

AN INDIAN TOTEM AS A TOMBSTONE

place a large entrance or strait, the discovery of which they take upon them to ascribe to the same navigator, whereas nothing is mentioned in the account of his voyage than his having seen in this situation a large river which he would have entered but was prevented by the currents." While off Cape Flattery he writes: "It is in this very latitude where we now were that the geographers have placed the pretended Strait of Juan de Fuca, but we saw nothing like it, nor is there the least probability that any such thing existed."

After entering the harbor of the Nootka, Cook sailed northward along the coast, arriving at last at the upper extremity of the Queen Charlotte Islands. He did not, however, understand their insularity, nor did he name them. This honor was left for Captain George Dixon, who in 1787 examined the islands, naming and taking possession of them. His memory is perpetuated in the name of the channel of the wide bay that lies between Prince Rupert and the Pacific, and the name of his vessel is given to the group of islands as a whole. Among other trophies of his trip there were no fewer than 1821 fine otter skins.

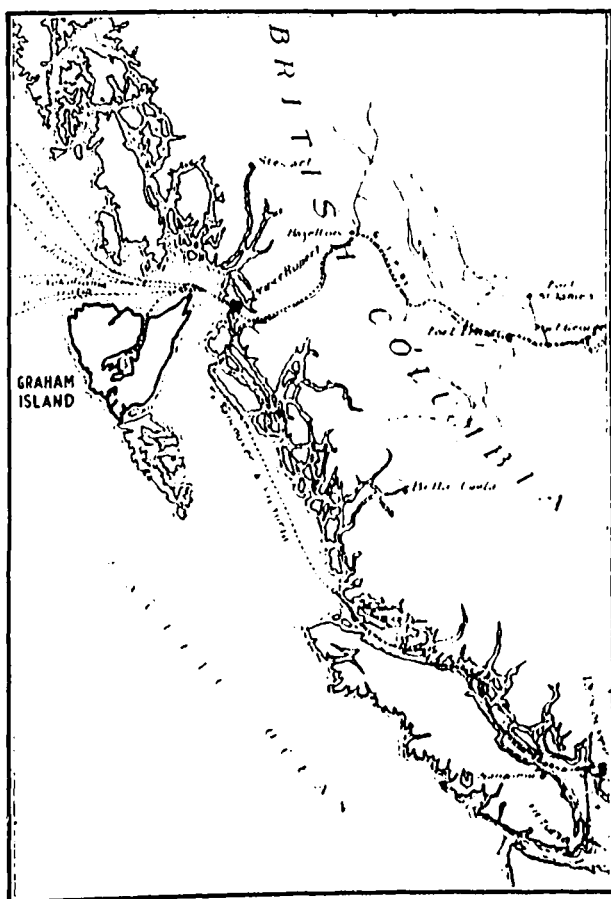
The following year Captain Meares arrived in the "Felice" and established a per-

manent headquarters at Friendly Cove, on the Nootka Inlet. Here he built a vessel which he used principally in exploring the inlets between the islands and the mainland.

In 1850 Joseph W. McKay and others, in exploring for farm lands in the vicinity of Victoria and Nanaimo, found traces of free gold. Immediately a great excitement broke out, and when later in the year a Queen Charlotte Indian appeared at Victoria with a bag of specimens, an expedition was undertaken by the Hudson's Bay Company, who in the summer of 1851 despatched the brigantine "Huron" to the spot indicated by the native. After several months spent in prospecting they failed to find at the spot indicated, but broke off a number of specimens of placer gold-bearing quartz from a ledge in the vicinity. In November, 1851, an expedition sailed from Olympia in the sloop "Georgina."

The year 1852 saw many expeditions fitted out for the Queen Charlotte Islands, and the whole country was covered with prospectors. Among these was Captain Mitchell in the brig "Recovery," who besides his operations at Gold Harbor, first opened up the coal seams at Skidegate.

In 1853 Commander Provost named the more northerly island in honor of Sir



MAP SHOWING THE RELATION OF GRAHAM ISLAND TO THE MAINLAND