

again took place in 1862 and '63, which of course greatly benefited the rising settlement. Some made large fortunes, and more did not succeed so well, but all things seemed to promise well for the growth of the place.

But history repeats itself, and we see the experience of Melbourne and San Francisco being undergone by the Queen City of the Northwest.

By students of the history of British colonization it is remarked that its progress, though ultimately sure, is frequently somewhat tardy, "*cautus sed certus*" appearing to be its watch-word.

This motto will apply in some respects to the subject of this sketch, as the growth of Victoria cannot be said to be as rapid as that of other places, but "sure" it is, and, in spite of manifold discouragements, frequent reverses and commercial disappointments, Victoria to-day is by no means a failure.

From the gold excitement up to 1865 all was prosperity—it seemed too good to be lasting, and since that time alternate hope and depression have been felt.

Such is a brief outline of the history of the city. In an admirable position, well adapted for residence and commerce, it would appear certain that at no distant day it will become the great Pacific port north of San Francisco.

Situated on the southern end of Vancouver Island, easy of access for navigation, possessing a harbor of its own now being improved and a splendid one at Esquimalt, 3 miles distant, trade has every facility and with the growth of population it may very fairly be expected that trade will rapidly develop.

The land for miles in all directions is admirably adapted for the erection of habitations, fine wide streets extend for long distances, large shops and warehouses are seen, and commodious wharfs skirt the harbor, at which steamers and sailing craft are constantly loading and unloading freight.

The government buildings are ornamental and imposing—the substantial Parliament house &c., Custom House, Post Office, Government residence, Public School, &c., adding considerably to the beauty of the place.

The shops are remarkable for their size and for the variety of goods to be obtained. A stranger is surprised to find himself able to procure every Eu-

ropean article of necessity and luxury.

In close proximity to the town, situated on the sea shore, and looking towards the Straits of Juan de Fuca, is Beacon Hill Park, a splendid, natural recreation ground, where on holidays and in summer evenings citizens can enjoy the beauties nature has so lavishly bestowed.

The climate of the Island throughout is excellent, and this is by no means the least attraction for visitors in summer.

Many, struck with the advantages of the place, have settled down permanently, and admit that, all things considered, it is a highly favored spot.

Religion and education are well attended to. The prominent object to be seen in approaching the city is Christ Church (Episcopal) Cathedral which is situated on an eminence close to the harbor.

There are 11 other places of worship, including the Roman Cathedral, St. John's (Episcopal) Church, &c.

Colleges and schools are supported by several denominations, while the free education of all classes is undertaken by the Government.

Public schools have been established to which every citizen is entitled to send his children.

But there is one thing which strikes strangers as very remarkable about the town, and that is the excellent condition of public order.

The capital of the Pacific Province, possessing a population of some six or seven thousand of all nations, scattered over a large extent, and made up of a good percentage of unruly characters, respect for the law is so great that some dozen policemen are sufficient to preserve good order, and any one passing along the streets at any time of the day or night, will wonder at the quiet that prevails.

Probably no town on the Pacific Coast can excel Victoria in this respect.

On the whole it will be apparent that surely, although perhaps somewhat slowly, the city is progressing.

New abodes are constantly being erected, fresh land brought under cultivation, and in spite of the commercial depression now so general everywhere, trade seems doing fairly.

Thus in a comparatively short time since Governor Douglas first marked

out the site for the city, it appears to have made good way, and in the ordinary course events it is not unreasonable to suppose that it will at no distant day realize his expectations, and the hopes of all well wishers to Victoria, British Columbia.

THE WATER-SPOUTS OF THE UPPER COLUMBIA BASIN.

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THEIR FREQUENCY.

On the 22nd of May, 1879, at Spokane Falls, a sudden and violent rain-storm passed in a circuit from the eastern mountains, over forests and plains. On the same afternoon a water-spout burst upon the hills along the Penewawa creek, in Whitman county, eighty miles distant south, and bore a hundred or more tons of basalt stones and rocks for two miles down into the stage road, ploughing out the hill-side canyons. Another, about the same time, burst on the hills along the Satass creek, in Yakima county, 150 miles west of the latter, with a like result to the stage road. Another was reported at the same date in the Blue mountains, 150 miles southwest, which filled the stage road with the debris during the same storm. Others were reported, but less definitely. Settlers and travelers in the upper country have often seen them, or noted their paths in the canyons that mark the slopes of the hills and mountains in all directions. If observed only once in their sudden and vast downpour of waters, which rush and roar and plough out the steep hills, sweeping away fences, bending or breaking trees, laying whole fields of grain flat, drenching, perhaps demolishing buildings, burying large areas of highways, of fields and gardens, with rocks, stones, gravel and soil, in a vast conglomerate mass, they reveal one of the mighty forces at work to wear down the high plains of this interior basin. It has been the common idea that the sudden melting of snows, and the great storms, have dug out the almost numberless canyons of that region, and this is true, no doubt, to a great extent; yet the water-spouts have had no small share in this process.

THEIR ORIGIN.

They come out of a clear sky. On May 22nd the sun shone till 12 M. at Spokane Falls. It was clear and pleas-