

Explorations. <sup>approximate</sup> through <sup>latter</sup> <sup>part</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>year</sup> <sup>1858</sup>  
Report of a <sup>part</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>year</sup> <sup>1858</sup>  
Canal. north latitude 50: <sup>latter</sup> <sup>part</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>year</sup> <sup>1858</sup>  
F487

To His Excellency  
Governor Douglas

Sir  
In compliance with your  
instructions I came to Nanaimo and  
proceeded out as you directing by  
Captain Stewart for the purpose  
of exploring to ascertain if a route  
was practicable from the Indian village  
at the head of Jarvis Inlet to the upper  
Fraser River.. and to report concerning  
the mineral and agricultural aspect  
of the country.

We left Nanaimo on 11<sup>th</sup>  
accompanied by Mr. J. Irvine and several  
men from the above place. made a fine  
run across the gulf to Gold Island  
where we camped for the night. This  
Island is distant from Nanaimo through  
five miles course North by compass  
four three ten miles West to the  
entrance of Jarvis Inlet

When I was on this Island  
two or three weeks ago with Captain  
Stewart I washed a few pans and found  
several specks of Gold I was then named

LIGHT ORIGINAL

FILE 487

DOWNIE, WILLIAM  
PART I

COLONIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

PABC

2 Gold Island, the formation on the Island  
is Shaly Sand with a red yellow  
soil on top, it was in their surface  
1 dirt that the best prospect was found

I have no idea that it would  
pay for washing. The Island is better  
adapted for agricultural purposes  
than gold digging. The timber is  
rather light but the soil is good.  
The Scotch Indians used to have  
mills about three years ago. The  
Simpson came on them, <sup>one night</sup>  
and cut off feet <sup>number</sup> of them, since  
that time the Island is abandoned  
by them and they now live in the  
interior on the main land.

The Island is about three miles long  
and from half a mile to one mile broad  
and will make a few fine farms  
as the climate is delightful here  
when it snows on the main land.

From the entrance of  
the Strait up to the Indian village  
at the head we had a fine run the  
distance is sixty miles, and with  
the wind South can sail  
up all the way. The average course  
is about N East by N

LIGHT ORIGINAL

5 The average width of the Inlet  
is one mile - Cold shore on both  
sides with abundance of water for  
the whole British King to the  
head of the Inlet, a mass of the  
slate formation, covered in, intermixed  
with granite for some distance.

But as we proceed eastward  
the granite is passed and then comes  
in place of every description on edge  
(which is the way it ought to lay in a  
gold country) forming mountains  
that rise perpendicular from the water  
edge. Spots of green and red sands seen  
on the mountain sides, indications of  
copper ore and there is a Quartz ledge  
about three feet wide at the head  
of the Inlet that looks very well  
I could not see any gold in it.

I do not expect to find  
much mineral of any description  
until I get away eastward beyond  
this coast range of mountains,  
glaciers, and barren rocks,  
there is several small fresh water  
streams come into the Inlet where  
there is plenty of Salmon.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

4 There is an important item  
connected with Jarvis Inlet that makes  
it preferable to any other inlet on the coast  
from the fact of it receiving so far inland  
N. East. which it will be seen on  
reference to the map goes direct towards  
Fraser River... The head of this Inlet is  
thirty miles further in land than the  
Salt Water on Brown Sound

Add to this every natural  
advantage necessary for building a  
fine commercial town and it will be  
seen that it is well worth an effort  
to find a road through this grand  
Inlet to the Gold mines that will soon  
be opened in the far N. West

I will here make mention of a little  
incident with regard to the Indian name  
of this inlet that is the Shush Sea-gull  
in English and Shush is read so here  
we have the Indian name great road  
pointing us to this Inlet as the great  
highway into the interior of British Columbia  
The long courage of the little Caribou  
we are inspired with new hope  
to push forward with vigour and as well as  
we come to get ahead

LIGHT ORIGINAL

5 Arrived at the Indian village we were welcomed by the Indians all of them coming out shaking hands with us and crossing themselves.. This I took as a sign of good will or perhaps an improvement upon the way and I put up with their markets.. They are here being fairly close.

July 15th we left the Indian village with some Indians all packed with provisions.. Mr. Stone, instead of sending them all back except the guides whom we used the *Le Umanists* in we instead to cache some of our provisions.. The trail we have come along this afternoon is very good it is a valley between the mountains and looks good for agricultural purposes. We have come about eight miles this afternoon and now we are camped on the banks of the stream that runs down to the Indian village. The water is pure and clear showing that it does not come off the Glacier as I have taken notice that all the streams that take their rise from glaciers the water is greenish white. We can see a glacier south of us of which we are camped distant about ten miles this I know to be part of the glacier lying between where we are now and the *Le Umanists*.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

6 Saturday 16th the guides have taken us across and recess the ropes 15 times this forenoon it is evident they wish to turn back and they think to discourage us by taking us across streams and through Swamps where there is no necessity for us to go, as there is a good road all along on the right hand bank of the river.

We have not come over eight or nine miles today, the guides sitting down sometimes, not willing to push, they are all the time telling about the snow that we have to cross, the weather that was clear and fine, figures to look cloudy, the road we have come today is rough in places, a track can be made as far as we have come, the mountains here is high on either side, I should say not less than four thousand feet, above us the formation is slate with granate grains, along the edge of these streams black sand can be seen in abundance, Sulphate of Iron is plenty in the slate rock, more so than I have seen elsewhere we shall keep going about 17 to 18 and the Indian say we are past one mountain

LIGHT ORIGINAL

7 Sabbath 17th we have not come far  
to day, in fact under any other circumstances  
we could not have more to day the  
trail has been rough, the bushes had  
the Indian guides got down and would  
not move for Mr. Boone I am afraid we  
will have trouble to get them along.

It has commenced to rain  
and it is snowing on the mountains the  
water makes worse as the Indians say  
it will be impossible to go much  
further, as we were looking round  
for a place to camp, the Indians tried to get  
up on the side of the mountain  
three of them put after it, and shot him  
down it came tumbling from rock to rock  
crashing it into fragments. The skin  
was tough enough to keep it together  
the rain is coming <sup>down</sup> pretty fast and  
if it keeps up it will be a hard matter  
to get the Indians to go on with us.

But we are bound to go  
until the snow stops, as Indians or  
no Indians we may ride, and we  
go down on the Le Vuamish and  
that will be over the roughest  
of the coast range of mountains.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

8 Monday 18th rain and thick can't  
see very far up the mountain this morning  
a sail from that it is snowing not far off,  
we have thought it was best not to move  
camp to day as the rain is pouring down  
I went up the stream to take  
a look with two or three of the hands  
the rocks and boulders look better up  
here they are composed of slate and quartz  
and they look as if we were coming  
nearer a gold country but we must  
push that ridge ahead of us and get down  
in the La Tuamish.

We returned to camp  
without finding any gold the fact is  
I have not been expecting to find gold  
on any place we have come yet I must  
wash a pan now and again to please  
some of the men as they want to see me  
try a place here and there if we are hard  
to get far enough East into the gold  
country it will be an easy matter to find  
out the rich places in the meantime  
we hope it will clear up soon so that  
we can go ahead or if it is no use for us  
to try to go on with the rain pouring  
down as it is doing now

LIGHT ORIGINAL



9 Tuesday 19th at half past one o'clock  
this morning the water came pouring down  
in torrents driving us out of our tent so  
that we had to look sharp and save our  
provisions from being swept away this is  
a little the hardest looking sight I have  
seen for some time and reminds me of my  
days in the fallowen mountains when I first  
went hunting, gully with this difference  
in our favour, now that we have plenty of  
provisions.

I have consulted with Mr. Home  
what is best to do we have agreed under  
the present circumstances that is best for  
us to go back it is not against our wills  
but there is no help for it the Indians  
will not go any further, it matters not  
what they are promised they say they dont  
want to die yet, and that it is impossible  
to go through now as the snow will cover  
them, and by the way the water is rising  
I am thinking we will have enough  
to do to get back across the stream.

I suppose there is some little credit  
in making an honorable retreat but I  
dont like the idea of turning back, still  
I think in the present instance discretion  
the better part of valour.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

" We roll our provisions in the wet  
blankets and start down through the rain keeping  
padding down hill and the river is rising...  
thick clouds hang on the mountains and the  
water falls down in torrents

Now is the time to see water falls  
from the cliffs that almost hangs over heads and  
might say the scenery if it was fine weather  
or it is our idea are not of the Subliminal about  
this time... and see us have a rushing stream  
to see that scale up better well my takes  
the romantic notions out of our head in the  
time being... in crossing the Indians take  
the packs and we stick a pole over so that  
we can hold on with our hands when we take  
our feet hold.

We have a camp after a short stage  
journey it is very hard to get along and it is still  
raining with no appearance of abatement.

The land through this country is good  
for pasture and would make good stock  
farms. I don't consider it altogether safe  
to live in some of these places about the  
foot of the mountain in case of land slides  
in the winter months... it will do very well  
in the winter in summer and I think there is  
not much snow in the bottom in winter

LIGHT ORIGINAL

" We roll our provisions in the wet  
blankets and start down stream the rain keeps  
pouring down still and the river is rising..  
thick clouds hang on the mountains and the  
water falls down in torrents

Now is the time to see water falls  
from the cliffs that almost hang over heads one  
might say the scenery if it was fine weather  
or it is our idea are not of the Sublimity about  
this time.. and here we have a rushing stream  
to cross that looks as pretty well might take  
the romantic notions out of our head for the  
time being.. in crossing the Indians take  
the packs and we stretch a rope over so that  
we can hold on with our hands when we take  
our feet hold on.

We have camped after a short days  
journey it is very hard to get along and it is still  
raining with no appearance of abatement.

The land through this narrow is good  
for pasture and would make good stock  
farms. I don't recollect it altogether to be  
to low in some of these places about the  
foot of the mountain see case of land below  
in the winter months.. it will be very low  
in March in summer and I think there is  
not much snow in the bottom in winter.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

11

Wednesday 26th

We got an early start  
this morning, and as the rain has taken off  
the streams have gone down. So we hurried  
along as fast as possible to get across the river  
before more rain comes, as it looks as if we  
were going to have more of it.

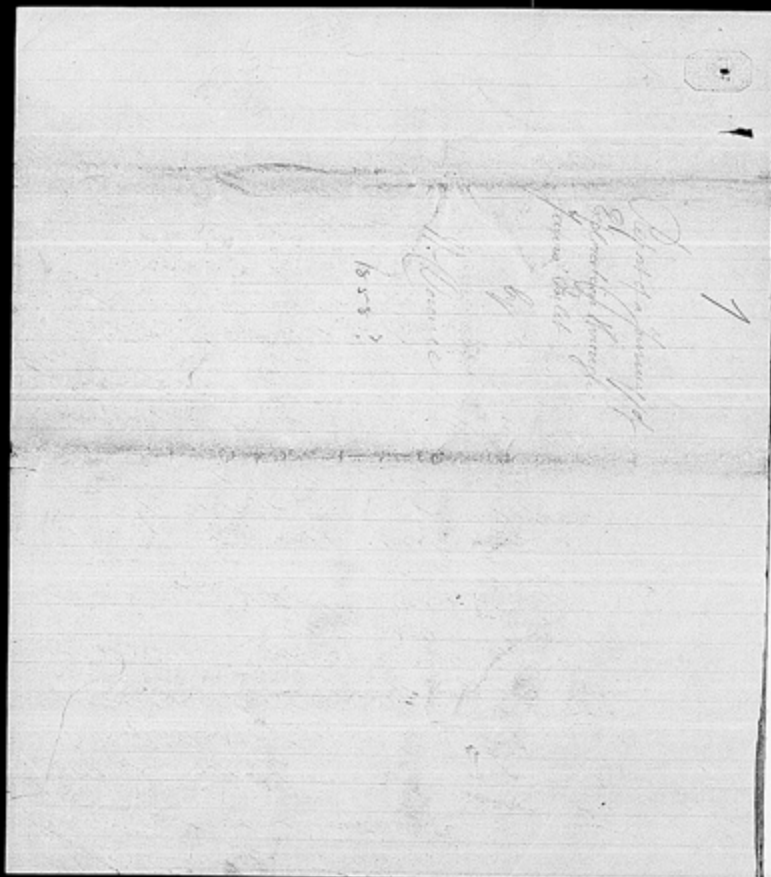
The trail we have come to day  
was over some fine land and good pasture  
and we need to cross the river in the quietest  
we going of we got back to the village  
in the afternoon. Mr. Horn said the  
Indians they was all well pleased got the canoe  
in the water and started for A. Amunio  
got down to the mouth of the Inlet next  
morning arrived at A. Amunio in the  
night of the 20th

Mr. Horn and myself have <sup>done</sup> what we  
thought was for the best

The above remarks is respectfully  
submitted to you

Excellent  
By your obedient servant  
William Downie

LIGHT ORIGINAL



LIGHT ORIGINAL

FILE 487

DOWNIE, WILLIAM  
PART I

COLONIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

PABC

Downie 21<sup>st</sup>

F407  
1a

To Col<sup>l</sup>. Moody  
Lieut. Governor  
British Columbia

Sir

Having returned to Victoria  
after a sojourn of sixteen  
weeks in British Columbia

I beg to make a statement of  
where I have been for the last  
month in Desolation Sound the  
Snow and Rain set in so as to make it  
impossible to start over the mountains  
from the Head of Jarvis Inlet to upper  
Fraser River for some time

So I thought it would be as well  
to go and see what the Klakouse  
Country looks like as I had heard  
a good deal about it

We started from the Head of Jarvis  
Inlet on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> for Desolation Sound  
in a small Canoe with four Indians  
Picks par Shovels and Locks came  
down the West entrance of Jarvis Inlet  
which is much better than the Eastern for  
Boats. It is shallow it is shallow  
looks and Reefs running out a good  
distance from the shore

It was refreshing to come down on the  
Gulf when the land had the appearance  
of Spring after being so long up the Inlet  
No snow on any of the Islands along the

Coast except Towada Island, Suway Island  
has all the appearance of Farms under  
Cultivation from the appearance of Grass  
on it large patches of plain Land making  
it look fine the water is scarce for Farming  
purpose but it will make fine Cattle  
Pasture for stock all the year round.  
The main Land from opposite this  
Island changes in appearance with  
regard to the rock formation I saw  
Lana Slate along the shore up to  
Sarah point I kept Crasting the rocks  
as we went along but have found  
no gold yet.

We got into Desolation Sound it does look  
somewhat desolated in a snow storm it  
will look better when the weather is fine  
so it wont do to condemn it upon the  
account of the name I am well pleased  
with the look in this section - this is the first  
time I have seen pieces of Sulphur  
it looks very much like silver at all events  
it is a good indication of rich Gold bearing  
Quartz. none of this the first I saw of it  
was a little square piece with an Indian  
I offered him a piece tobacco for it but  
he would not part with it I suppose  
if he got the size of it in Gold he might  
so I did not care much about giving  
him a high price for it as there must  
be more of it not far away

I came across a number of seams of  
the same kind it lays in the Duwacha  
the same as Gold and there is no doubt  
but further North the Gold is in the same  
rock. I may state I got from the Sea  
Board at the head of some of these Inlets  
at all events it is worth a trial. I have no  
idea that the Gold is confined to the Strait  
alone if it can only be found from the Sea  
Board on the River at the head of any  
of the Inlets the Country will soon be  
prospected. But Inlet Indian name  
(Tomathia) that runs so much further  
North than Klakoups has a large River  
coming in from the North West this  
River appears to be the most favorable  
for Gold. - I would have liked to have  
gone up there but the Indians would  
not go as they were afraid of the  
Cochitius tribe but the principal reason  
was that the canoe was small and  
that we were not altogether prepared  
to give it a fair trial. Snowing now  
at times and was rather discouraging  
so that upon the whole I concluded  
that it was not advisable to go to the  
Inlet for the present until the weather  
was more favorable and we were better  
equipped for the occasion.



Camp near the Klakoups Indian Village  
and they all paid me a visit as a  
matter of course. I gave them all a  
small piece of Tobacco and they seemed  
well pleased but they must have  
looked at our Mining Tools Canoes  
Chiding our Blankets and general  
appearance when they satisfied  
themselves in these things they told  
my Indian that I was not a Tyee  
(this was the understand out of any) my Indian  
told them I was a Tyee it was no use they then  
said a Tyee would have a large Canoe  
and lots of Blankets whereas there was  
nothing of the kind visible? only a Pick  
Pan and Rocker and what was the use  
of them among Indians

Appearance was against me and it  
was no use to ask them for time to explain  
myself or define my position as the Custom  
is now a days when I reflected that such  
was the way of the world I did not feel  
disposed to blame them or find fault  
with Klakoups Indians for judging at  
outward appearance upon the whole  
I got along with them very well in fact  
better than if White men had been  
with me I got a few Petates from  
them so that their must be something  
else than Rocks in Desolation Sound

He went up to the Alakoups Inlet, where  
the deserted Village is on the map, no Indian  
uphere it looks like as much <sup>like</sup> a deserted  
Village as it did when it was <sup>very</sup> ~~by~~ <sup>some</sup> time  
about 100 miles above this the River comes  
in about 100th East the sand washing  
out of the River has formed a large flat  
at the head of the Inlet in some places  
dry at low water we had some diffic-  
-culty in getting the Canoe into the River  
which is shallow being filled up with  
sand from the continual wash from  
the Mountains

We went up the River about 70  
Miles the Indian told me it will take  
4 days to go the head in a Canoe  
judging from the way that Canoes go  
up such rivers the distance must be  
about 150 Miles this would be a long  
distance above the head of Tarnish  
and the Quomish and would not be  
far from the head of the Lillooet and  
Budge River Hoytew Indian name it  
may be that this may be the best  
route yet it is very evident that there  
is a Gap in the Mountains at the head  
of this River which is not the case at the  
head of Tarnish but if a road can be  
got through how it will lead direct  
to the head of Budge River in the  
mean time nothing can be done

as it is raining and snowing all the  
time. the Land on each side is low  
as far as I have seen with light timber  
on it. I have seen more Black Sand  
here in half a day than I have seen  
in California in 9 years it looks  
clear and bright as if it came from  
Quartz there must be something  
back of this I am better satisfied  
now than ever I was altho I have  
never doubted the riches of the Country  
it will not be long before the Gold  
deposits of British Columbia will  
astonish the world seeing that it  
was out of the question to proceed  
further at this time we put back  
got a party salute from the Bears  
on the sides of the mountains as we  
were leaving the Indians waving them  
up by firing at seals so they gave us  
a parting growl we came down  
along snow broken and trying  
the rocks we did not discover any  
Gold altho the Quartz looks well a  
little further north say 10 miles there  
must be Gold in the same range  
of Quartz. pure seams of Sulphur  
of Snow shows itself in the Quartz

In coming down we came through  
the Island named Redonda on the  
Chart this is a fine passage and  
shortens the distance about 10 Miles  
in going to Klakou's Inlet so that  
there are actually two Islands instead  
of one as it is on the Chart the distance  
from Klakou's Inlet to Homathco Inlet  
(But Inlet) on the Chart is about thirty  
Miles but I could not get the Indians  
to go now in the small Canoe but  
they will go with me any where  
and I prefer prospecting alone with  
Indians to having Whitesmen with me  
They told me the Colours of the  
Water in the large River that comes  
in at the head of Homathco from the  
North West is the same as Fozzou's River  
We had a hard passage to Tananomon  
but got there all safe paid of the Indians  
and learned from Cap. Annot that he had  
forwarded supplies to Harris Inlet by  
Order of His Excellency Gov. Doxy and so  
that I am all ready for a start again  
Desolation bound if I had some small  
Boat with a Deck on it to make me  
a little more comfortable

Have the Honour to be  
Your most Obedt<sup>s</sup>  
William Downie

Nepvic 4. April 1859

Downie's box  
57

Copy

Speculations, Explanations

F487

Report of a journey of exploration  
through Seruis' Canal, north latitude  
50° towards Fraser's River.

To

His Excellency  
Governor Douglas

Sir:

In compliance with your instructions, I came to Nanaimo and was fitted out, as you directed, by Captain Stuart, for the purpose of exploring to ascertain if a route was practicable from the Indian Village, at the head of Seruis' Inlet, to the upper Fraser River.

We left Nanaimo Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> accompanied by Mr. A. House and several men from the above place: made a fair passage across the gulf to Gold Island, where we camped for the night. This Island is distant from Nanaimo twenty five miles, more North by Compass; from thence ten miles N. West to the entrance of

of Jarvis' Islet.

When I was on this island two or three weeks ago with Captain Smart, I washed a few pans, and found several specks of gold: it was then named "Gold Island."

The formation on the island is stratified sand, with a bed or yellow soil on top; it was on this surface dirt that the best prospect was found.

I have no idea that it would pay for washing: the island is better adapted for agricultural purposes, than gold digging: the timber is rather light, but the soil is good. — The Le Theatre Indians used to live here, until sunset, about three years ago, the Simpson came upon them one night, and cut off forty seven of their number; since that time the Island has been abandoned by them, and they now live in the interior on the main land. The island is about three miles long, and from half a mile to one mile broad, and will make a few fine farms, as the climate is delightful here, when it blows on the main land.

3

From the entrance of the Inlet up to the Indian Village at the head, we had a fair run; the distance is forty miles, and with the wind South, can sail up all the way; the average course is about N. East by N.

The average width of the Inlet is one mile; bold shores on both sides, with abundance of water for the whole British Navy to the head of the Inlet. As we go up, the slate formation passes in intercourses with granite for some distance.

But, as we proceed Eastward, the granite is pebbled, and then passes in State of very decomposition on edge, (which is the way it ought to lay in a gold Country,) forming Mountains which rise perpendicular from the water's edge. Spots of green and red can be seen on the Mountain sides, indications of Copper Ore, and there is a Quartz ledge about three feet wide at the head of the Inlet, which looks very well; I could not see any gold in it.

I do not expect to find much Mineral of any description, until I get away farther and beyond this

this Coast range of mountains, glaciers, and barren rocks. There are several small fresh water streams come into the Inlet, where there are plenty of Salmon.

There is an important item connected with Jarvis Inlet which makes it preferable to any other inlet on the Coast, from the fact of its running so far inland N. East, which, it will be seen, on reference to the Map, goes direct towards Fraser's River: the head of this Inlet is thirty miles further inland than the salt water in Howe's Sound.

Add to this, every natural advantage necessary for building a fine Commercial town, and, it will be seen, that it is well worth an effort, still, to find a road through this grand Inlet to the gold mines which will soon be opened in the far North West.

I will here make mention of a little incident with regard to the Indian name of this inlet, which is Te-theath: Te, is "great" in English, and Theath is "road," so, here we have the Indian name "great road," pointing us to this Inlet as the great highway into the interior of British Columbia.

J. King



Taking courage at this little  
 circumstance, we are surprised  
 with new hope to push forward  
 with vigor, and do what we  
 can to get a road.

Arrived at the Indian  
 Village, we were welcomed by  
 the Indians, all of them coming  
 out, shaking hands with us and  
 crowding themselves: they look  
 upon us quite as an improvement  
 upon taking rice at us with  
 their Comkets: they are poor  
 here, being poorly clad.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> - We left the  
 Indian Village with some Indians  
 all packed with provisions.  
 Mr. Hovey intends sending them  
 all back, except the guides, when  
 we cross the La Duaneish, as we  
 intend to, catch some of our pro-  
 visions. - The trail we have  
 come along this afternoon is  
 very good; it is a path, between  
 the mountains, and looks well  
 for agricultural purposes. -  
 We have come about eight  
 miles this afternoon, and now  
 we are camped on the banks  
 of the stream, which runs down  
 to the Indian Village. The water  
 is pure and clear, showing that  
 it

6.

it does not come off the glaciers,  
as I have taken notice that all  
the streams which take their  
rise from glaciers, the water is  
greenish white. We can see  
glaciers South East of where we  
are camped, distant about  
ten miles; these, I know to be  
part of the glaciers lying between  
where we are now, and the Le  
Quamish.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - The guides  
have taken us across and  
across the river fifteen times  
this forenoon; it is evident they  
wish to turn back, and they  
think to discourage us by taking  
us across streams and through  
swamps, where there is no  
necessity for us to go, as there  
is a good road all along on the  
right hand bank of the river.

We have not come over  
eight or nine miles today, the  
guides sitting down sometimes  
not willing to go ahead: they  
are all the time telling us about  
the snow that we have to cross.  
The weather which was clear and  
fine, begins to look cloudy: the  
road we have come today is rough  
in places: a trail can be made at  
for

far as we have come; the mountains here are high on either side, I would not estimate less than four thousand feet above sea.

The formation is slate with granite gravel: along the edge of these streams, black sand can be seen in abundance: Sulphate of Iron is plentiful in the slate rock, more so than I have seen it anywhere. - We still keep going about N. East, and the Indian day we are past our mountain.

Sabbath, 17th - We have not come far today; in fact, under any other circumstances, we would not have moved today: the trail had been rough, the horses bad, the Indian guides set down and would not move for Mr. Horne: I am afraid we shall have trouble to get them along.

It has commenced to snow and it is snowing on the mountains; this makes matters worse, at the Indian day, it will be impossible to go much further: as we were looking round for a place to camp, the Indians used a goat, trying to get up, on the side

side of the mountain; three of them put after it, and shot it; down it came, bounding from rock to rock, smashing it into fragments; the skin was tough enough to keep it together. The rain is coming down pretty fast, and if it keeps on, it will be a hard matter to get the Indians to go on with us.

But we are bound to go until the snow stops at Lakana, or, see Indians: one more ridge, and we go down on the La Pa-  
vish, and that will be over the highest of the Coast Range of Mountains.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> - Rain and thick; cannot see very far up the mountain this morning, a bare sign that it is snowing not far off. We have thought it was hit with a snow, Camp today, as the rain is pouring down.

I went up the stream to have a look, with two or three of the hands: the rocks and boulders look better up here: they are composed of slate and quartz, and they look as if we were being nearer a gold country.

Downie  
17

Copy

9.

but we must pass that ridge  
ahead of us, and get down on the  
La Poudre.

We returned to Camp with-  
out finding any gold: the fact is,  
I have not time expecting to find  
gold over any place we have  
come yet. I merely wish to pass  
now and again to please some  
of the men, as they want to see  
try a place here and there: if  
we are spared to get far enough  
East, into the gold country, it  
will be an easy matter to find  
out the rich places; in the mean-  
time we hope it will clear up  
soon, so that we can go ahead,  
as it is no use for us to try to  
go on with the rain pouring  
down as it is doing now.

Sunday 19th. At half past  
one o'clock this morning, the water  
came pouring down in torrents,  
driving us out of our tent, so that  
we had to look sharp and save  
our provisions from being swept  
away: this is a little the hardest  
looking sight I have seen for  
some time, and reminds me  
of the early days in California  
mountains, when I first went  
hunting gold, with this difference  
the

10  
in our favor now, that we have  
plenty of provisions.

I have consulted with Mr.  
Horne, what is best to do: we  
have agreed, under the present  
circumstances, that it is best  
for us to go back; it is sore  
against our will, but there is  
no help for it; the Indians will  
not go any further, it matters  
not what they are promised:  
they say they do not want to  
die yet, and that it is impossi-  
ble to go through now, as the  
snow will cover them; and  
by the way the water is rising,  
I am thinking we will have  
enough to do to get back, across  
the stream.

I suppose there is some  
little credit in making an  
honorable retreat, but do not  
like the idea of turning back,  
still I think, in the present  
instance, discretion the better  
part of valor.

We roll our provisions  
in the wet blankets and start  
down stream; the rain keeps  
pouring down still, and the  
river is rising; thick clouds  
hang

hang on the mountains, and the water falls down in torrents.

Now is the time to see water falls from the cliffs that almost hang over our heads; we might enjoy the scenery if it was fine weather, as it is our ideas are not of the sublimest, about this time; and here we a rushing stream to cross, that cools us pretty well, and takes the romantic notions out of our heads for the time being. In crossing, the Indians take the packs and we stretch a rope over, so that we can hold on with our hands, when we see our footholds.

We have camped after a most long journey; it is very hard to get along, and it is still raining with no appearance of abatement. The land through this region is good for pasture and would make good stock farms. I do not think it altogether safe to live in some of these places about the foot of the mountains, in case of land slides in the winter months; it will do very well for trails in summer, and I think there is not much snow in the bottom in winter.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> We got an  
early

early about this morning, and as the rain had taken off, the stream have gone down. So we hurry along as fast as possible to get across the river before more rain comes, as it looks as if we were going to have more of it.

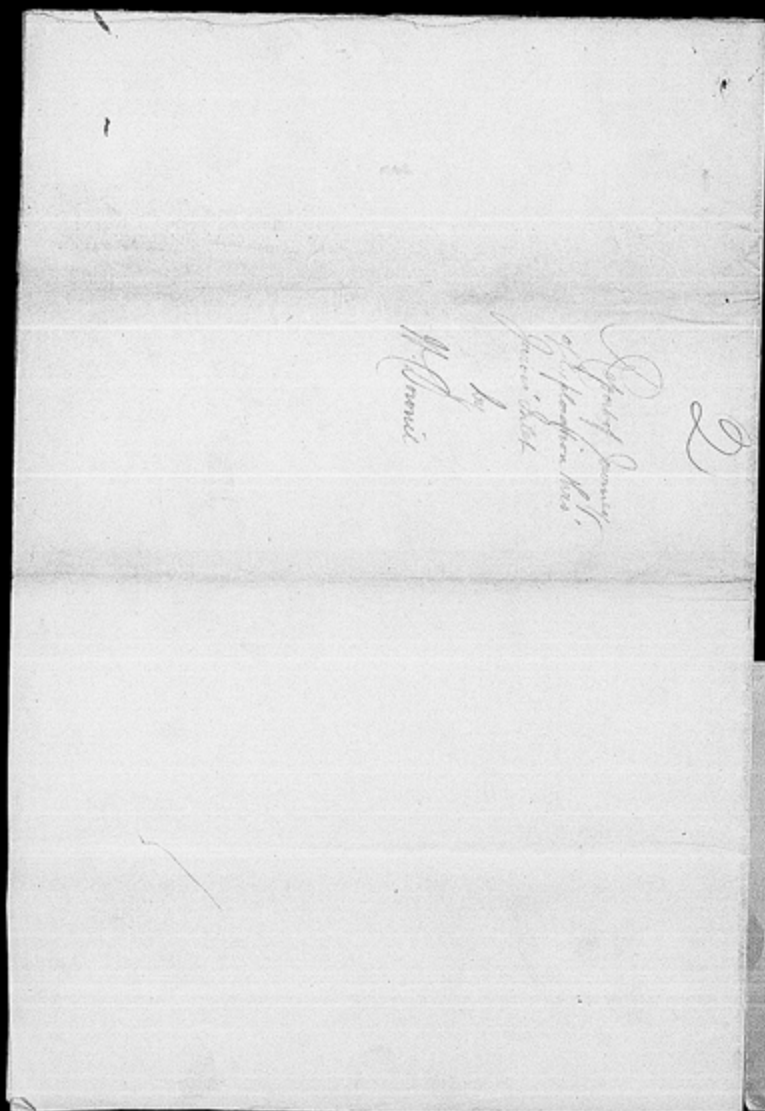
The trail we have come today, was over some fine land and good pasture, and we used to cross the river, as the guides took us going up. - We got back to the village in the afternoon. Mr. Horne found the Indians; they were all well pleased; got the canoe with the water, and started for Vancouver; got down to the mouth of the Sulist, next morning arrived at Vancouver, on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. A. Horne and myself have done what we thought was for the best.

The above remarks are respectfully submitted to your Excellency by  
your Obedient Servant.

/Signed/ William Downie





LIGHT ORIGINAL

FILE 487

DOWNIE, WILLIAM  
PART I

COLONIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

PABC

Downie

9.  
A

*[Handwritten initials]*

F487

To Her Excellency <sup>22</sup>

Governor Douglas

Sir

According to your instructions I accompanied Mr. McHugh round the proposed new route... we left Fort Langley the 27th on the Steamer Maria for Port Douglas, we arrived at the above Port in the afternoon of the 2<sup>d</sup>. distance from Fort Langley to Port Douglas seventy five miles the mountains along Harrison Lake with an average of 3000 feet above the lake, at the lower end of the Lake the water is shallow so that none but boats drawing a light draught of water can come to Port Douglas

we camped on shore and got ready for starting on the trail

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Left Port Douglas with four pack mules and one riding mule. the trail is what may be called a good pack trail, what we have come over to day, camped at the first falls on the Lillooet

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> To day we passed a large number of mines who expressed their joy when the mules were in sight by cheering us as we passed their tents, the boiling spring we passed to day is a wonder of itself, the water is so warm that you cannot hold your hand in it long. when the spring comes out there is a mass of conglomerate, the first we have seen on the main land, the mountains in our sight had to day are mostly slate mixed with Quartz, the color of gold can be got in places but <sup>not</sup> amounts to anything. arrived at the -

Landing at the lower end of Lillioot Lake, from  
Port Douglas to this point the distance is about 10  
miles, this is rather a hard looking place to reach  
so Mr. M. They procured a boat and we went up  
the Lake about two miles and camped the mountains  
to day are much higher, I shot them down three thousand  
feet along the Lake, the wind blows constantly  
down which will be greatly against the transport  
of goods on this route

Sept 5th. Started up the Lake in the boat, wind  
blowing fresh down at the upper end of the Lake,  
a strong current sets down in the stream that  
comes into the Lake, the land here is low  
and barks or if it had been overflowed in places  
camped on a sand bar

Monday 6th. Got under way and pulled about three  
hours in a strong current when we came into  
a shallow Lake not enough water for the boat  
in places, landed on the north bank of the  
the West Tributary of the Lillioot here we  
hired company with Mr. Young and his men  
they took the boat and we took the trail  
with our packs on our backs

There presents the first obstacle or obstruction  
on the new route from where we landed  
over to the road they are at work on is about  
three miles with about one mile of low  
swampy land. Besides two bridges that  
will be required to get over to the road that  
goes to Anderson Lake,

A trail can be made across the foot of the Lake  
on the low land as there is not much  
current and some timber standing that could  
be used for constructing the road. as we were hindered  
of course we could not see the best way to take the trail,

The first mile is over rocks then we came into good  
timber land for about three miles when we came  
to the Lillioot falls, and a grand sight they are, the  
first fall is about one hundred feet falling down  
into a black cavern that makes the lead reel to  
look down into it. take them altogether this  
will be about two hundred and fifty feet fall  
Leaving this we have a little rough trail, our course  
is about S.W. West about three miles above this we  
cross the stream and take our course through  
the valley that is that way away south after  
crossing this stream we lost the trail and camped  
for the night. Here we will have another bridge  
Sunday 7th

Change

Change

a good trail is now made  
before we start on Monday

After hunting round a while we got on  
to the trail on the banks of another tributary  
of the Lillioot followed this trail, about three  
miles when we crossed this stream  
one more bridge here we have come through  
some fine timber land to day and where  
there is not much appearance of hard winters  
we all camped near a small Lake out of the  
course a stream of water toward the N. with  
into the Lillioot, we think we have come  
about twenty miles to day our guide says this  
is just a number of Lakes here as we go south  
Tuesday 8th

Trail over rocks to begin with  
we are keeping the small Lakes on our left  
hand the mountains are not so high now  
as we come near the divide our course  
is about South with little variation  
good grass in many places to day the water  
runs South this afternoon so that we are now

Change

on the head waters of the Le Veau mist<sup>ing</sup>  
we have come about thirty five miles to day, a trail  
can be made all the way we have come  
Thursday 2<sup>th</sup>

Quartz

Crossed the river this forenoon  
where it will require more than one bridge  
to make it possible, the trail this forenoon  
is so bad so much so that it cuts a groove  
over our light prospects on the new route  
about noon we struck into a lagoon,  
or a large tract of overflowed land, the  
Indians say this was overflowed three years ago  
we found the cause of it as we came along  
a Lake has broken away in the mountains  
and swept away rocks, trees, &c. covering  
a whole forest of timber with rocks and sand  
for the space of 6 or 7 square miles, changed  
the course of the river, and not left a stone  
to be seen where the tall timber stood three  
years ago, our trail over this was about two and  
a half miles, we would like to go up and  
have a look at the sides of the mountains where  
they are cut away, but we have not time, as our  
provisions are getting low, and we don't know  
where we are going, camped at a small stream  
near the land slide, we think we have not  
come more than ten miles to day, the trail has  
been pretty rough till I think a mile  
trail can be made or far as we have come get  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup>

Quartz

Quartz

This forenoon we have come over the worst  
part of the trail, one more bridge it would  
almost seem impossible in some places  
till I think a trail can be made us-

X

x  
 Had dinner to day at a small lake, from here we have  
 some more rough trail through a rugged country  
 when we begin to descend gradually down to the  
 Meamish, a good trail can be made here on the foot  
 rise from the river... in fact this is the best feature  
 all along this trail, few hills to go up or down  
 As soon as we came onto the banks of the river  
 a fine country opens out before us, fine timber and  
 good soil, well adapted for agricultural purposes  
 This looks to be much better land than any  
 I have seen on Vancouver Island with abundance  
 of water and good fall for milling purposes  
 we have come down about eight miles and  
 camped without seeing any Indians  
 Saturday 11th

We left camp at day break  
 this morning and came over some pretty rough  
 road (this rocky place can be avoided by making  
 the trail on the opposite side of the river)  
 crossed the Meamish and came upon two Indians  
 in a canoe who jumped on shore and greeted their  
 muskets upon seeing us. we got them to come  
 over to us and they carried our packs in the canoe  
 down to a point where we had a mess of salmon  
 they told us it was two miles to the village so  
 we started for it. on nearing the village  
 fired a couple of shots, and we could see that they  
 erected quite a consternation as they came running  
 out shouting and cutting up all sorts of confusion  
 among the balls down in their muskets as  
 they got up an oblog to stop our going further  
 but we marched along taking little heed of them  
 up to the village, took of our packs and rested  
 our selves while they got on their powder going

Show this village to be the  
 village in the sketch the distance is 8 or  
 we can see the passage in the mountains  
 where the Meamish and the river meet  
 from the  
 2

W. M. Day gave them some tobacco and they put away their  
musketts. and went on for trading deer skins for tobacco  
or what they could get in the way of clothing.

W. M. Day got a canoe in exchange for a musket  
and we embarked in our skin boats, canoe close by  
as the water coming in pretty fast made us feel rather  
uncomfortable when we came to the rapids.

W. M. Day traded for another canoe  
as we came down the river so that we got  
along very well. passed another Indian village  
from them some tobacco and passed on  
here they had their musketts out hammering the  
balls down, as if they were going to blow us all  
out of the water.

From where we came upon the Indians  
to the salt water is about eighty miles  
just as far we came into the salt water  
the hills present a barren desolate aspect  
rather a hard looking place for a town  
where there is such a fine scenery back of  
this, now we are at the head of Howe Sound  
and the wind blew pretty fresh, so we camped  
under the mountain on the north side.

as we were anxious to get down without  
being troubled with Indians we started  
about midnight down the Sound,

we kept along the north shore  
and did not see any more Indians although  
we passed a large village on the south side  
of the Sound. we came ashore for the first  
at Gower point, in the north entrance of  
Howe Sound.

Sabbath 12th got underway for Nanaimo  
at 9 o'clock arrived there at 5 o'clock in the evening.

W. M. Day gave them some tobacco and they put away their  
musketts. and went on for trading deer skins for tobacco  
or what they could get in the way of clothing.  
W. M. Day got a canoe in exchange for a musket  
and we embarked in our skin boats, canoe close by  
as the water coming in pretty fast made us feel rather  
uncomfortable when we came to the rapids.  
W. M. Day traded for another canoe  
as we came down the river so that we got  
along very well. passed another Indian village  
from them some tobacco and passed on  
here they had their musketts out hammering the  
balls down, as if they were going to blow us all  
out of the water.  
From where we came upon the Indians  
to the salt water is about eighty miles  
just as far we came into the salt water  
the hills present a barren desolate aspect  
rather a hard looking place for a town  
where there is such a fine scenery back of  
this, now we are at the head of Howe Sound  
and the wind blew pretty fresh, so we camped  
under the mountain on the north side.  
as we were anxious to get down without  
being troubled with Indians we started  
about midnight down the Sound,  
we kept along the north shore  
and did not see any more Indians although  
we passed a large village on the south side  
of the Sound. we came ashore for the first  
at Gower point, in the north entrance of  
Howe Sound.  
Sabbath 12th got underway for Nanaimo  
at 9 o'clock arrived there at 5 o'clock in the evening.

The distance from where we struck salt water in the Sound, to Goose point on the Gulf, is about fifty miles with plenty of water in any kind of a thick and good shelter, in all kinds of weather.

The distance of the whole route I put down as follows

From the head of the Lillooet Lake to the de Mearnsish, .. .. .	75 miles
From there to salt water .. .. .	20 do
From there to Goose point .. .. .	40 do
	<hr/>
	135 .. miles

The trail which you would be less than the above of about twenty miles, I have thought it was best to put down what it is, as in many places the road can be taken through a timber bottom, instead of the rocks and some ones which will shorten the distance. Materially

I have put down the distances on the Harrier's route which are as follows

From the mouth of Fraser River to Fort Langley 110 miles	
From Fort Langley to the Falls of Fraser River 25 do	
From the Falls of Fraser River to Port Douglas 45 do	
From Port Douglas to the lower landing on the Lillooet Lake Portage .. .. .	40 do
To the head of Lillooet Lake .. .. .	20 ..
	<hr/>
	170 miles

William Downie

*Major Donny's report.*

*W*

2704.1857

FILE 487

DOWNIE, WILLIAM  
PART I

COLONIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

PABC



Downie  
14  
7 J

F487  
26

Sarris's Inlet. Janry. 25th 1859

His Excellency

Governor Douglas

Sir

I came from Pangina to this place about two months ago where we have built a house near the Indian village at the head of the Inlet. The winter has not been so severe as we expected although we had a few pretty cold days before Christ mas. The snow has measured about three feet where the cabin stands. The weather for the past few days has been delightful. when I am told again that the poor does not come in British Columbia I will presume the assertion a slander. The person that says so never land at the head of Sarris Inlet in the month of January.

The climate here is not so cold as in Kingston Canada West in the winter season. altogether it will make a fine town till if a good trail can only be got through to the gold mines from this point. I expect to come here about the first of March. To cross the mountains on the route we set out on last fall for the upper

LIGHT ORIGINAL

Prayer and say, my luck in prospecting for gold in  
British Columbia... I am in hopes that I will  
struggle on to some success some where about the  
head waters of the Willamette or Puget River that will win  
the good people of Victoria who I have the pleasure of

again visiting your good city  
I expect to find diggings on my way  
through the mountains to the head waters of  
Puget River... anything that may come under my  
notice of any account I will advise your Excellency  
of it as I know that you take a very interest  
in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the colony  
and prospecting for gold in particular and developing the  
resources of the country.

We had a Chinaman here on the street and  
water principle this was another Chinaman and my own  
humble servant I procured a small dog before I left  
Nanaimo. Small mixed but English, of that mighty  
Breed that has lived a thousand years the little, and  
the dog is this dog I say we stuck on our cabin in  
hopes of the first to be seen in the river I told some of the  
Indians a little about the dog and told him and I said  
a salute for the Queen Victoria and one for the excellent  
Governor Douglas and perhaps that will make a difference  
and I think I have got my share of enjoyment although  
I am a gold hunter there is one thing I would do again

that I go and visit in an Indian village unless I had good  
rich gold diggings but it would be long I will have to wait  
now and I have gained some little by doing here this  
winter as I understand enough of the Lushoot language  
to go alone with <sup>the</sup> them over the mountains  
this of itself is an object and will prove useful to me  
when I go there... I have sent to Capt Stewart for the  
last time of four muskets and a few things that  
I will require for the Indians in crossing the mountains  
as I am pretty well equipped with some good powder  
I do not ask these things as one that has a right to expect  
them for my service that I may render to the colony  
As I intend to be altogether on my own responsibility  
it is the pleasure for I am, not at all that makes  
me call upon Capt Stewart for a small advance  
as I would do almost anything in a honorable way  
rather than cross the Gulf before I see the diggings  
to come to Capt Stewart should not send the muskets  
would you be so kind as to send me some powder  
to send me some powder <sup>and a few pieces of iron</sup> as a matter of course  
I got well returned I beg pardon for the  
troubling your Excellency but it is the only thing  
for me now to let you know that all my available  
means is run out and I must get to the diggings  
and I would begin now on the face gold bar in these days  
I will write higher since I have written so long  
with my best wishes for your Excellency well  
fare I remain your obedient humble servant William Donnie

LIGHT ORIGINAL

Copy

Jarvis Inlet, January 25<sup>th</sup>  
1859

Sir

I came from Nanaimo to this place about two months ago, - where we have built a house near the Indian Village at the head of the Inlet. The winter has not been so severe as we expected - although we had a few bitter cold days before Christmas. The snow has fallen about three feet where the Cabin stands.

His Excellency  
Governor Douglas

The

The weather for the past few days has been clear and delightful. — When I am told again that the Sun does not shine in British Columbia, I will pronounce the assertion a slender. The person that says so never lived at the head of Jarvis' Inlet in the month of January.

The Climate here is not so cold as in Kingston - Canada West in the Winter season. Altogether this will make a fine Town Site if a good trail can only be got - through to the gold mines from this point. — I expect to leave here  
about

about the first of March - to cross the Mountains on the route we set out on last Fall for the Upper Fraser, and try my luck in prospecting for gold in British Columbia. I am in hopes that I will stumble on some nuggets - somewhere about the head water of the Lillooet or Bridge River - that will astonish the good people of Victoria when I have again the pleasure of visiting your goodly City.

I expect to find diggings on my way through the Mountains to the head waters of Bridge River.  
Omy

Any thing that may come under  
my notice of any account - I will  
advise Your Excellency of it, as I  
know that you take a lively interest  
in all matters pertaining to the  
welfare of the Colony - and prosperity  
for gold in particular and developing  
the resources of the Country.

We had a Christmas here  
on the strict cold water principle:  
There was another Kitchman and  
your humble servant: I procured  
a small Flag before I left Nanaimo.  
Small indeed, but the Emblem of  
that mighty Flag that has braved  
a thousand years the Battle and  
the Breeze. This tiny Flag we stuck  
on

on our Cabin in honor of the  
first Christmas in Jarvis' Inlet.  
I gave the Indians a little paint  
and ribbons and Scotch, and fired  
a Salute for Queen Victoria - and  
one for His Excellency Governor  
Douglas, and we tryed hard to  
make ourselvs understand that we  
had a good time of it. - Well, it  
takes but little to make a contented  
mind happy, and I think I have  
got my share of enjoyment - although  
I am a gold hunter. - There is one  
thing I wont do again, that is - go  
and winter in an Indian Village  
unless I have good rich gold  
diggings. But it wont be long  
before

before I will have to write more,  
and I have gained some little by  
being here this winter, as I understand  
enough of the Sochwilla Language to  
go alone with any of them over the  
Mountains: this of itself is an item,  
and will prove useful to me when  
I go there.

I have sent to Captain Stuart  
for the loan of four muskets and  
a few things that I will require for  
the Indians in crossing the Mountains,  
as I am pretty well scared out - to use  
a Yankee phrase. It is not ask these  
things as one that had a right to  
expect them for any services that I  
may render to the Colony. As I intend  
to

to be altogether on my own responsibility,  
it is the peculiar fox that I am in  
at this time that makes me call  
upon Captain Stuart for a small  
advance, as I would do almost any  
thing in an honorable way - rather  
than cross the Gulf before I see the  
diggings.

In case Captain Stuart should  
not send the muskets, would you be  
so kind as to drop him a line to send  
me them over - and a few necessities.  
As a matter of course - whatever I  
get will be returned. They pardon  
for thus troubling your Excellency,  
but it is the only thing for me now  
to let you know that all my  
available

available means are run out,  
and I must get to the diggings, -  
and I must begin now on the  
fine-gold bars on Fraser River:  
I will strike higher - since I have  
waited so long.

With my best wishes for  
Your Excellency's welfare

I remain

Your obedient humble servant

(Signed) William Downie



*Copy*  
Request for Exploring Expedition to  
the Coast of the Col., by Mr. William Downie.

Provision for small Baiton Cutter, <sup>with crew</sup> £350.-  
Do for provisions & articles for Indian 100.-  
Air Carriage of person, & personal effects <sup>with his own</sup> 150.-  
\$ 600

Victoria 9<sup>th</sup> April 1859

LIGHT ORIGINAL

FILE 487

DOWNIE, WILLIAM  
PART I

COLONIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

PABC

Victoria V. I. 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1859

William Downie Esq

Dear Sir

Your course of operations is now different from what it was when the Northern Expedition was contemplated, but which may <sup>by all</sup> ~~not~~ be entertained by all parties, will you please inform ~~me~~ <sup>us</sup> how the remaining portion of the supplies to the amount of £50 ordered for by the Government to be furnished by Capt. Staal <sup>from the</sup> ~~at~~ Kermanshah, is to be appropriated? ~~It was an omission on the part of~~ ~~all~~ ~~that~~ ~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~have~~ ~~understood~~ ~~about~~ ~~this~~ ~~from~~ ~~seeing~~ ~~before~~ ~~you~~ ~~left~~. Please upon the receipt of this, and before you leave for higher up the River, inform me <sup>upon the matter</sup> ~~about this~~ <sup>is</sup> that the Government may not imagine ~~from any~~ <sup>possibly</sup> ~~conclusion~~ ~~upon~~ ~~your~~ ~~part~~, about <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ ~~matter~~. Note when the articles are; what

they are, and in whose charge, so that they may be  
returned, reappropriated, or ~~in the case of the case~~ may be  
otherwise disposed of to best account.

Supposing it possible you may not have had paper,  
and write at command when you receive this, I enclose a  
sheet of paper & knife, and you always carry a pencil. —  
I am sure to reply in a sure way of reaching me.

24 July 19. Mr Downie states that one half of the  
amount of goods left him at Hushob in Caron  
shall <sup>be brought to</sup> be shipped to Mr Stuart at Roxbury,  
by the Boston; <sup>Goods</sup> Mr. did not receive them, but Foster  
took them back to pay the Ladrons and  
see the balance to and account to Mr Downie  
for them it. Foster is worth nothing.

Copy

Sirvis' Inlet January 25<sup>th</sup> 1859

Sir

I came from Nanaimo to this place about two months ago - where we have built a house near the Indian Village at the head of the Inlet. The winter has not been so severe as we expected - although we had a few bitter cold days before Christmas. The snow has fallen about three feet where the cabin stands.

The weather for the last few days

His Excellency  
Governor Douglas

days has been clear and delightful. -  
When I am told again that the Sun  
does not shine in British Columbia,  
I will pronounce the assertion a slander.  
The person that says so never lived  
at the head of Stovill Inlet in the  
month of January.

The Climate here is not as cold  
as in Kingston - Canada West in the  
Winter season. Altogether this will  
make a fine Town Site if a good  
trail can only be got through to  
the gold mines from this point. -  
I expect to leave here about the first  
of March, to cross the Mountains  
on the route we set out on last  
Fall

Fall for the upper Fraser, and  
try my luck in prospecting for gold  
in British Columbia. I am in hopes  
that I will stumble on some nuggets  
somewhere about the head water of  
the Lillooet or Bridge River that will  
astonish the good people of Victoria  
when I have the pleasure of again  
visiting your goodly City.

I expect to find diggers on my  
way through the Mountains to the  
head waters of Bridge River. Any  
thing that may come under my notice  
of any account I will advise your  
Excellency of it, - as I know that  
you take a lively interest in all  
matters

matters pertaining to the welfare of  
the Colony - and prosperity for gold in  
particular - and developing the  
resources of the Country.

We had a Christmas here on  
the strict cold water principle: There  
was another Scotchman and your  
humble servant: I procured a small  
Flag before Miss Manaimt: small  
indeed but the Emblem of that  
mighty Flag that had braved a  
Thousand upon the Battle and the  
Cruze. This tiny Flag we stuck on our  
Cabin in honor of the first Christmas  
in Horvis' Inlet. I gave the Indians a  
little paint and ribbons and beads -  
and

and fired a salute for Queen  
Victoria - and one for Miss Fekemy  
Governor Douglas, and we tried hard  
to make ourselves understand that we  
had a good time of it. Well, it takes  
but little to make a contented mind  
happy, and I think I have got my share  
of enjoyment although I am a gold  
hunter. There is one thing I want to  
again, - that is - go and winter in an  
Indian Village unless I have good rich  
gold diggings: But it won't be long  
before I will have to write more, and  
I have gained some little by being here  
this winter, as I understand enough of the  
Lochwilla Language to go along with any  
of

of them over the Mountains: this of  
itself is an error, and will prove useful  
to me when I go there.

I have sent to Captain Stuart  
for the loan of four muskets and a  
few things that I will require for the  
Indians in crossing the Mountains,  
as I am pretty well cleaned out -  
to use a Yankee phrase: I do not ask  
these things as one that had a right to  
expect them for any services that I may  
render to the Colony. As I intend to be  
altogether on my own responsibility, it is  
the peculiar fix that I am in at this  
time that makes me call upon Captain  
Stuart for a small advance, as I would

do

do almost any thing in an honorable  
way rather than cross the Gulf before  
I see the diggings.

In case Captain Stuart should  
not lend the muskets, would you be  
so kind as to drop him a line to  
send me them over and a few  
muzzles. As a matter of course  
whatever I get will be returned. They  
warden for thus troubling Your  
Excellency, but it is the only thing for  
me now - to let you know that all  
my available means are run out, and  
I must get to the diggings, - and I  
went begin now on the fine gold bars  
on Drazer River: I will strike higher

since



since I have waited so long.

With my best wishes for your  
Excellency's welfare

I remain

Your obedient humble Servant

(signed) William Downie

Downie's sheet -  
Report  
by  
Wm Downie  
25/Jan/59

Downie  
10

F487

Victoria, V. I. March 19<sup>th</sup> 1859

To His Excellency,  
James Douglas Esquire, C.B.  
Governor &c &c.

Sir

I have the honor to inform  
your Excellency of my return to  
Victoria, after a sojourn of sixteen  
weeks, in British Columbia.

I beg to make a statement, that  
I have been for the last month, in  
Desolation Sound. The snow &  
rain set in so, as to make it  
impossible to start over the mountains  
from the head of Jarvis Inlet, to the  
Upper Fraser River for some time.

So I thought it would be as well  
to go and see what the Klappan  
Country looked like as I had heard  
a great deal about it.

We started from the head  
of Jarvis Inlet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Feb  
for Desolation Sound, in a small  
bance, with four Indians, Pick, Gun,  
Shovel & Kocker, came down the  
West entrance of Jarvis Inlet, which

is much better than the Eastern,  
From Scotch Fir point, up the  
Coast it is shallow & rocks & reefs  
running out a good distance from  
the shore.

It was most refreshing to  
come down on the Gulf, where the  
land had all the appearance of  
Spring & after being so long up the  
Inlet. No Snow on any of the  
Islands along the Coast except  
Tarada. Savary Island has all  
the appearance of a Farm under  
cultivation from the abundance  
of grass on it. Large patches of  
farming land makes it look very  
enticing, but the water is scarce  
for farming purposes, but excellent  
pastures for Stock all the year  
round.

The main land oppo-  
site this Island changes in appearance  
with regard to the rock formation,  
Quartz & Slate along the shore up to  
Parah Point. I kept cracking the  
rocks as we went along but have  
found no Gold yet.

We arrived safe into Desolation.

Sound. it does certainly look some-  
what desolate in a snow storm, but  
will be better when the weather is  
fine. It will not do to condemn it  
on account of its name. I am well  
pleased with the prospect of this section.

This is the first time I have seen  
Pure Veins of Sulphuret of Iron it  
looks very much like Silver, at all  
events it is a good indication of a  
rich Gold bearing Quartz. North of this

The first I saw of it was a small  
square piece in the possession of an  
Indian. I offered him some Tobacco  
for it but he would not part with  
it. even if I gave him its weight  
in Gold. so I concluded not to  
care about it for a high price, as  
there must be more of it not far  
off.

I came across a number  
of seams of the same kind, it lays  
in the Quartz, the same as Gold, &  
there is no doubt, but further  
north there is plenty of Gold in the  
same rock. I may strike it yet  
on the sea board at the head of some  
of these Inlets, at all events it is

worth a trial. I have no idea that the Gold is confined to Fraser River alone, if it can only be found from the sea board, or on the Rivers at the head of some of these Inlets, the Country will soon be prospected.

Bute Inlet (Homathco) that runs so much further North, than this <sup>inlet</sup> Inlet, has a large river, emptying into it from the North West, this river looks most favorable for Gold and I should much like to have prospected it, but the Indians would not go, as they were afraid of the Esquileus Tribe, but the principle reason was, that the Canoe was small and we were not altogether prepared to give it a fair trial, it was snowing most of the time & rather discouraging for them, and not very pleasant for somebody else.

So that upon the whole, I thought it was best, not to go to Bute Inlet, at that time, but wait until the weather was more settled.

Camped near the Mla-Hocan Indian Village, they all paid me a visit.

as a matter of course I gave them all a small piece of Tobacco. They seemed well pleased, but they must have a look at our Mining Tools & Canoe, & general appearance, when they had satisfied themselves on these points, they told my Indians I was not a Tye (this was the kindest cut of all) my Indians told them I was a Tye, but it was no use. They said a Tye would have a large Canoe, and plenty of Blankets, whereas there was nothing of the kind visible, only picks, pans and old rocks, and what was the use of that among Indians.

Appearances was against me, and it was no use to ask for time to explain, or define my position, as the custom is now a days, when I brought to mind that such was the ways of the world, and erring man, I did not feel disposed to find fault with the poor Mlahocan Indians for finding fault & judging from outward appearance, upon the whole I got along with them very well, in fact better I think, than if there had been more

white men with me, we got a few Potatoes, from them, so there must be something else besides rocks, in Desolation Sound.

We went up to the Head <sup>the</sup> of the Inlet, where the deserted village <sup>is</sup> is on the Map, no Indians there now, it looks as much like a deserted Village to day, as it did when it was named by Vancouver. About two Miles above this, the river comes in from the North East. The sand washing out of the river, has formed a large flat at the Head of the Inlet, in some places dry at low water, we had some difficulty in getting the Canoe into the river which is also shallow, being filled up with sand from the continual wash from the Mountains.

We went up the River about Five Miles. The Indians tell me it will take five days, to go to the head of it. Judging from the way a canoe goes up such rivers, the distance must be about sixty Miles, this would be a long distance above the Quamish, and would not be far from

the Lillooet. The Indians have gone this route, to the head of Bridge River, (they say) it may be that this will be the best route yet to try, it is very evident there is a pass in the coast range here, that will make it preferable to Jarvis Inlet, or Howes Sound. If a route can be got through it, will lead direct to Bridge River, nothing can be done for a few weeks, as it is now raining & snowing, and it would not be advisable to try it.

I have seen more black sand here in half a day, than I did in California, in nine years. it looks clear & bright as if it came from Quartz, there must be something back of this. I am better satisfied now, than ever I was, although I have never doubted the richness of this Country.

It will not be long before the Gold deposits of British Columbia, astonish the world.

Seeing that it was out of the question to proceed further, we put back, got a parting salute from the Gripsley on the side of the Mountains, as we

down  
the  
river

were leaving. The Indians awakened them up by firing at seals, so they gave us a parting growl. We came down along shore breaking and trying the rocks but did not discover any Gold lots of Sulphuret of Iron.

The land on each side of the river is low, and will be overflowed in many places in Spring, but for all that, if a trail can be found through, it will not be difficult to make a road along the Banks of the river.

In coming down, we came through the Island named Redonda: this is a fine passage, and shortens the distance about Ten Miles in going to Klahow Inlet, so that there are actually, two Islands, instead of one, as it is in the Chart.

The distance from Klahow Inlet, to Homathco Inlet, (Bute Inlet, on the Chart) is about thirty Miles, but I could not get the Indians to go now in the small Canoe, but they will go with me anywhere and I prefer prospecting alone with Indians to

to having White men with me.

The Indians tell me the color of the water, in the large river that comes in at the head of Homathco from the North West is the same as Fraser River, and when I get up there I will be in or near the range of "Queen Charlottes Island", that's where I must get Gold.

We had a hard passage to Nanaimoo, but arrived all right. Price off the Indians, and heard from Captain Stewart, that he had forwarded supplies to Jarvis Inlet by order of your Excellency, so that I am all ready for a start again, to Desolation Sound, if I had a small Boat with a deck on it to make me a little more comfortable; besides, the wages of Indians, soon amount to the price of a Decked Boat.

I have the honor to be  
Your Excellency's

Obedient & Humble  
Servant  
Wm Downie

James Holt

Report

of March 57

Wm. Donnie

FILE 487

DONNIE, WILLIAM  
PART I

COLONIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

PABC

Downie Ltr

F457  
3

Sir

I beg to call your attention to the matter of His Excellency the Governor proposing me with a small staff for the purpose of exploring the outlet and rivers above Populations Sound with regard to the mineral resources of British Columbia the expense of Indians and canoe being three fourths of all the incidental expenses attending the enterprise.

I have the honor to be  
Sir your obedient humble  
servant  
William Downie

Williams & G. Young Esqrs  
Colonial Socy  
Victoria March 25<sup>th</sup> / 59

LIGHT ORIGINAL



Downie

F487  
4

This presented by Capt Dodd  
to be paid Sir  
No 86

Fort Simpson August 27/73

Having come here expecting  
to stay from Queen Charlotte Island  
I intend to explore the inlet on  
the coast of British Columbia  
south of Fort Simpson in accor-  
dance with the expressed desire  
of his Excellency Governor Douglas  
; having no anticipation of making  
this my starting point when  
I left Victoria

I take the liberty of  
asking a small favour of you in  
the name of the Governor  
that you will be so kind  
as to advance me fifty dollars  
in trade to pay Indian quies-  
cence till I receive  
orders from his Excellency for  
what I may require

Yours most  
obedient servant

to  
Capt Dodd

Wm Downie

- ✓ 20 lb Tobacco
- ✓ 1 1/2 doz Shitby Cotton Shirts
- ✓ 1/2 dozen Bands
- ✓ 3 lb Blankets 3/4 1/2
- ✓ 3 lb Bands
- ✓ 2 1/2 doz Pipes
- ✓ 1 doz Shirts
- ✓ 1/2 doz 36 in Cotton Gays
- ✓ 10<sup>0</sup> 3/4 1/2 Blankets
- ✓ 1/2 doz Shirts
- ✓ 2 lb 2<sup>0</sup> lbs
- ✓ 1/2 doz 1/2

LIGHT ORIGINAL

FILE 487

DOWNIE, WILLIAM  
PART I

COLONIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

PABC

Downe 1st  
12  
Herb 10

F487 107  
40

August Lake... Port St James Oct 10th

His Excellency Governor Douglas

Sir As I will have to stop here

a day or two waiting for a canoe to go down the

river and may not be in Victoria for some time

I beg to make the following brief report

on the 27th of July we left Victoria Harbour & it

on the Island known as Gold Harbour

Queen Charlotte Island the number of men on

board 27 well fitted out in stores for three months

the majority of the men being practical miners

arrived in gold Harbour Queen Charl.

Island August 6th all right we set about prospecting

without delay or we expect to see it shining in the water

LIGHT ORIGINAL

Examine the place where so much gold was taken  
out formerly seen a few specks in the small seams  
of quartz that runs in the Talisman state for a time  
party went to work blasting out in the small veins  
others went prospecting round the harbour

I got a canoe and went with a party to Douglas  
Islet that runs six or seven miles South of gold harbour  
with some little prospecting across the gold harbour  
lead but was unsuccessful, the rock is what is called  
Teph or hornstone with a few small seams of quartz  
looking quartz protruding over the surface, at the head  
of this inlet granite comes in but we could not find

any gold not that... next day we started up the  
Islets laying N.E. of gold harbour six going up here  
a white rock showed itself on a piece of a mountain  
and the old Californians say we must get see if  
that was the place where our fortune would be  
after hard work getting up we found it to be  
weather beaten sun dried granite instead of  
quartz... we satisfied ourselves and that is some  
compensation for a gold mine

We tried the inlet further up, came  
across a little black slate also a little Talisman  
but could find nothing that looked like gold veins

to the ship the men who have been at work  
blasting the small seams have given it up they say  
spots that we see on the surface was all that  
could be found, as they worked with it nothing could  
be found, the rock generally as far as we have seen  
is high & hard all over. when the gold was got  
had very easy and so much of it with little labor  
was in what is called an off shoot or blow  
now the question arises what are the gold veins  
and some of our men will say "Mars" rock and say this  
must be a main low cleve at hand & what are  
the gold veins from, it cannot be accounted for  
in any other way than putting it down as one of  
the many curious features so often found in a mineral country

2<sup>d</sup>

it is no uncommon off shoot or blow  
this is gold barter I have seen the same  
in California and when such a blow was  
much hundreds of miners would go and take  
the ground off for miles round about it  
and that it as they <sup>would</sup> nothing could be found  
only in that one spot say from fifty to  
seventy five long running I had not and  
when that was worked into fifteen or twenty  
feet it give out, it would not where it was  
found it could not be followed, and if it was  
worked into I have heard the said off shoot vein of gold

The men are getting discontented some of them  
wanting to go back to Pitivi. I talked to them  
about testing the island more a party agreed  
to go with me to the North side of the island  
in canoes and the party agreed to go in land  
for five or six days. We started in four canoes  
twenty two of us for Shidagata canoe channel  
came down to corner Kivian village, on the coast  
where we stayed for two days being well liked this  
point of land that runs down to the sea back  
of the Kivian village looks more favorable than  
any thing we have seen yet. I did some traps and guns  
and we did not see the dirt and the rocks and

could not find any gold, Sulphur of iron in abundance  
and where ever we went we found where some persons  
had been cracking the rocks before us the Indians  
here understand gold very well and can see a speck  
of gold in the rock quicker than I can.

Left corner village for Shidagata  
in our canoes and it is the wilds coast and sea  
that I have been on in a canoe none of our men  
much about hunting gold in such places as this  
five Indians were drowned to day I give them a little  
tobacco on they promised in the canoe they went  
out on the banks to catch halibut and that was the  
last of them, we got into Shidagata Channel

about ten miles from the sea is what we call  
the postage as it is dry at low water. The  
soil is more of slate here as we come North  
it is black with quartz, as we come further  
North it is granitic up towards Thidagoo  
we get into sandstone, Thidagoo is a  
sandstone and conglomerate we are now  
in a coal country, so that it is useless to  
look for gold here the land is low along the  
North shore sand flats, and gravel flats, we  
got in this part of the Island camped one  
night in Thidagoo village the Indians there and kindly

3

I can not here but with regard to the quality  
of Seamount say as I am sure judge of coal the  
formation around see to something like Navarin  
some of our party brought a canoe for the purpose  
of going to Port Simpson and we returned  
to gold harbour, on the way back we fell in with  
Capt Lawrence and his party from Port Simpson  
bound for gold harbour, upon returning  
to the ship we found the party that went inland  
had no better success than we had called among  
to see what was next best to be done the majority

wanted to go back to Victoria a number of us  
wished to be landed on the west end of Vancouver  
Island we called upon the Capt. Macmillan  
land us in any of the harbours on the west end of  
Vancouver Island. He said he was chartered to  
come to gold harbours Queen Charlotte Island  
and he would go no where else

I did not like the idea of returning  
to Victoria as your Excellency wished me  
to explore the whole of the mainland so I  
formed one of a party of fifteen in a canoe  
to go to gold harbours and started for

Port Simpson where we arrived eight days after  
leaving gold harbours, the land all along the west  
end of Queen Charlotte Island is low sandy flat  
and grows nothing about it bearing the appearance  
of a gold country, I have done with Queen Charlotte  
Island in the mean time and now must do my  
best to find out what is in British Columbia

I applied to Capt. Deane for a small  
advance of money not exceeding fifty dollars  
to purchase a canoe for Indian guides &c.  
He was kind enough to let me have it on your  
Excellency's account bought a small canoe



and as we had plenty of provisions from good harbours  
some of the men that came in the large canoe  
from Queen Charlotte Island agreed to go with  
me to Skinner River Indian name Lu An  
took our departure from Fort Simpson  
August 21st for Lu An the distance from Fort Simpson  
to what is laid down on the chart Fort Edgington  
is about forty miles the water level is of a kind  
which is similar to the mouth of Thoson River the  
salt water runs up about thirty miles from the  
mouth the course is about N. by E. about 100 miles

4th

See An. Indian names will be best for me  
 to use hereafter, as they are best adapted for an  
 Indian country, in fact I cannot get along with  
 any other .. we are past that coarse grand  
 quantity that abounds around the entrance  
 to Fort Simpson .. and into granite as  
 we come up the river .. low banks and flat  
 along the margin of the stream with  
 small hard timber and cotton wood makes  
 it look fine .. some good sized white oak  
 the first I have seen in any of the Inlets west  
 of St. Mary's River ..

quantity

oaks

depth of water

Woods drawing over four feet  
 of water cannot come up See An. more than  
 thirty miles .. it is altogether unlike the  
 left Inlets down the coast in this respect ..  
 I camped about one mile from an Indian village  
 at twelve o'clock of the Indian came to our camp  
 after dark and told me about their honesty  
 in the morning they were gone and sawing  
 my coat .. I may say this is the first time  
 the Indians have taken anything from me  
 however I will keep a log book for their sake  
 that tells about their honesty before hand  
 in future .. made a fire from a dog  
 with a fair wind the river is shrae even  
 full loaded canoes as the water is fallen  
 fast, camped at the mouth of a small  
 lake called Sconatoys .. as I wished to  
 go see all the small streams go I went  
 I got a small canoe and two Indians and  
 pulled up to a small fishing village  
 here the Indian showed me some christened  
 thursty and I was a little surprised to get  
 a small piece of quartz with gold in it from  
 the Indian this is the first gold I have  
 seen in this part of the country

LIGHT ORIGINAL

I got the Indian to go with me to a large slide of  
equate masses of rocks from the mountains, to  
be said this was the place where he picked the quartz  
with the gold in it. found some thin veins of very  
fine quartz on the edges of the granite, but could  
not find any thing like a rich quartz vein went  
up about ten miles further came on to some fine  
grand quartz could not see any gold, still I  
think gold quartz will be found here that will  
pay well. as I have not time to go over the  
mountains now to prospect I will go down to the  
canoe and get up the river as fast as possible

Before leaving this part I may  
remark that I think this is the East side  
of the coast range of mountains you will  
see by looking at the chart that the range  
heads out on the coast near Port Simpson  
75 miles this small stream is seventy five miles  
from the entrance of Lee An or Port  
Cassington below this a short distance on  
the North side of the river is an Indian trail  
to Port Simpson it is a low pass and the Indian  
says it is not fast to go that way

Here this about ten miles is  
a small stream called Joo on the South  
side here is an Indian trail to what they call  
Hilltop. on the Salmon river the South  
branch of Salmon river is called Kitchikan  
with regard to the harbours and depth of water  
on Salmon river I cannot say anything  
as I have not been there yet

We are now fair over the  
the coast range and the mountains ahead  
don't look so high, the current is strong  
and it is hard work getting the canoe along  
but we are strong to, and we get ashore with  
a good long pole and pull her along

From here we can get a few specks in the form  
the mountains look red quartz and slate and  
it looks very much like a gold country fine bars  
and flats and more clay in the bars as we get  
up. Camped near the village of Kitchikan  
as we were told we could not go up much further  
with our canoe upon the account of rocks I got  
in to an Indian canoe and started ahead with  
an Indian that could talk good chinook from  
Kitchikan, a number of canoe men up to travel  
with other Indians, these Indians told me that  
I could go to Mr. Mansour in two days from where  
the canoe stopped here I found the idea of going  
to Port Hayes or I knew Mr. Mansour to be there

But to return to get up the  
river. I got along very well in the Indian canoe  
and picked up some very useful information  
as I always can when I am by myself with  
the Indians. A large stream comes in from  
the North called Kitchikan where the Indian  
grows plenty of potatoes the land is good  
and well adapted for farming. coming in  
from the South is a small stream called  
Kitchikan, on the South West side of this  
stream is the Plumbege mountain, I had  
a small piece of it in my hand and cut a little  
with a knife scathed in the palm of my hand  
could not rub it all away it is as clear as  
patish, silver and iron some in veins of quartz  
I intended when I came down the river  
to take some of it down to you Excellency  
but I think it will not be this fall  
that I will go that way, near to this  
is the wild Pioner to go to nearly over  
grown with bark the Indian tells me  
this was done by Mr. John West a long time  
ago

LIGHT ORIGINAL

From here up to the village of Hittowan the land gets better all the way the mountains is further back from the river fine flats come away back four or five miles to the base of the mountain up on the sides of which can be seen the smoke arising from the Indian fires where they have gathered berries and drying them for winter... Now I went over to the fishing ground over fine land to a small river the Indians want kind and give me bear meat, invited me to build a house on their land and live with them as they said, it was all the same as Victoria.

From the village of Hittowan the prospect of gold is less below here a man could make about one dollar a day what is back in the hills that looks so well I cannot say and we have not time to go and prove them as the season is getting advanced it will be quite small then one company to prospect and test the hills along I see an end ought to be done unless the Government take it in hand it will be a long time before much is known of the mineral resources of the part of British Columbia.

But I think it is well worth prospecting it is the best looking mineral land I have seen in British Columbia.

From this place to the village of Hittowan the river is rocky and dangerous the Indians came I was in some near getting smothered and our own canoe got stuck from stem to stern our goods was saved and I felt that glad that none of our men were drowned.

Here we come on to the coal and this is what may be called a coal country not away under the surface what it cannot be seen without great labour and expense.

see  
manuscript  
WBC

coal

5th

coal

The river here cuts an extensive coal country where the seams run up the bank on both sides running in thick rows from three to twenty feet thickness some along side of the river where they are small, <sup>on the west side</sup> on the N.E. side they become large and good these seams in I went on shore picked up it and it is soft on the surface crossed the coal seams here more than one mile by long angling into the banks and it will be very easy to run Lanes on any of the seams has in mind that the seams of coal here don't run into a subtle mountain that will in any way hinder the working of the coal... but into fine banks of soil so that they can either be worked from the face on the banks of the river, or a back on the flats by shafts, I have not seen anything like this coal in all my travels in British Columbia or Vancouver Island nor on Queen Charlotte Island.

Here the Indians came down armed to shoot my Indian as they said he must be getting lots of blankets from me and this was their land we loaded up put our blankets in the canoe, and went and got down beside them on the bank without seeing any alarm give them a small piece of tobacco and looked as if we did not care for them, I found it best to take things cool when the Indians is in for a fight and this is the way I got along look as if I did not care for them and not afraid.

The land gets very low to the north when we pass here until we get up to the Forks or the village of Hittowan here the canoe will stop. I sent the Indian up to the village of Angelzoth for two Indians

LIGHT ORIGINAL

For guides and to pack my blankets as I have  
determined to go and see Fort Prosser, we have been  
twenty days from Fort Simpson although it  
can be done in one third of the time. Left the  
cannon and five of our company at the Falls taking  
two men with me and two Indians. Left at 11  
came up the small stream named Augalga. The  
village is about 6 miles up the stream  
stopped at the village got a few salmon  
and started on a fine trail thru a beautiful  
country for Fort Prosser crossed over an  
Indian suspension bridge and the land is what  
may be called port land we came across plenty  
of heavy loads with beaver and the trouble  
is we have got to eat beaver with them all  
for which they expect a small bit of tobacco  
our course to day has been about East came  
about twelve miles. The second day it rained  
our course about N. E. got along about  
twelve miles still in as fine a country as man  
could desire for swimming off to the South East  
can be seen a large open space I understand  
there is a chain of lakes away in here and  
I found out afterwards that this is the way  
to Fort Prosser however the Indians say  
we are going to M. Manson and will be  
there in ten days more so I let them go when  
I take an Indian for a guide as I let  
I let him have his way until I tell him to  
go. Fine weather this day the trail has not  
been so good the Indians came the usual trail  
over fallen pine, along the base of a mountain  
instead of keeping down in the valley where the  
trail is good, and the grass is abundant.  
our Indian started away after a great up the  
mountain but three hours made him come  
back in double quick time.

Fourth day came over what is called looking pass by keeping  
down in the bottom this can be arriving our course  
to day has been N. E. the land looks low to the  
East. North of us is a chain of mountains covered  
with snow distant thirty miles in this chain  
of mountains the H. H. D. has a trading post  
called Pica Post in the bottom South of this  
is the Indian village Kishipack along the  
bottom some see for past the Indian village  
Allagasonday further up is the Indian  
village Kithathisto still on see for some  
the Indian says we have not far to go now.

Fifth day one of our men came  
cannot get along very fast came upon four  
had looking Indians wanted us to open out  
our blankets and camp, got away from them  
as fast as possible but they were in haste  
to see Nara the Chief and M. Manson  
they told me M. Manson was not there where  
we were going but we did not think it desirable  
to stop too long came into a fine country  
with bottom wood and good trails.

There our Indians fired and we all  
fired off our pistols by the way a boy had been  
going with a stranger Indian village without  
loading up again, I don't do that any more  
here the Indians came swarming running with  
their muskets and knife bows and arrows  
when our guides told them who we were  
they submitted us with the French word Doyjone  
Doyjone from me came down to the fishing  
village Nam Glee and the source of Lee An

I thought we was not in the end to Fort  
Prosser the last two days as we seemed to be going  
to Fort North. here we are on the same river  
we left five days ago having come a distance of  
of fifty five miles when I might have come the  
most of the way by the river.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

Nass Glee on Leebn is about the hardest Indian village I have been in it was well for us that I knew the chiefs name as they would certainly have taken every thing from us. We got into the chief's camp and there they crowded round on one <sup>not</sup> side by side. This wanted my gun, another wanted my coat, another one my boots, take the cap off my head, and wanted that. William got afraid and thought we would be killed here for certain, I did not think they would go so far as that but they are the worst lot of Indians I have seen in all my travels.

The reason of their being so bad here is only a fishing village and all the bad Indians come from home to this place to catch fish and live an indolent life. Some season comes here to trade for fish. I have found out by this time that Nass Glee is the main dependence of Fort St James for fish. Staged all night in Nassas Camp, called up the blankets in the morning but the Indians looked as much as to say you want take them back with you, I give them some paint and tobacco, this pleased them a little but so many of them it was hard to please them all. The salmon is drying here in thousands.

Now what is best to be done to get <sup>back</sup> they will take every thing from us they tell us it is ten days to the Fort we have no food we might get a few Salmon I made up my mind to go ahead if I could only get Nassas the chief to go with me, the two men said they would go so I went and talked to Nassas give him some little things and told him I would give him a blanket and a shirt at the Fort if he would go with me. Nassas came with us we got a canoe and a lot of dried Salmon and started for Fort Fraser or some other Fort one of our Indians staged behind and it was near the way things turned out.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

6th

I was very glad to get away from an Indian village as Naas Glee. But if you could only wisher, we'd go again to examine the river from Naas Glee down to where we left the canoe. I am ready to go. I understand the river is very rapid in places from Naas Glee down but it runs through low land and it would not be difficult to make a good wagon road or a railroad along the banks of the river. The land around Naas Glee is first rate wild hay and long grass around the village all ready cleared, they don't grow potatoes here as I think they would steal the seed out of the ground just to keep their hands doing something. There is not any heavy pine timber in this part of the country. The canoe is cotton wood and only made for knocking among the rocks in shallow water after salmon.

The river is rapid for one or two miles above Naas Glee but from there we see the shallows and we pitch in with the will when we look at our small stock of dried salmon that has got to do three of us and two Indians for ten days. Hope cheer us on, and we were hard to get along in our old cotton wood canoe.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

about ten miles above Nass Glee is and old  
Kigian village called Whattatankauks as found  
here and the water is shoal. This is the last shoal  
water and from we all on what is called  
Dabine Lake going thru a fine country we  
came about thirty miles a day. The Lake is deep  
and wide... camped at a point... and was surpris-  
ed next morning to find a large canoe with  
French men and Indians at our camp and a real  
big Scotchman M. Calvin Hamelton from  
Fort St James on Stuart Lake New-caledonia  
on his way down to Nass Glee for the purpose  
of getting salmon... as a matter of course  
I was delight to come across him to find out  
where we were and where abouts we were steering  
for he told me this was Dabine Lake and the  
Fort we were on our way to was Fort St James  
and that we had a long road before us and  
thoroughly advised us to go back to Nass Glee  
and come up the river in the large canoe as our  
Indian Chief was going back with them  
and our biggest Indian would go no further  
than he'd been for his kindmen had told him  
that we had enough of Nass Glee at this time  
and our object was to go ahead I was afraid if  
I went back to wait on the big canoe going across  
the Lake I would be frustrated again in getting  
on to this side and I did not like the idea of going  
back to your Excellency with the same old tale about

I told M. Hamelton to use his influence with  
Nass to let us have the canoe and we would  
try it ourselves we got the canoe from Nass  
write a hasty note to your Excellency and pushed  
to try it without Indians M. Hamelton did  
not know we got thru Nass Glee he says he has  
had work to get along with them and he being  
the first white man that has ever come this  
way it was a wonder we was not reminded of  
our little efforts as they take all white men for  
Americans that are not connected with the  
H. H. D. Co. ... Did good bye and away we go  
for Fort St James without Indians we found  
out afterwards it was the best thing that  
could have happened as M. Hamelton taking  
back them two Indians had they come with  
us we must have suffered by starvation  
as it was we had a tight hull to get on to  
Stuart Lake... To day we made a fine  
run with a fair wind and up as far as Fort  
Hillmanus named after a small town in  
Ayrshire, Scotland, no one at this post near  
in the winter also fell upon our course  
from Nass Glee to Fort Hillmanus has been  
South East, the distance about fifty miles, the  
land good all along, long grass on the benches  
about Fort Hillmanus and it is a lovely  
looking place not the ground of a price some our  
were no signs of the hammer's head all through

LIGHT ORIGINAL



This beautiful land so well adapted for the wants  
of man what a pity to see it lying waste  
when so many English and Dutch men  
would be glad to come here and till the ground  
If to return to our canvas we get along with  
her very well when the wind is ahead we keep  
in shore and make the best of our way  
along through Dabine this is a fine deep  
Lake and broad in one place it is five or six  
miles <sup>wide</sup> plenty of Islands and points of land  
for shelter from any wind that blows  
the course from Port Phillipmaurs to the  
head of Dabine is about 5 or 60 miles  
only from the head down about thirty miles  
it runs East and West we had light winds  
and strong winds, and head winds that  
made us count on galley, and arrived  
all right at the head of Dabine on the  
seventh day after starting from Naas Glen  
we have not seen an Indian for seven  
days and we have got along very well,  
we have not seen snow for eight days  
and we cannot see any snow we have  
come through a fine country a large  
portion of it well adapted for farming  
as a matter of course there is also some  
rough land along the Dabine and  
this is a rocky shore before we come to the  
end of the Lake upon the whole it is  
a fine country.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

At the head of Babine a good harbour  
can be made and a fine site for a town  
on the sloping bank that rises up from  
the lake a small spring comes down that  
could supply the town with water... This  
is what I call the head waters of St. James  
river or Lee An the length of this lake  
is one hundred miles with plenty of water  
for steamers.. at this place there are  
two or three small houses for the purpose  
of keeping salmon.. when transporting  
them across the portage to Stuart Lake.

We packed up our blankets  
and started across the portage on a good  
trail through the finest grove of spruce  
wood I have ever seen, yellow leaves strewn  
along our path, give it an autumnal  
shade and appearance very different indeed  
from what any of us expected to see  
in this part of British Columbia.

We came to a small lake  
about six miles from the Babine where  
there were a few Indians fishing. As  
they did not know whether we were  
when they seen us but stood with  
their mouths open to see what we were  
going to do, I went in to the houses  
and told the woman as well as I could  
that we had nothing to eat.. we soon  
got a mess of fish.. that was a sweet  
meal without salt, we felt better now  
after paying the Indians we started for  
Stuart Lake about four miles from this,  
a little stream runs down from here into  
Stuart Lake fine rolling <sup>land</sup> along here.

Arrived at Stuart Lake and camped  
this is not any canoe here for us to cross the  
Lake.. and our salmon is not this is rather  
a bad lot for us to live in.. no Indians to kill  
us where we could get a canoe.. and nothing  
in the shape of food.. our shot is not tried  
to shoot ducks with small stones but was  
unsuccessful.. Camped here three nights  
going to bed to sleep off hangover in hopes  
that some Indian canoe would come along

It was only the one great  
and grand idea of the enterprise we are  
engaged in that kept our spirits up  
that of being the first party to explore  
the route from the Pacific to St. James,  
that will, at no distant day connect  
the Atlantic, with the Pacific,

And so far we have been successful  
this is something to think upon if  
we are scant of food in the meantime  
something must be done to get out  
of this.. we picked up an all-shed canoe  
William and I went about getting  
logs for a raft.. to place the canoe on  
I started off in search of herring back to the  
Indians.. they had very little but I got a few  
small herrings enough to keep us from starving  
for a day or two.. on my way back to camp  
I found my legs weaken and thought the  
sooner we got out of this the better for all

Got under way next morning  
on our frail raft expecting every moment  
that she would go down with us.. we put out  
on the Lake like good sailors none of us daring  
daring to move from <sup>our</sup> seats in case of upsetting  
the whole concern

A little breeze sprung up and the small sea  
washed right over us.. we had to lean away  
for the sea more., and kind fortune sent  
an Indian to succour us.. he welcomed us  
with Doryman and invited us to his house  
gave us salmon trout and they are good  
on Stuart Lake.. so here we are well off  
again with thankful hearts tried to buy  
the Indians canoe for blankets he would not  
part with it, camped with him all night  
as there was a fair prospect of something to eat

In the morning gave him a  
blanket and a few small things to take  
with to the Port abandoned our raft without  
regret and started in the Indian canoe  
with a fair prospect of getting to Fort St. James  
all along Stuart Lake the Indians traded  
us kindly giving us salmon trout and  
berries they are a good set of Indians, on our  
Stuart Lake.. got a small prospect of  
gold about half way across the Lake  
good land yellow with dried grass along  
the Lake shore, we came to the East end  
the land is rocky for about twenty miles  
on the North side of the Lake on the South  
side towards Fort James the land is good  
I am told it cannot be better for growing  
any kind of produce

Arrived at Fort St. James.. Now  
Caledonia Oct 27th and was received by  
Mr. Peter Pydon with that kindness  
and hospitality that I have always found  
at the H. B. Co. Posts.. where Fort  
St. James stands on a high flat exposed to  
the gusts of wind from the Lake is the coldest  
place we have been in since we left St. James

Heart Lake is fifty miles long - lying about S. E. and  
N. W. the Portage from Heart's Lake to the  
Bakine ten miles. Dakine Lake one hundred  
miles long about S. E. and N. W. from one end  
to the other to Nam Glee, two hundred and  
fifty miles from Nam Glee to Port Simpson  
two hundred miles from Port Simpson to the  
Hearts Lake. Charlton's Island which we  
started from in the canal.

I may have omitted some items  
and it is rather a hurried report but if your  
Excellency should desire to know more I will  
be in Victoria in a month or so, except from  
the time of which I will leave for tomorrow  
for Port George. I have rec'd from Mr. Ogden  
a small bill of goods in the name of your  
Excellency, as I had given my receipts to  
the Indians to get paid, hope your Excellency  
won't think that I have done wrong  
by so doing. The names of the two men who  
have accompanied me here is William Murray  
an English man and Frank Chottan  
a French Canadian. I will try and explore  
the shores a little more to let your Excellency  
know all I can when I come down. If your  
Excellency wishes me to follow this route  
into Canada I will go although it will  
be to late to go this fall.

I Beg to submit the above brief  
Report to your Excellency

I am Sir your Excellency's  
most obedient

Servant  
William Downie

Downie  
13

Dec. 15th 1859  
F487  
26

His Excellency

Sir Governor Douglas & Co.

I beg to make the following remarks in connection with my former report. Dated.

Fort St James New Caledonia

leaves  
leaves Lake

I left the above named Fort out 15th in one of the H B boats for Fort George, where we arrived in two and half days the distance being about one hundred and forty miles. The land along Skeena river is low, and lightly timbered with small pine, and cotton wood, untill we get below the Forks of Fraser Lake, where it becomes heavier timbered, and rises gradually

The rock formation is Slate, and Quartz, blue clay, and gravel banks, with a little prospect of gold on the banks and bars

The river from Fort St James to Fort George is shallow and not adapted for boats drawing over two feet of water. Flat boats carrying twenty or thirty tons can go up and down from Fort George to Stewart Lake.

The land about Fort George is not what may be called first rate for agricultural purposes the soil being light in comparison with the land west of this towards Fraser Fort. where it is deep, rich black, and well leaved although it is very well adapted for grazing cattle, there being large patches of clear land growing good pasture.

Here I left the 7600 lb boat and bought a small canoe for the purpose of going eastward to a tributary of the Fraser called Salmon river distant from Fort George about seventy five miles.

18 Dec/59

5

As I learned from a party of mines  
that had been up on Salmon river  
that the prospect was good.

The cold weather setting  
in one month, sooner than usual  
this fall, prevented me from going  
eastward, so we put down the  
river prospecting, the banks and  
bars as we came along, the  
prospect is small. In twenty  
miles below Fort George, below  
that, prospected flats that will  
pay one corner for day to the man  
with a rake, the extent of the  
diggings up here is not known  
as only a few claims have been  
worked from the mouth of  
Humboldt river to Fort George.  
we came to where there were  
a company of convict men to work,  
they had some diggings and plenty  
of ground. Having no provisions for  
winter they were forced to go below.

207  
607

The next company we came to ten miles further down had done very well.. having averaged two ounce per day to the man for three months.. they told me they had made as high as four ounce and seven dollars for day to the man and not less than one ounce since they commenced to work on the bar

this company went below not being prepared to winter.. and afraid of the scarcity.. in fact it is not advisable for men to winter up here until proper food can be obtained to keep away the scum

character of the diggings

The diggings up here are very different from what they are below Fort Alexander where they are confined to recent washed deposits of light float gold, on bars.. besides being very shallow only a few inches of pay dirt, one miner alone could dig more of twenty feet square in a day



And not get over four or five dollars,  
 after time, not three.. add to this  
 provision seventy five cents for the  
 and it is not to be wondered at that  
 why miners leave thousands of miners left these mines  
 last summer and went to where  
 they could at least get a living for  
 kept hard of that was denied them, with all  
 hard these hard work here

Then every miner you  
 came to was working for enough  
 discontent money to take him out the country  
 Canadian, as well as to California,  
 What a change has taken

place, in a few months, now every  
 change for man has got money, if he has only  
 the better hear to work two weeks, and  
 benefit from heaps in glowing terms for the future  
 of British Columbia, and not  
 of the country one word about leaving.. unless  
 member of to go to California, to sell out some  
 James old claim, and settle their business  
 and return again in Spring

LIGHT ORIGINAL

4

to  
But to return to the canoe

The snow set in with  
the frost and the ice, made in  
the still water, untill we  
got blacked up altogether  
in a small canon, about thirty  
mils above the mouth of  
Hessell river.

staring  
This was "clammie"  
unlooked for as we expected  
to get down to the mouth of  
the river, that night, and get  
something to eat. We stayed  
here four days without food  
digging in the snow for  
frozen berries. This was worse  
than Orabine. We succeeded  
at last in hauling the canoe  
over the ice and got down to  
the mouth of Hessell river

7  
The miners that were coming  
down from the branches of  
Hornell river spoke well of the  
prospect. several companies are  
wintering up this river. Having  
rich claims, they are afraid to leave  
them, in case they should lose  
them, by not having them represented

Here I met in with  
a man that had worked with  
me, nine years ago, in California.  
I asked him if it was as good as  
the old times. He said not quite  
although he had no reason to complain  
as he and his two partners had  
washed one hundred ounces, in one  
week, on Hornell river, and the  
prospect he thought was good to  
make a pile, next Spring.

Altogether, it was a treat and a  
pleasure to me to see all the miners  
so well pleased and so hopeful for the future.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

The extent of the mines  
in British Columbia are but  
imperfectly known as yet. as it is  
only this fall, that original  
deposits, were found on the tributaries  
of Humboldt River. Similar to the  
celebrated Blue Lead of California

The fact of finding the  
gold along the Lewis, the further east it is  
followed, fully demonstrates that  
the fountain head of the great gold  
belt, is in the Rocky Mountains

I do not say but that  
there is gold in the Cascade Range  
as I have found it. Still I do not think  
the placiers will pay for working  
at the present time. Quartz may  
be struck that will pay well.  
My opinion is that the base  
metals, will be more productive  
of wealth in the Cascade range  
of mountains than gold.

LIGHT ORIGINAL

100 miles  
S.E. of R.

From Fort George to  
Wassell river the distance is  
about one hundred miles..

and from what I have seen  
I have no hesitation in saying  
that there are good diggings  
on this portion of these mines.

price of  
food

Provisions are sold here  
at sixty dollars per hundred  
pounds for flour, bacon seventy five  
dollars per hundred.. Leaving this

30 miles, 2 R.  
L. R. C.

place we came down to Fort  
Alexander the distance being  
about thirty miles, the up

river

river, mule trains cannot go  
above this so that Fort Alexander  
will be quite a town next year.

Already there are a number  
of houses and several stores,  
and liquor establishments, a  
small accompaniment of rich-

LIGHT ORIGINAL

100 miles  
27 1/2

From Fort Geary to  
Wacoull river the distance is  
about one hundred miles..

And from what I have seen  
I have no hesitation in saying  
that there are good diggings  
on this portion of Thayer River,

price of  
food

Provisions are sold here  
at sixty dollars per hundred  
pounds for flour, bacon seventy five  
dollars per hundred.. Leaving this

30 miles, 20  
to the E

place we came down to Fort  
Alexander the distance being  
about thirty miles, the up  
river mule trains cannot go  
above this so that Fort Alexander

From

will be quite a town next year  
Already there are a number  
of houses and several stores,  
and liquor establishments, a  
small accompaniment of rich-

LIGHT ORIGINAL

10  
Gold diggings.. I score a  
fight or two here which is a  
sure criterion, that the  
diggings are paying well

I would just say a word or  
two with regard to the high  
rates that goods are sold at up  
here.. it is not the merchants  
fault that provisions are so high

In one word the  
Posters rule British colonies.  
the price charged by them for  
packing is outrageous the price  
of it was never known in  
California where the trails  
were bad and feeding barley  
to the animals.. Here the pasture  
is good requiring no barley,  
and good roads, for all that there  
is no abatement to their <sup>prices</sup> ~~costs~~

I only hope that I may  
 be successful in trying in  
 getting the Babine route done  
 so that the miners on the  
 upper Fraser will be able  
 to make a stand off with  
 the Walla, Walla Packers,  
 nothing short of opposition  
 from that quarter will check  
 them in their exorbitant  
 demands for packing, only  
 think of it 25 dollars per hundred  
 pounds from the little Lillooet to Fort  
 Alexander a distance of about  
 one hundred and sixty miles a  
 Dragoon trail all the way  
 and plenty of feed for animals  
 When I arrived at Fort  
 Alexander I was surrounded by  
 it's acquaintance to see the news





15

At Fort Alexander I got  
into a large canoe and came  
down the river about one hundred  
miles. there is little mining  
going on down to the Little Beltonet  
This is the Junction of the  
Fort Douglas route and is said  
to be a mountain town of some  
importance, or long. situated  
as it is, far enough down to make  
the climate mild in winter  
and high enough to be above  
the rain and snow belt.

The trail to Fort Alexander  
is on the opposite side of the river,  
and a Bridge ought to be built  
as soon as possible, as the Parkers  
have to swim their animals across  
the river now. Two points of rock  
opposite each other form natural  
abutments so that a Bridge could  
easily be built here below the tower

14

As I had never been through  
the canon... I was curious to see  
that, no fault, Gulf; where so many  
fine men found a watery grave.

So I rolled up my blankets  
and started down on the river's trail.  
Several miners <sup>are</sup> building small  
cabins to winter in, as it is too  
expensive to go below and come up  
again... in two or three months.

"for my part I would as soon winter  
at the little Lilloet Flat as any  
place I have seen in British Columbia.

There are few miners ~~at~~ work  
from the Lilloet Flat down to the  
Forks of Thompson River, the gold  
on this river is coarse and lumpy.  
... for all that Thompson River has  
got a fair name. I am of the opinion  
that the head waters of Thompson  
river will turn out rich and extensive  
digging in a short time.

15

From the Forks of Thompson  
down to Fort Gale, the mines  
are doing well... works is going  
on lively on the Selkirk, and Prousky,  
the diggings are more extensive  
than I anticipated. The China  
men are getting numerous along  
the canons, and pretty soon will  
have it all their own way.

I confess I would rather  
see the ore grown Towns of  
England, and Scotland, send out  
their Malvaat Sons, to reap the  
advantage of the Gold mines  
of British Columbia; than  
these China men, to dig the gold  
and take it away from the country  
"the best, and the most, that  
can be said of them is, that,  
they are consumers, to a certain  
extent. . . .

The cañon is a hard way to take goods up the river. Scarcely a day passes without an accident.

I seen one boat capsized the cargo went to the bottom as thousands of dollars worth, have gone before. The men cling to the bottom of the boat and were rescued.

Notwithstanding all the dangers of the cañon, men will risk their lives and goods rather than pay the exorbitant price for packing, that is charged.

In fact, the majority of miners cannot pay for packing so that there is no alternative

Go without supplies to the mines, or run the risk of your life in taking them through the Cañons -

#7

Foot Gale is a stirring  
business town, supported  
principally by the mining  
trade in and above the canon  
The head of Navigation  
I should say for all sensible  
men.. as the chances above this  
are about.. nine.. to one..  
about Foot Gale, the bars are  
getting pretty well worked out  
and the Pilots dont prove  
anything big as yet in general..  
Foot Hope is still  
hoping.. that something will  
turn up to improve the town  
The Steamers coming and going  
from here and the reshipment  
of goods for the up river trade  
will still, make Foot Hope  
of some importance

17

Langley is looking up a  
little New Westminster,  
is emphatically New  
Victoria, is Victorious..

In conclusion allow  
me to say a word or two concerning  
the rather nice route from Port  
Espringer, on the coast, to Fort  
George on the Fraser..

If this route can  
be made practicable for the  
transportation of goods.. as I think  
it can be, without much expense,  
it will be a very great benefit  
to the miners on the upper Fraser,  
and will tend to develop  
the resources of British  
Columbia.. far more by fine  
year than if there were no  
route from North

19

What are the advantages  
to be gained by the Northern  
route...? Goods can be taken  
by Steamers from Victoria  
to Port Essington, at the rate  
of thirty dollars per ton, <sup>if</sup> ~~if~~  
how far light draught boats  
can go up Skeena, I am not  
prepared to say in the meantime  
until I go again and sound the  
river... from Port Essington  
to the head of Skeena, a distance  
of one hundred and seventy five  
miles.. goods can be taken in skin  
canoes at the rate of sixty dollars  
per ton, until such times as  
flat boats can be built and  
the route opened.. from the head  
of Skeena to Lake Babine  
Portage thirty miles at most..  
.. say sixty dollars per ton



Lake Opatine one hundred  
miles long, by forty dollars per  
ton.. from Lake Opatine to  
Stuarts Lake postage nine miles  
a good wagon road by thirty  
dollars per ton.. Now the men  
can build boats cross Stuarts Lake  
go down Stuarts river to any part  
of the Fraser.. Stuarts Lake  
is fifty miles, from the postage to  
Fort St James, Stuarts river is not  
a dangerous river like the Fraser  
Although it is rocky and shallow  
at low water.. the cost of taking  
goods from the Head of Stuarts  
Lake to Fort George by  
eighty dollars per ton

The cost of transporting  
one ton of goods from Victoria  
to Fort George via Skeena River

Is as follows

	In tax
From Victoria to Port Essington	\$50.00
Port Essington to the head of Keema	60.00
Portage to Babine Lake	60.00
Lake Babine	40.00
Portage to Stewart Lake	50.00
Stewart Lake and <sup>Port</sup> to Port George	80.00
	<u>\$500.00</u>

By the Douglas route allowed  
to be the best and safest  
it will cost at the least \$1000.  
and that will be a great reduction  
to what it has been

Add to this miners can take  
their own goods by the Northern  
route in comparative safety  
when it is fairly opened and  
much upon the short portages  
I would however say to those  
who are thinking about

Going this route in Spring  
not to go yet.. untill I go  
over the route again.. and find  
out all <sup>the</sup> difficulties that is to be  
overcome in taking goods across

I wish to find out the  
depth of water on Ikeema.. the  
exact length of the Portage.. that  
connects Ikeema River with Lake  
Babine.. this is the only point that  
I am not certain of.. as the Indian  
guide took me round a mountain  
to their own village that I might  
give presents to these Indians..

Although I have an idea that  
light canoes can be taken over  
the rapids out of Ikeema River  
into Lake Babine at high water  
and the portage may be much  
less than I have stated.. more  
it cannot be. ~~it cannot be~~

Still I would say to all  
 merchants and miners not to  
 try this route untill I go again.

The Indians are numerous  
 on the Skeena River they cannot  
 be less then five or six thousand  
 in the fishing season and I would  
 not recomend them as being trustworthy  
 I do not apprehend any danger from  
 them as they all want white men  
 to come through their country. I  
 have made these remarks for the  
 purpose of preventing any undue rash  
 or excitement by the new route untill  
 such time as life and property will be  
 safe in going

I remain

Sir

Your Excellency

Most obedient and humble  
 Servant

William Downie

Victoria  
 Dec 18th  
 1859

Stuarts Lake  
+  
Report  
by  
Wm Downie  
18 Dec 1859

FILE 487

DOWNIE, WILLIAM  
PART 1

COLONIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

PABC

Downie  
15 Dec

Dear Sir

Expeditions & Explorations

Victoria V.I.

F487  
5

21<sup>st</sup> Janry 1861

Sir

News of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst  
is before me.. with the enclosed account  
requesting information regarding the  
same... and by what authority I  
have debited the Colony of British  
Columbia to the amount of three  
\$550 hundred and fifty pounds..

It asks that you may fully  
understand the whole matter fairly  
I will make a short statement of  
my connection with the exploration  
that I have been engaged in since  
my arrival in the colony..  
and what part I have taken in  
debiting this account to the Colony  
About the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept 1852

His Excellency the Governor  
sent for me to accompany  
Mr. W. Hays on a short trip up  
the Fraser Sound by the hill boat  
and down to Ilowas Sound I  
accordingly went with Mr. Hays  
and returned to Vancouver in 18 days from the time

W. Hays

2

Mr. M. Hay proceeded to Victoria  
in a small canoe with the men that  
were with us and paid them. I was  
not paid anything. not being very well  
after fasting I stayed in Nanaimo a few  
days. Left Stuart filled out a large canoe  
and started for Jarvis Inlet with Mr  
& Heame, I went along with them  
to see country. returned to Nanaimo  
in eleven days from Jarvis Inlet bringing  
two Lockwillia Indians the whale mounds  
in the canoe was twenty five.

Left Stuart man in his  
boat for Victoria I came down with  
him called upon His Excellency  
the Governor. told him if he wished  
me to go to Jarvis Inlet to try and  
find a route to the upper Fraser I  
would go. His Excellency said yes  
but he would not promise me any  
pay further than a fit out at Nanaimo

3

I agreed to go on these conditions..  
 Capt Stuart was then instructed  
 by His Excellency the Governor  
 to furnish me with an outfit  
 This was the first instructions  
 given by His Excellency to advance  
 me supplies that I am aware of..  
 Prior to this date there is  
 debted in the account now before me  
 £166.10.12.. and time of Capt Stuart £16..  
 boat hire & S.. up to this date whatever  
 is charged I have got nothing to do with  
 "I return to my own affairs"  
 Not expecting any men to go with  
 me from Navarino, except Indians,  
 I asked His Excellency if I might  
 take ten or three men with me  
 from Victoria to assist in perfecting  
 his Excellency consented with  
 the understanding.. that there was  
 no pay to be given, for the trip only  
 an outfit at Navarino  
 This I distinctly told the  
 men before we left Victoria, I found  
 a boat and provisions for the men from  
 Victoria to Navarino.. and did not  
 charge at the same to the Colony  
 of British Columbia



By Capt Nanaimo Oct 11th 1858  
for Jarvis Inlet, before leaving  
Capt Stewart read a letter to see  
the purport of which was that  
we were in charge of one of the  
Hudson Bay Companies officers.  
Mr Home we returned to Nanaimo in eleven  
days from the time we started.

An altercation arose between  
Mr X Home, and two of the men,  
on the main land, but no injuries  
were sustained by either party as is  
set forth in the account.

When I returned to Nanaimo  
I thought the matter would be dropped  
but Capt Stewart upon the complaints  
of Mr X Home, put two men in dross  
they got the dross off next day and  
came to Victoria; entered an action  
against Capt Stewart for injuries  
sustained at Nanaimo. The account  
shows the result the S. P. is charged  
with law expenses. was paid by Capt Stewart  
to obtain certain papers from Mr G  
Crosby, that were drawn up by the  
parties who had entered the action.

5  
I returned to Victoria.. called  
upon His Excellency the Governor  
stating my intention of going to  
Jarris Hill to winter for the purpose  
of crossing over land early in Spring  
His Excellency kindly  
advanced me ten pounds £10.. I went  
to Jarris Hill built a cabin being  
devoid of supplies, I sent a requisition  
to His Excellency for a small amount  
to enable me to cross the land to  
upper Fraser.. when the Indians  
returned from Nanaimo they brought  
me 20y lbs flour four Blankets a little  
rice four pounds of tobacco.. with which  
I started on the 22<sup>d</sup> February 1753 to  
Clyde Desolation Sound.. (and a few things  
I had of it) I returned to Nanaimo  
where I learned that supplies was sent by  
the Hook Jara in charge of Mr  
H. Foster to Jarris Hill for me  
I learned afterwards that  
Mr H. Foster brought the goods back  
in a large canoe to Nanaimo and  
that Capt Stuart told him to keep  
them as they were charged on the Book  
a something to that effect

I wrote to Jarvis & Co. to Mr. Foster  
telling him to see the goods and  
account for them. And was told  
by one of his men that I might  
have paid myself that trouble  
as they were doing so. and Capt. Stewart  
told him to see them.

I came down to Victoria  
in March 1853 from Desolation  
Straits paying a recognition for a diploma  
from His Excellency which me  
to explore the coast of British Columbia  
After waiting four weeks I was told  
that I could not get a boat in the  
mean time. So ever all that  
I know of the account now before me  
is debited to the account of British Columbia  
by the Hudson Bay Company.  
I would just say that the  
kindness extended to me by the  
Hudson Bay Company's officers  
in my explorations in  
British Columbia is worthy  
of consideration. Although I  
think my time fully irretrievable  
as any of the names on the  
account. So I hope you will not  
forget when the story is rich

7  
As I will leave this week  
for Fort Rupert for the purpose of  
exploring the N.E. part of  
Vancouver Island for minerals  
will you be so kind  
as to direct His Excellency  
the Governor to give me a letter  
authorizing me to explore  
Vancouver Island and British  
Columbia

I have the honor to be  
Sir

your most obedient servant

William Downie

William & G. Young  
Colonial Secy  
Victoria

1860 - 07

Report

21 Jan 1860

by

Wm Downie

Respecting £350  
charged to British Col.

FILE 487

DOWNIE, WILLIAM  
PART I

COLONIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

PABC

Downie  
11  
9

Recd 29 May 1860

May 29 1860  
F 487  
30

His Excellency  
Governor Douglas. C. B. & C.

Sir

I have the honor to  
acknowledge inform your Excellency of my  
receipt of your letter on the 16th  
of British Columbia and  
and convey what I have been doing the  
my hands past three months.

to Mr. Deane We left Victoria at 10 AM  
for the interior and proceed to Port Rupert for  
information the purpose of exploring the most  
convenient part of Vancouver Island for a coffee  
in this report. Port Rupert we got a canoe and  
and all that and Indians and put off to the  
I will have Islands lying between the place  
great pleasure in hearing of  
and the main land.  
The journey in which he is engaged  
has been of advantage to himself &c

LIGHT ORIGINAL

2

We failed to discover  
anything like copper after a fair trial.  
The abundance of iron Pyrites on  
the Islands in the vicinity of  
Fort Prospect has led persons to  
suppose and say that copper exists  
here. I am fully satisfied that  
no copper exists on any of the Islands  
South of Fort Prospect.

The land lying back  
of this is mostly a dense forest it  
is well known that coal exists here.  
South of Fort Prospect  
16 miles the river Nimtook runs  
into the Straits, 10 miles up  
the river there is a Lake, 25 miles  
long by following up a small stream  
about 15 miles, another Lake 15 miles  
long from the end of the latter  
to the waters of Northa Sound.  
The distance is about 10 miles over  
land.

5

The land as far as I have  
seen on the west side of Vancouver  
Island, is not what may be called  
desirable for the farmer; in fact I  
have seen none in all my travels to  
compare with the valleys on the  
head waters of the Stikine in  
British Columbia...

Unable to get round to the  
Scott, at this season of the year to  
accomplish anything, we stopped  
our course for Deans Canal, for  
the purpose of prospecting for  
Columbite in Bickers Canal. White  
heat, this we found, although it  
was a difficult matter to get up to  
where the ledge is, plunging down  
over the head through the snow  
the mountains almost perpendicular  
we scrambled up when the  
Indians staid behind and found



24  
The large the Plumbago here  
is gritted and strong on the surface.  
it may be a good quality when  
it is worked into... but I do not  
like the look of it now. I will  
forward samples of it to your  
Excellency.

We had some hopes of  
finding Linnatus about Deans  
Canal... as there are indications  
of that ore... but the mouth of  
the canal is not a very good time  
for prospecting for... on my way  
down I will have a better opportunity  
of looking Deans Canal a Dellewade.

The new Apple's can  
come for Port Simpson...  
as nothing could be done on  
Spain, in the way of prospecting  
the Plumbago until the discovery  
of the mountains..

Hearing, soon after, who  
 were up the Nass, last year  
 and reported the existence of gold.  
 I was anxious to see for myself, so  
 that I might report. Knowing that  
 your Excellency, takes a deep interest  
 in the development of the resources  
 of British Columbia...

I got a canoe and Indians  
 and started for the Nass. on leaving  
 Fort Simpson three or four miles taken  
 us into a narrow Inlet.  
 Longue land on the west side, and  
 Wester Canal on the East, commencing  
 into the Inlet about 7 or 8 miles  
 N.W. of Fort Simpson, this Inlet  
 runs about East 50 miles and is  
 divided from the Shina by a narrow  
 neck of land little more than  
 one mile. a few fine spots of gold  
 can be found on Wester Canal.

6

Observatory Hill

runs about S.W. and N.E., 50 miles  
up the hill. The name comes in  
E.N.E. 6 miles up from Observatory Hill  
the first water comes down the name  
this may be called the end of navigation  
the Salouchee Anchored here

More this the river is  
Mallon's River, Durr and Harts where  
the Indians are in the woods at this  
season of the year, catching small  
fish and making grease before  
coming to the Indian Village on  
Indian come off in a canoe and said  
we could go no further up the name  
we told off that we could not  
come to Victoria, he thought of  
this a little and said good you go...  
we camped at the village and they  
all seem to be good Indians

These are the large  
Villages here. The soil is good. The  
land is flat back to the mountains  
This place looks something like  
Fort Tully. The tide runs above  
this about 6 miles fine flats all  
along the river.

The Name is rather a  
hard river to get up we are the town  
here and poles. and try the bars as  
we come along. got up to another  
Indian village about 40 miles above  
the town one. here we thought we were  
getting into a gold country.

A Lava dyke is thrown  
up here similar in all respects to the  
Lava Dyke of California. which runs  
close to the blue Sea. The Falcon Hall  
on the opposite side of the river from  
the Lava looks well we tried the

8

Most likely looking banks  
and bars. and the best prospect we  
could get. Was small not enough  
to pay small wages...

I am a little surprised at the  
small prospect we get. The bars look  
well enough for gold. The land  
the soil the rocks all look  
favorable... but the gold is not  
here that will pay for working...

We got to the upper  
Village. The Indians are mostly  
from the interior. having come over  
land from Kishiqoto, or Snow-shoe  
Some of them from Lake Dakine.  
Knew me from being there last  
year...

Here we got another  
Indian and pushed ahead. The ice  
and snow along the banks of the  
river made it slow work getting along.

A few miles above the  
 upper village we come into a canon  
 this we found blocked up with ice  
 hauled the canoe over the ice on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
 this... came up to where a party of  
 men had done some prospecting last  
 year we tried this place and  
 found a little gold it might pay  
 two dollars a day to the man

Now we had had getting  
 along the ice three feet thick along  
 the banks still we wished to  
 push ahead to safely ourselves

After going about twenty  
 20 miles up the canon, seeing  
 little prospect of finding anything  
 like paying diggings. Nothing but  
 bare rocks ice and snow along  
 the canon we thought we were  
 justified in turning back

And in saying that the  
existence of Gold on the Nassau  
had been over-estimated, and the  
reports about good diggings on the  
Nassau were not true as far as  
we had seen... I could wish an  
ounce a day of gold on the Nassau  
but what if I could do that...  
Well that would not justify  
me in saying that there was  
diggings on the Nassau... The best  
product I have seen and that  
any of our party could get...  
would pay about two dollars  
per day to the man.

And we were up  
about 100 miles on fresh water...  
before we started down the river  
we went to have a look at the  
land back from the river... this  
is fine table land that runs

11

Away back as far as the  
eye can reach... for he it understood  
we are a long distance East of  
the coast range mountains... the  
land is what may be called good  
the climate similar to some parts  
of Lower Canada.

Lower down the river  
the climate is milder than Fort  
Simpson... the flats along the river  
is good land... seeing we could not  
accomplish anything on the river in  
way of making a future we came  
back to Fort Simpson... where we  
are now preparing to get the Thimble  
to prospect the Thimble eye if that should  
prove a future we will leave this part  
of British Columbia.

Fort  
Simpson  
May 8th  
1860

I have the honor to be  
Sir, your Obedient most obedient  
humble servant William Downie



1860 - 9  
Nass River

Report  
by May 60  
Wm Downie

FILE 487

DOWNIE, WILLIAM  
PART 1

COLONIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

PABC