

net. These stone totems, varying in size from six inches to three feet in height, can be purchased in Victoria, and they are an odd and attractive ornament to any library room and a most desirable addition to a collection of bri-a-brac and curiosities.



PUGET SOUND CANOE GRAVE.

It is difficult to learn the significance of most aboriginal customs. It takes a long time to so ingratiate oneself into the good favor of an Indian that he will converse freely on these subjects, and, besides this, but few in a tribe know what is the origin or meaning of the various ceremonies and customs. One thing is observable everywhere, a reverence for the dead. The burial places seem to be consecrated ground and often much care is taken of them. Interference with them has not infrequently been the cause of trouble between whites and Indians.

The Nootkas and the Indians of Puget sound do not practice cremation, but generally deposit the bodies of the dead in canoes raised on poles or upon platforms in the trees, first securely wrapping them in mats or bark. The Indians of the interior, who do not have canoes, generally build little sheds or elevated platforms on a picturesque knoll, where the well-wrapped bodies of the dead are laid. About these a paling of pickets is often constructed and streamers of colored cloth not infrequently flutter from them or from poles planted in the ground, though this may be done to dis-

courage the birds from making these airy sepulchers an abiding place.

There are a few well known localities that have apparently been used for many years as a home of the dead. Several such are familiar to travelers on the Columbia river, such as Mamaloose and other islands. The former is a beautiful island a short distance below the dalles, its name being a word of the Chinook jargon signifying interchangeably "killed," "dead," "to die," "to kill," etc. Upon this island is an immense heap of bones and grinning skulls, the sheds they once were deposited in having been demolished by time and the elements. Upon this lonely island is, also, the grave of a white man, suitably marked, the last resting place of Victor Trevitt, a pioneer of Oregon well-known everywhere. He was an old resident of The Dalles, and upon his decease a few years ago, was, at his special request, buried on this island where the ceaseless flow of the Columbia guards his final home from intrusion. Bradford's island lies opposite the lower cascades, and



OLD CEMETERY ON BRADFORD'S ISLAND, COLUMBIA RIVER.

in places the ground is covered with bones and skulls. Coffin island lies a short distance below the point where the Northern Pacific ferry crosses the river, and is passed daily by the steamers plying between Portland

*Continued on page 10.*