

lative opinion. The practical answer is given by the determination of intruders under any circumstances to keep what has been obtained ; and this, without discussion, we, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, were all prepared to do. It can easily be supposed that we spent many anxious nights in our remote, isolated position at Alberni. It was discovered afterwards that various plans of attacking us were at this time entertained by the natives ; and there, of course, were rumours of plots which never had existence. Happily, however, no disturbance took place, with the exception of a few individual brawls, and we gradually gained the confidence and goodwill of the people. On a rumour spreading that we had been attacked in our encampment, Governor Douglas sent the gunboat *Grappler*, Commander Helby, to our assistance, which remained at anchor for a short time near the settlement. During the stay of this vessel, several interesting and picturesque interviews took place between two neighbouring tribes and Commander Helby, accompanied by his guest the Bishop of Columbia.\* The Aht notion of an English bishop is that he is a great medicine man or sorcerer ; and they regard the sailors in her Majesty's ships as belonging to a separate, distinct tribe of whites. Being themselves all fighters, the Ahts cannot understand why the great King-George tribe should leave all their fighting to a few individuals.

\* The latter, I believe, sent home an account of one of these interviews, and it was published in some of the missionary newspapers.