



CHURCH AND MISSION-HOUSE, SKIDEGATE.

### *The Mission.*

The official name, "Queen Charlotte Islands," has become a misnomer for our mission, which is now confined to only one of the two settlements on the islands. Our work is restricted to the vicinity of Skidegate village, which is pleasantly situated at the south-eastern extremity of Graham Island. A magnificent sheet of water, the eastern entrance to Skidegate Inlet, affords an excellent harbour. The view from the village opens out on Hecate Strait to the east into perhaps forty degrees of unbroken sea-horizon. At the back of the village the foothills, thickly clad in sombre evergreen, rise abruptly towards the mountains of the interior.

The village itself, though well advanced in its transition from savagery to civilization, still retains some characteristics of its history. The rows of sixty or

seventy snug little frame cottages standing along the well-gravelled streets might give the impression of any ordinary thrifty fishing village. But just in front, a line of eighteen great totem poles, from fifty to sixty feet in height, and three or more feet in diameter at the base, grotesquely carved from base to summit, and surmounted by figures of huge birds in every attitude of alert watchfulness, seem to stand like grim guardians of a forgotten past. The fleet of forty excellent fishing-boats, anchored just off the beach, is mixed with a few slim, black, graceful canoes, from thirty to fifty feet or more in length, relics of a time not long past when these people had the reputation of being the best canoe-makers on the coast. At the back of the village, on a high natural terrace, stands the little white church, and just beside it the mission house. Less than a mile far-