

toward action of the emissary of the Spanish Government. It was in connection with this difficulty that Meares presented to the House of Commons his somewhat celebrated "Memorial on the Nootka Affair." The Spaniards eventually relinquished their extravagant claims, war was averted, and British supremacy was finally and firmly established.

In addition to the official business upon which he had been despatched, Vancouver was directed to explore the coast of the Pacific from the 35th to the 60th parallel of north latitude, and to keep a look out for the northwest passage. He was particularly ordered to examine

into the open waters of Queen Charlotte Sound. Arriving at Nootka, Vancouver and the Spanish Commander, Quadra, compared together the notes and charts of their voyages through the Strait of Fuca; and it was agreed between them that the great island which that arm of the sea separated from the American continent should bear the names of both. And thus it appeared on maps and charts for many years as the Island of Quadra and Vancouver, although the former name has now been dropped, and it is known to the world simply as Vancouver Island.

Vancouver departed on his homeward voyage in 1794. During the years he



The old jail, Bastion Square, Victoria, since pulled down.

with great care the Strait of Juan de Fuca. After a futile search for the mouth of the Columbia River, which was subsequently discovered by Captain Gray, after whose vessel this magnificent river was named, Vancouver proceeded to survey the Strait of Fuca. On the 22nd of June, 1792, as he was returning from Jervis Inlet he met the *Sutil* and *Mexicana*, two Spanish men-of-war, in command of Galiano and Valdes. Vancouver received a most courteous reception and information was exchanged in the most friendly manner. Then separating, Vancouver threaded his way through the islands of the Gulf of Georgia and Johnstone Strait, sailing at last

spent in the northwest American waters he was indefatigable in prosecuting the surveys, for which his name has since become justly famous. The explorations which he carried to such a successful issue have not been excelled by any other navigator. They were faithfully and thoroughly performed. The charts and plans drawn under his direction will always stand a lasting monument to the patience and industry displayed by this great navigator, often under very adverse circumstances. Vancouver died in May, 1798, completely worn out with his labours, before his report was quite finished.

It is impossible in the space allotted