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THE CITY OF VICTORIA, B. C., AS IT APPEARED IN 1860. From a Photo by R. MAYNARD.

## VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BY FREDERICK G. WEIGHT.

In the year 1842 it was deemed advisable to establish a Hudson Bay Company's post on Vancouver Island, and Victoria was selected by the late Sir James Douglas, K. C. B., (then Mr. James Douglas) the chief agent of the company in Northwestern America.

Having an intimate knowledge of all parts of the coast, the situation of the future city appeared to him to present peculiar advantages, and his con-

viction was confirmed by Sir George Simpson, who says (in 1846) "Fort Victoria promises to become a very important place."

Time passed by, and, on the settlement of the Oregon boundary question, and Fort Vancouver becoming part of the United States, the Fur Company's headquarters was transferred to Victoria. There a fort or trading post was erected, and the Island was granted to the Company by the British government, under the stipulation that they were to colonize it.

Success does not seem to have at-

tended their efforts, as we are told that in 1853 the white population of the Island was only 450 souls.

The charter expired in 1859, and active colonization then set in.

Gold having been discovered on the main land in the previous year, thousands of miners were attracted from California, the city became prosperous and known to the outside world.

At the end of that year a reaction took place, and things began to look ominous.

However, a great influx of miners