengers were kept below. It is difficult to convey to the mind of others an adequate conception of a storm at sea—it must be seen to be comprehended.

Ever and anon, the ship is struck by a mighty wave, with the force of a thousand sledge hammers, driving the water in tons together over her decks, and sending her reeling, and creeking, and groaning, as though she was about to suffer instant annihilation. The clanking of chains—the thundering noise of loose articles flying about the decks in all directions—the wind bellowing—the sea roaring—women screaming—children crying—some praying—the captain holloahing—

sailors cursing and swearing—produce altogether a scene of indescribable and dire confusion.

One of the most amusing things in the world (providing you are not at dinner yourself), is to watch other people eating on board ship during rough weather. If the vessel were going to the bottom of the sea next minute, one could scarcely avoid laughing to see them dodging their dinner plates—trying in vain to catch them, as sometimes for several minutes they effectually evade every attempt to seize them, by slipping about on the table in all directions with amazing velocity, and are only prevented from flying off into space by a high ledge that runs round the edge of the table. Every now and then, while everybody is busily occupied in trying to keep himself right end up, and having succeeded in capturing his or her runaway dinner, is endeavouring to find the way to his or her mouth with a piece of meat on the end of a fork, the ship gives a sudden lurch, and the whole of the plates, with their contents, dart bodily off the table, performing all manners of antics on the deck, leaving the perplexed and disappointed owners staring at them with astonishment. Immediately afterwards she gives a worse lurch still, and away go beef and pudding, pea-soup and biscuits, pepper, mustard, and salt, men, women, and children (thoroughly mixed together), to the opposite side of the vessel.

On board these emigrant vessels there is always a considerable amount of business done in the drinking line; and rough weather affords the tippler a rare opportunity to indulge over his cup to any extent, without fear of detection; for the rolling and pitching of the ship causes everybody to stagger about, so that it is utterly impossible for any one to tell who is drunk, or who is sober. In this respect, a stormy sea hides a multitude of sins.

Our ship braved the storm splendidly. Captain, officers, and men all did their duty in the most praiseworthy manner.

The captain, who was a Dutchman and a trustworthy man, never left his post during the severity of the storm.

We came out unscathed, and landed at New York on the 4th of April. Being a few hours too late for the Liverpool steamer, we were obliged to remain in New York till the following Saturday. The passengers of the opposition boat having the advantage of a twenty-four hours' start, and seven hundred miles shorter route, ought to have reached New York

three days before us; but they did not arrive till the following Wednesday, when the *American* put in an appearance in a very disabled condition; wheel-house, pantries, galley, water-closets, and bulwarks had been swept off the deck, and she had three feet of water in her hold. She had been some two hundred miles in our rear, exposed to the most furious part of the storm, and had had a miraculous escape.

We sailed for Liverpool on the 11th, in the screw-steamer *City of Washington*, and soon discovered that we had on board several passengers who had been in the *American*. One of them was a gentleman named Scott, and from him I learnt the particulars of the proceedings on board the *American* while the storm was raging. The following is given in his own words:—Mr. Scott said, "I have been a seafaring man and a captain for 22 years, and been thrice shipwrecked, but never saw death so clearly staring me in the face. There were three ship captains on board, besides myself, as passengers. We held a consultation, and came to the conclusion that it was utterly impossible for the vessel to survive the storm. The scene was truly heartrending, parents and children clinging around each other, expecting every moment to go down. Horror was depicted on almost every countenance; some were wringing their hands in despair; others were calling in a loud voice upon the Almighty to save them. A few took what they considered a philosophical view of the matter—saying that, if they were to be drowned, they might as well take it quietly, and stretched themselves on their bunks to await events.

One young woman had the foolhardiness to commence dancing, remarking that as people could only die once, it might as well take place now as at any other time."

Mr. Scott went on to say—"We had a French gentleman on board, 72 years of age, who, in the early part of his life, had been an officer in the French Army, and was second in command with the Old Emperor Napoleon. He was covered with scars, and had evidently seen some active service. He owned a Ranch (Farm) in California, which he purchased for thirty thousand pounds, and was now on his way to New York to visit some friends. Expecting every moment to go down, the French gentleman addressed me in the following terms: 'Scott, you perceive that I carry about with me proofs of hard fighting. I was in the thickest of it at the battle of Waterloo,

where balls were showered upon us as thick as hail, and men falling by scores every minute. I have been in many a severe engagement besides that at Waterloo, and having survived them all, I must now be drowned in this old tub. *Is it not provoking?*' He then deliberately drew from his pocket a loaded revolver, and cocked it. 'What are you going to do with the revolver?' I inquired. 'Blow my brains out,' coolly replied the Frenchman, 'the moment I see the ship is going down.' 'For God's sake, sir, don't do that—it would be suicide.' 'Not a bit of it,' said he. 'Of course, I will not do it until I see clearly she is going, but as I feel no inclination to have my sufferings prolonged for a quarter of an hour by floundering in the sea, I most decidedly mean to settle the matter in this way'—and he grasped the pistol firmly in his hand with a fixed determination.

We distinctly saw the mighty mountain of a wave swiftly approaching, which we were certain would engulf us; but miracle of miracles, the old water-logged craft scrambled over it, and we were saved."

When Mr. Scott narrated to me this stirring incident, his voice faltered with deep emotion.

One calm afternoon, while crossing the banks of Newfoundland, we experienced a sudden change in the temperature of the atmosphere. I inquired of a sailor how he accounted for the weather becoming so suddenly cold? "Ah, you smell him," said he. "Smell him," I said; "Smell who?" "That gentleman over the way," he replied"—at the same time directing my attention towards the northern horizon. I looked up and perceived an immense iceberg about twelve miles distant. It presented a front of more than a mile in extent, and an elevation of about 20 feet above the surface; therefore, its total thickness would be about 60 feet.

The sun was shining upon it at the time, and it formed an imposing spectacle.

One morning when we were about in the middle of the Atlantic our old friend, Mr. Cotton, while lying in his bunk called William Anthony and me to him and told us he had taken a trembling fit, and felt very ill indeed. We each took one of our blankets and wrapped him well up—procured for him some hot coffee, and used every means in our power to induce perspiration, but failed. We then applied to the doctor, who immediately waited upon him and administered medicine; and everything was done that medical skill could

devise, but his efforts were of no avail. The poor old gentleman gradually sank, and expired about noon on the 20th of April, within four days' sail of England. His death cast a deep gloom over all the ship. Contrary to the usual custom (which is to sew the body up in canvas) the captain ordered a strong coffin to be made; a quantity of old metal was placed inside with the corpse, and several auger holes made through the coffin to facilitate its sinking.

After the body was screwed down, it was placed in the carpenter's shop, with the ensign flag thrown over it, and the Union Jack fluttered half-mast high.

At seven in the evening the dead bell tolled—a procession was formed, and the coffin carried by the seamen on their shoulders from the stem to the stern of the vessel, and was placed on the bulwark ready for burial. In presence of the ship's company the captain read the funeral service in a solemn and impressive manner, and the body was committed to the deep.

Casting our eyes astern of the vessel, we perceived the coffin, which we were rapidly leaving behind, in a perpendicular position, bounding up and down in the waves—sinking a little lower at every plunge till eventually the restless billows closed over it; and the remains of poor Mr. Cotton were for ever hidden from mortal view.

Many an eye was bedimmed with tears, for it seemed hard indeed, after an absence of so many years, and after having travelled so many thousand miles, to be swept off the stage of life and buried in the sea so near to his home. Such is life, and such is death.

We put in at Queenstown to land passengers, and after a short delay resumed our voyage.

Never shall I forget the pleasurable emotions many of us experienced when we first dimly beheld the English cliffs on the distant horizon.

At two o'clock on Friday morning, the 24th of April, we drew up to the wharf at the Liverpool docks, and on the day following I reached my home with the evening train, and will not attempt to describe the meeting with my family. Suffice it to say, that more tears were shed than at parting; and when I took a retrospective view of my gold-hunting adventure I felt in all its force the truth of the old adage—

"ALL IS NOT GOLD THAT GLITTERS."

CHAPTER X.

HINTS TO INTENDING EMIGRANTS, AND OTHER MATTERS.

After having witnessed so great an amount of disappointment and suffering, I cannot conscientiously recommend any one to emigrate to British Columbia for the purpose of gold-digging; and especially I would urge those who have not been accustomed to hard manual labour not to entertain the notion for a moment.

Among the crowds of disappointed men who thronged the streets of Victoria were seen sons of independent gentlemen, attorneys and bankers' clerks, doctors, chemists, drapers, grocers, notaries, lawyers, magistrates, officers of the army and navy, and many others of the same stamp.

Of all the different classes of men who emigrate to British Columbia those just enumerated are by far the greatest sufferers, because after their money has vanished, being incompetent to perform skilled labour, they are left in a state of wretchedness no language can describe.

The most fatal mistake this class of men can make is to go gold-hunting. They are not only incapable of doing hard work, but have been by far too delicately reared to bear the privations and hardships consequent upon a gold-digger's life. It is utterly useless for men of weak constitution or feeble powers of endurance to attempt the expedition to the Cariboo mines.

Some few of the hardships which are inseparably connected with it, in addition to struggling over the four hundred miles of mountain travel, and doing the hardest labour that mortal man ever engaged in, are these, viz., to go without food sometimes for two or three days at a stretch, as it not unfrequently happens that provisions run out, and cannot be had at any price—to work all day standing up to the knees in snow water cold as ice itself, and drenched through with the constant dripping of water from the rocks above—to sleep in your wet clothes with mother earth for your only pillow, and the blue vault of heaven for your only blanket; or if you have the privilege of undressing to sleep in your tent, next morning when you rise, instead of having your trousers dry and comfortable, you rear them on end, and find they will stand erect

without assistance, simply because they are frozen as stiff as though they had been made of cast metal; and of course you must encase yourself in them in that condition. This (and such is this) is the Cariboo daily bill of fare.

I venture to assert that if people had the least conception of the extreme hardships and difficulties that must be encountered, combined with so small a chance of success, few, indeed, would risk a trip to Cariboo.

But as it is characteristic of the Englishman never to be happy except when he is miserable, some, no doubt, will persist in going there; and to them the few following hints may be of service:—

We would recommend intending emigrants not to encumber themselves with more extra wearing apparel than can be conveniently stowed away in a moderately-sized carpet bag; and let it be confined to under-clothing, except a good top-coat, which will be found exceedingly useful during some portions of the voyage.

All luggage above 30 lbs. weight is charged fivepence per lb. transit across the Isthmus of Panama; and clothing can be purchased in Victoria nearly as cheap as in England.

The New York and Panama route is preferable to the Southampton and Panama route. A regular line of steamers is established between New York and San Francisco, thus causing no delay, which is an important consideration, seeing that the Isthmus of Panama is almost, without exception, the most unhealthy part of the world; besides, the fare is considerably less by the New York route. The steamers on the Southampton line terminate their voyage at Aspinwall; consequently, the passengers are left on the Isthmus until they are taken up by one of the boats connected with the New York line, after a delay of from one to nine days, which is attended with serious risk to health. Besides, it is expensive; each meal costs a dollar, and a bed the same for each night. The want of a regular steamboat communication between England and Vancouver Island has long been felt. The establishment of that line has been for some time in agitation, and should it be effected, the Southampton route will then be preferred by all Englishmen, as the accommodation on board the American vessels is so extremely poor.

Delicious fruit being exceedingly plentiful and cheap at Aspinwall and Panama, the temptation to partake of it is great.

But the eating of fruit should be carefully avoided, as there is great danger of its creating bowel complaints, which bring on the Panama fever—a most fatal disease. Intoxicating drinks should be used very sparingly, or what is better, entirely dispensed with. To live temperately both as regards meat and drink, during a sea voyage in a tropical climate, is a matter of the utmost importance.

When the emigrant reaches Vancouver Island it is advisable, whether he possesses money or not, to accept the first offer that may present itself for employment, and give himself time to look around and see what is best to be done.

It is a fatal mistake for a person to rush into any business speculation, immediately on his arrival in a new country, before he has had the opportunity of ascertaining the real state of things. I would recommend him, after he has been in the colony a few months, should he possess a little money, to turn his attention to the cultivation of land, or enter into some business he may consider the most suitable, which will afford him a much better chance of success than precarious gold-hunting.

But should he persist in trying his luck at the mines, then I would tender the following advice :—

Form a company, say of six, and have, if possible, at least one in the company who has already a knowledge of gold mining. It is a mistake to suppose that because no one knows where the gold is deposited, an inexperienced man has an equal chance of success with the experienced gold-digger. In prospecting, for instance, the novice, while washing a pan of dirt, will, in all probability, throw away half the gold it contains unconsciously, and pronounce the claim useless; whereas, an experienced panner will save every particle of the precious metal, and see at once that the claim will pay. Besides, in constructing and fixing the apparatus, and working the claim, the experienced man must in the very nature of things have an immense advantage over the inexperienced one.

If the company possess sufficient funds, I would recommend it by all means to purchase two or three mules, and load them with provision up to the mines.

The advantage of this plan will be at once apparent.

Flour can be bought in Victoria for 2d. per lb., and at the mines it is worth from 4s. to 6s. per lb. Sufficient grass is found on the route for the mules, and at Cariboo the animals

can be sold for as much as they cost; therefore, instead of paying 5s. or 6s. per lb., it costs only twopence.

If the party have not the means to purchase mules, nor money sufficient to take them all to Cariboo, I would strongly recommend them to adopt the following plan:—

Let three of the strongest and most active of the party be selected to go up to the mines to prospect, and let the other three remain below, and procure employment if possible—live carefully, and save all the money they can. If the three prospectors are successful, then the whole party can go up the following season and work the claim. If the contrary, then, when they return to Victoria, they find that their friends have money, and something for them to eat, and consequently they suffer no inconvenience. But should they all go to the mines together and be unsuccessful, they return starving and paupers, and terrible may be their condition—the chance of employment being much less in winter than in summer.

In preparing the outfit for Cariboo, I would strongly advise them to confine their wardrobe to very small dimensions; and especially if what they take has to be carried on their backs, every ounce of weight is then a consideration.

In addition to the wearing apparel they have in use, the following articles will be quite sufficient, viz., one pair of thick, coloured blankets. one pair of stout trousers, two woollen shirts, three pairs of worsted stockings, one pair of strong laced-up navvy boots, and a canvas tent to accommodate six persons, which will weigh seven pounds, and cost about twenty shillings. A knowledge of the necessary cooking apparatus to take is easily arrived at in Victoria.

Nothing in the shape of work-tools should be taken, except a prospecting pan; it is light of carriage, and exceedingly useful for making dough in, and forms an excellent dish for beans and bacon. Work tools may always be had of disappointed men at the diggings at a cheap rate.

A person may travel from Victoria to Cariboo (providing he walks all the distance from Douglas) for £15 pretty comfortably. We did it for a quarter of that amount, but then we half starved ourselves.

Care should be taken not to walk too great a distance in one day. This is an error the great majority fall into; being under the influence of the golden magnet, they rush away at a terrific pace until they out-do their physical capabilities, and the con-

sequences are, that some die on the road; hundreds break down, and never see Cariboo; and many of those who reach their destination are so much reduced in physical strength that they are quite incapable of doing justice to the mines, and consequently their object is defeated.

Do not exceed fifteen miles a-day for the first few days, then gradually increase the distance to not more than twenty-five miles. Go about it coolly, quietly, and calmly—take every care of yourselves, and husband your strength, for depend upon it, you will require all you can muster at the Cariboo gold diggings.

It is true that the trip to Cariboo is not such an arduous undertaking now as it was at the time we travelled to it, there now being a good firm road 18 feet wide the whole distance; but, nevertheless, the ground is to be traversed, and many immense mountains to be surmounted—a task quite sufficient to tax a person's strength to the utmost.

The party on reaching Cariboo, should they possess less than a hundred pounds each, will find their chance of success small, indeed; they ought to have at least three times that amount.

If there be one thing more important than another which emigrants ought to attend to, in whatever part of the world they may be, it is that of making a practice to write home frequently to their friends. This is a duty neglected by many, arising in a great measure from a silly notion that they cannot make up their minds to write unless they are successful, and able to send home a favourable account. Can anything be more foolish and cruel? Whether they be lucky or the reverse they are in duty bound to write, if it be but a single line, to prove they are alive, which will prevent many a sleepless night and aching heart.

In concluding these few hints to intending emigrants, I beg to suggest, that unless a person owns a little independency, it is almost useless to emigrate to the gold fields of British Columbia; and if he does possess it, why, then, he had better stay at home and enjoy it.

Edward Mark, who resolved to risk the mines a second time, continued in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company till a few weeks after I left the colony, exercising every economy all the while, and then proceeded to Cariboo; but before he commenced operations, engaged himself to pack provisions on

his back from the Forks of Quesnelle to the mines, a distance of sixty miles, for hire. By this means he realized several pounds, with which, and the money he had saved in Victoria, he once more tried his fortune at gold-digging, but was unsuccessful, and reached Victoria again almost penniless. He then contrived to get down to San Francisco, where he joined his Brother Robert, and they worked together as boilersmiths until they accumulated sufficient money to pay their passage to New York, where they commenced work immediately on their arrival.

But shortly afterwards, Edward, by some means, found his way into the Northern Army, and was sent to the Potomac.

He soon made his escape, however, and after travelling 200 miles through the woods among the snow—sailing down the rivers many miles on rafts during the night time, and experiencing endless hardships and hairbreadth escapes—he reached New York again in safety; but to his surprise and sorrow found that his Brother Robert had disappeared, and he utterly failed to discover his whereabouts.

He then sailed for England, and arrived in due time. Weeks and months passed away, but brought no tidings of Robert, which occasioned much painful anxiety amongst his friends at home, until one day very recently, to their pleasure and regret (pleasure that he was still in the land of the living, and regret that he was so dangerously circumstanced) his father received a letter from him stating that he was now a corporal in the Federal Army.

James Marquis remains in and about British Columbia, and has been to some extent successful.

He saved money in Victoria; and subsequent intelligence from him intimates that he purchased an interest in a claim belonging to a company of Englishmen, and joined them. At the end of the first season he came down to Victoria with three hundred pounds' worth of gold dust as his share. Last summer he was not so fortunate. He went to the mines, and remained during the season but was unable to work in consequence of ill health, and was obliged to hire a man to do it for him, at a wage of forty-five shillings per day. They expended the greater portion of their money in erecting machinery for the working of their claim, and it is their intention to give it a thorough trial this summer. When Marquis returned to Victoria last autumn his health was seriously impaired, and his

medical adviser recommended change of air. He accordingly sailed down to San Francisco, where he remained during the winter, and letters from him of a recent date intimate that he had recovered his usual state of health, and was about to start for the mines. When he returns to Victoria this fall, he will then have walked eight different times over the mountains of British Columbia, making altogether a distance of *three thousand two hundred miles*, exclusive of sixteen hundred miles of river navigation.

May his indomitable perseverance be crowned with success.

In round numbers, the distance from England to New York is 3,000 miles; from New York to the Isthmus of Panama, 2,000 miles; from Panama to San Francisco, 4,000 miles; from San Francisco to Vancouver Island, 1,000 miles; and from thence to Cariboo, 600 miles.

THE END.

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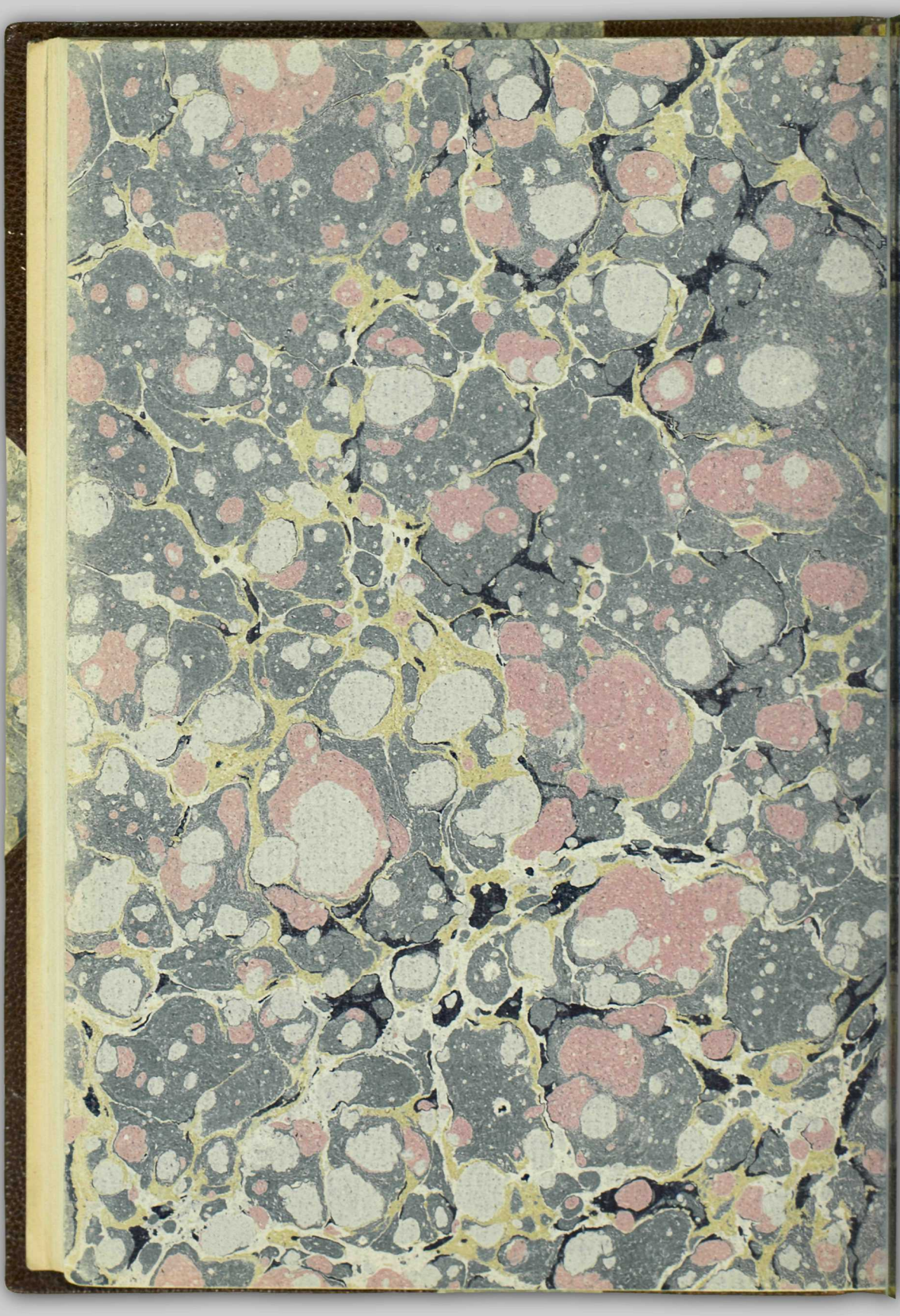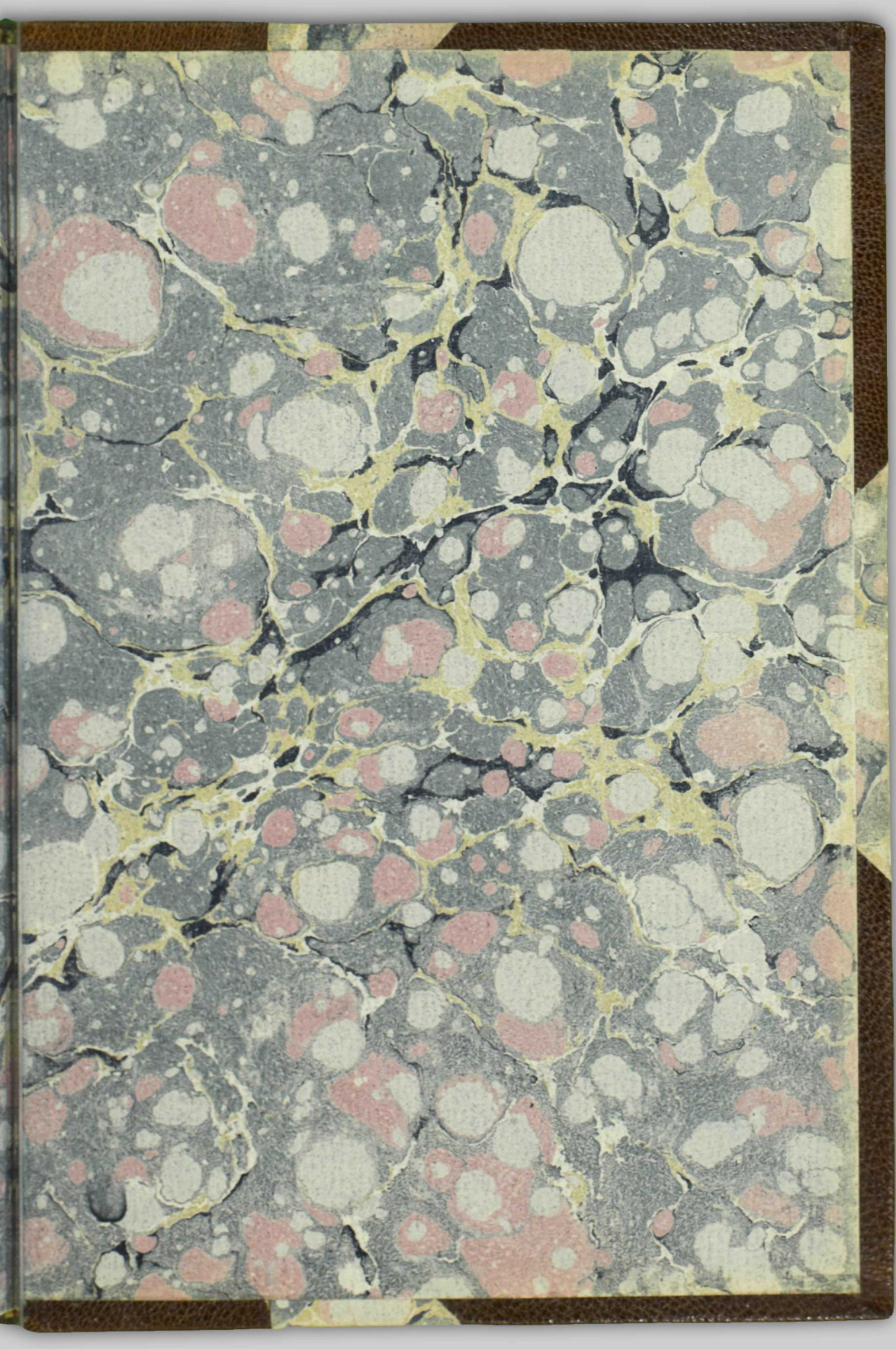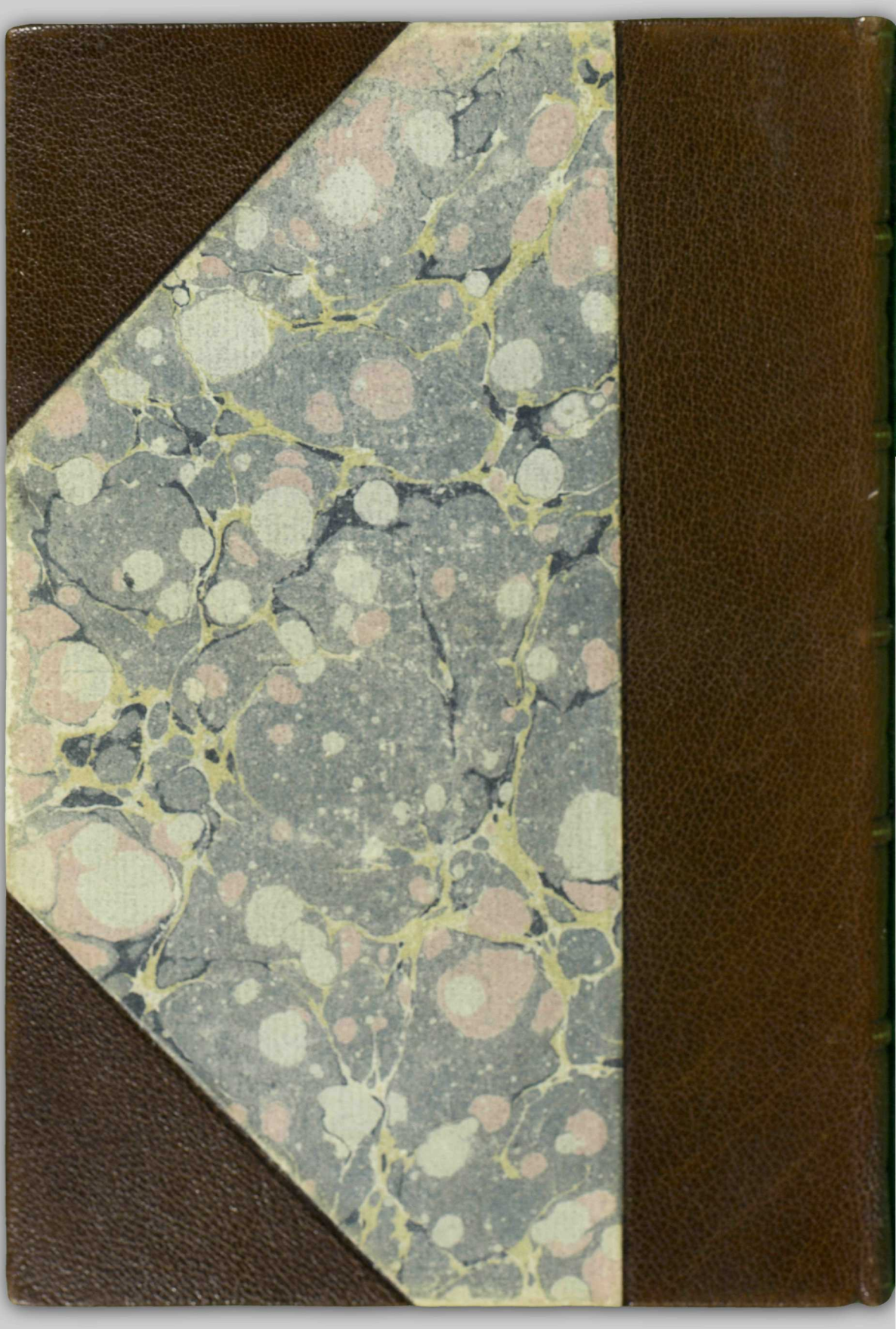
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