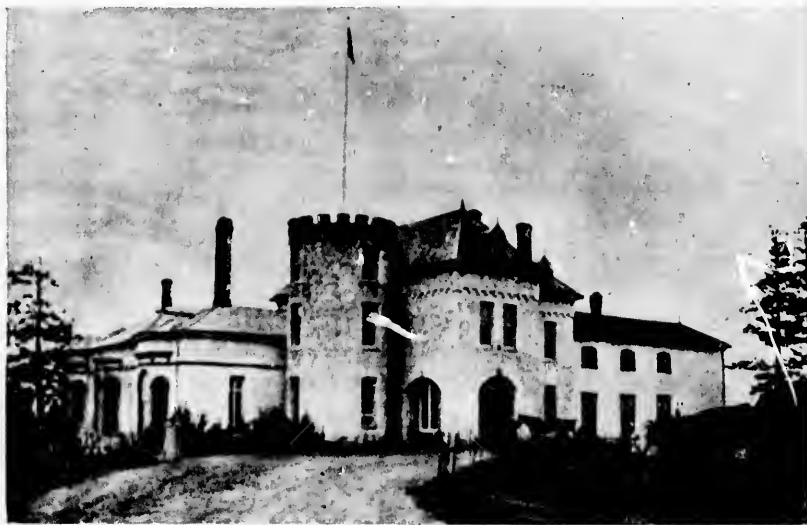


ing on his way north the entrance to the very strait in the existence of which he had averred his entire disbelief.

During the 18th century the British and Spanish prosecuted with more or less vigour the work of exploration along the west coast and many expeditions were despatched with a view to obtaining information concerning those wild, unknown waters. In 1774 Juan Perez set sail from Monterey on one of these exploratory surveys. Heading north he passed without notice the entrance to the Strait of Fuca and on the 18th of July sighted the Queen Charlotte Islands. On his homeward journey, it is alleged

believing that the latter was the one in vogue among the natives.

As previously mentioned, in the story of Captain Cook's great undertaking, which was given to the world in 1782, we have the first authentic description of an important part of the coast of British Columbia. Although Juan Perez had preceded Cook, yet little is known regarding the results attained by him owing to the fact that the records of his discoveries were never made public by the Spanish Government. Beyond the knowledge that Perez discovered the Queen Charlotte Islands and anchored in the vicinity of Nootka Sound,



Government House, Victoria, destroyed by fire in May, 1899.

by Spanish and American writers, he discovered Nootka Sound, and anchored in a bay named by him Port San Lorenzo, in honour of the Saint on whose day it was discovered. Some years later Captain Cook visited this spot, which he named King George Sound, after the king who had done so much to encourage among his subjects the exploration of far distant and little known lands. Cook, however, subsequently changed the name to Nootka,

which latter place was destined at a later period to play an important part in the history of this coast, we have little information respecting his expedition.

In succeeding years Captains Portlock and Dixon, Lieut. Meares, and many other traders and navigators, all more or less well known, visited and explored our coasts, many of whom have bequeathed to posterity interesting and valuable accounts of their adventures.