

# PETROGLYPHS

## IN

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

The excellent photographs made by Mr. H. F. Shepherd, C. E. of the rock carvings at Sprout Lake are of great interest. Dr. F. Boas described and illustrated them so far back as the year 1891 in an anthropological journal published in Berlin, and therefore not accessible to the general reader. The figure and a condensed account are also to be found in a paper by Colonel Mallory in the 10th Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, Washington 1893, in which Mr. Sproat's early notice of them is quoted. Mr. Sproat called attention to them in his "Scenes and Studies of Savage Life," in the late sixties, and they were examined and sketched by Dr. F. Boas in 1889. J. W. Laing also refers to them in his article on "Exploring in Northern Jungles," in the *Overland Monthly* for November, 1897, quoting Dr. Boas. The latter was of opinion that they were the work of an extinct tribe of Indians, who were known to inhabit the lake a century and a half ago.

Messrs. Bolton and Laing themselves illustrate a rock carving on Great Central lake, which was already well known at Alberni, but their picture shows a much smaller area of sculptured rock and fewer figures.

The West Coast, however, is not the only region containing these early works of art. At Nanaimo, near the mouth of the river, is a rock face, nearly horizontal, covered with the figures of fish and of various monsters in outline resembling wolves and liz-

ards, but with numerous appendages along the back that are unknown in any living animal. These were photographed and reproduced in plaster of paris by Harlan I. Smith for the American Museum of Natural History at New York, an illustration of them being published in the *Annual Report* of that institution for 1898.

At Yellow Island, too, near Comox, there is a very large surface covered with rock pictures, several of which had, unfortunately, to be removed by blasting, when the lighthouse was first established there.

The attention of the writer was called to them by the crew of the *Quadra*, and with the assistance of the then light-keeper, a set of castings was obtained for the American Museum and a few duplicates for our own museum at Victoria. The figures in this case are unlike any of the others, and, so far as can be made out, are intended to represent the sun, stars, whales, fish, birds and various supernatural creatures having some resemblance to human beings.

Higher up the east coast, at Fort Rupert, is a set of shallow carvings on the rocks between tide marks. According to the Indians some of these are of quite recent origin, having been made during the lifetime of people now resident there. They are reproduced by Dr. Boas in his well-known report on Kwakwaka'wakw Indians, and he states