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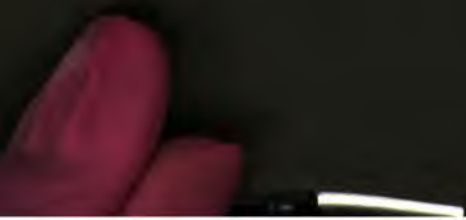
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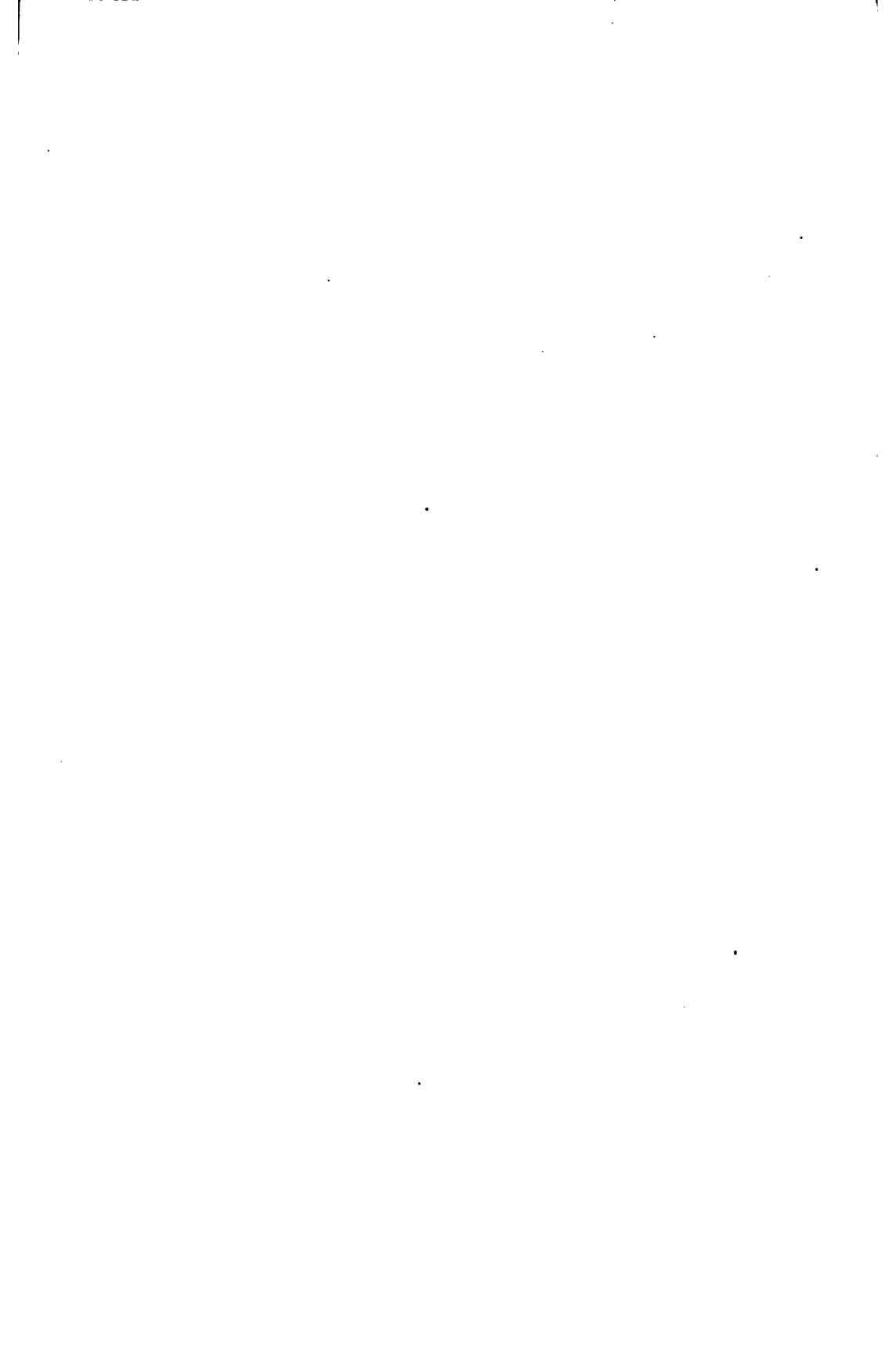
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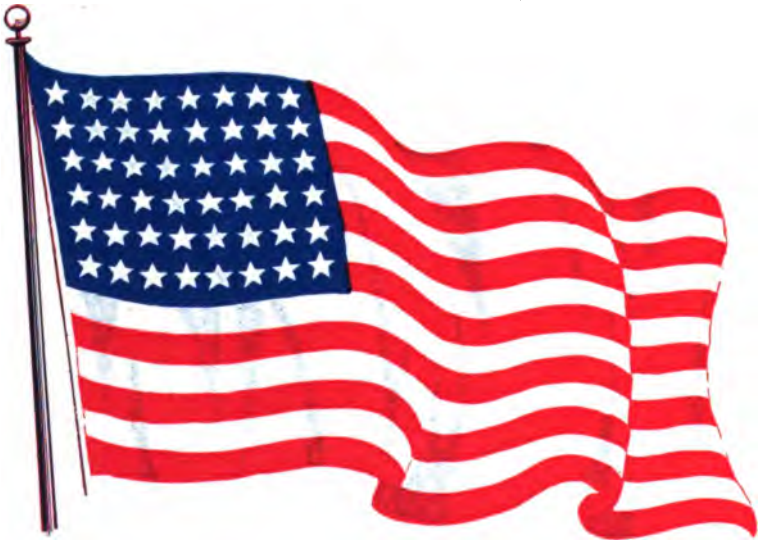
**ORIGIN AND HISTORY
OF THE AMERICAN FLAG**

“When the standard of the Union is raised and waves over my head — the standard which Washington planted on the ramparts of the Constitution, God forbid that I should inquire whom the people have commissioned to unfurl it, and bear it up; I only ask in what manner, as an humble individual, I can best discharge my duty in defending it.”

DANIEL WEBSTER.

“There are two things holy, — the flag which represents military honor, and the law which represents the national right.”

VICTOR HUGO.



ORIGIN AND HISTORY
of
The AMERICAN FLAG

AND OF THE
NAVAL AND YACHT-CLUB SIGNALS, SEALS, AND ARMS,
AND PRINCIPAL NATIONAL SONGS OF
THE UNITED STATES,

With a Chronicle

OF
THE SYMBOLS, STANDARDS, BANNERS, AND FLAGS OF
ANCIENT AND MODERN NATIONS.

BY

GEO. HENRY PREBLE,
REAR-ADMIRAL U. S. N.

NEW EDITION IN TWO VOLUMES.

SUPPLEMENTED BY

CHARLES EDWARD ASNIS, A.M., LL.B.

VOL. I.

Philadelphia NICHOLAS L. BROWN *MCMXVII*

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1917

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PHILADELPHIA.

“Not to the Living, but to the Dead”

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

TO THE

MEMORY OF THOSE GALLANT SPIRITS

***WHO, BY LAND OR SEA, HAVE FOUGHT,
CONQUERED,***

OR

Fallen in Defence

OF

THE BANNER WHICH IT COMMEMORATES.

"This is a maxim which I have received by hereditary tradition, not only from my father, but also from my grandfather and his ancestors, that, after what I owe to God, nothing should be more dear or sacred than the love and respect I owe to my country."—DETHOU.

"Land of my birth! thy glorious stars
Float over shore and sea,
Made sacred by a thousand scars
They were not born to flee;
Oh may that flag for ever wave
Where dwell the patriot and the brave,
Till all the earth be free:
Yet still the shrine be here, as now,
Where freeman, pilgrim-like, shall bow."

"There is the national flag! He must be cold, indeed, who can look upon its folds rippling in the breeze without pride of country. If he be in a foreign land, the flag is companionship, and country itself, with all its endearments. Who, as he sees it, can think of a State merely? Whose eye, once fastened upon its radiant trophies, can fail to recognize the image of the whole nation? It has been called 'a floating piece of poetry;' and yet I know not if it have any intrinsic beauty beyond other ensigns. Its highest beauty is in what it symbolizes. It is because it represents all, that all gaze at it with delight and reverence. It is a piece of bunting lifted in the air; but it speaks sublimely, and every part has a voice. Its stripes of alternate red and white proclaim the original *union* of thirteen States to maintain the Declaration of Independence. Its stars, white on a field of blue, proclaim that *union* of States constituting our national constellation which receives a new star with every new State. The two together signify union, past and present. The very colors have a language which was officially recognized by our fathers. White is for purity; red, for valor; blue, for justice; and all together—bunting, stripes, stars, and colors, blazing in the sky—make the flag of our country, to be cherished by all our hearts, to be upheld by all our hands."—CHARLES SUMNER.

"I have seen the glories of art and architecture, and mountain and river; I have seen the sunset on Jungfrau, and the full moon rise over Mont Blanc; but the fairest vision on which these eyes ever looked was the flag of my country in a foreign land. Beautiful as a flower to those who love it, terrible as a meteor to those who hate, it is the symbol of the power and glory, and the honor of fifty millions of Americans."—GEORGE F. HOAR. 1878.

"Up many a fortress wall
They charged, those boys in blue;
'Mid surging smoke and volleyed ball,
The bravest were the first to fall,—
To fall for me and you!
Our brothers mustered by our side,
They marched and fought and nobly died
For me and you!
Good friend, for me and you."

PUBLISHER'S NOTE.

THIS book, which has been justly called the classic of the story of the Flag, has been out of print for almost thirty years.

The recent extension of American dominion over new lands, the admission into the Union of all territories on the Continent, Alaska excepted, as sovereign States, the great tide of immigration which set in to our shores, and our participation in the great World War have made it almost necessary that the story of the Flag should be taken up where the gallant author of the previous editions of this book left it in 1880 to be merged into the stirring events of to-day.

It is hoped that by so doing this edition will serve the double rôle of supplying a much needed chapter of the story of Old Glory and of awakening the patriotic impulse so necessary in the great world drama of which we are now one of the leading characters.

PHILADELPHIA, June, 1917.



PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

IN preparing this book in its permanent form, the errors of the press and of fact inseparable from the first issue of so novel and comprehensive a work have been corrected, much new matter has been added, and some of the original text discarded, in order to keep the book within reasonable limits, while the general plan and arrangement is the same. The colored plates also have been rearranged and changed, and the wood engravings largely increased, while the maps and autographies of national songs and documents are a new and distinct feature.

The aim of the book is to perpetuate and intensify a love for our Union, through the flag which symbolizes it. The story of Our flag and of the Southern flags in the Civil War show graphically the madness of the time, and will, it is hoped, serve to render the crime of secession hideous, and afford a moral aid towards preventing a recurrence of such fratricide against the life of the nation.

To my sensitive Southern friends who have objected to being called 'traitors' and 'rebels' I would say, those words are not intended in an offensive sense; and I respectfully refer them to General Jackson's opinion of nullification, under his own hand, on page 354, and to the general dictionary definition:—**TRAITOR**. "One who violates his allegiance;" "one who takes arms and levies war against his country," &c. **REBEL**. "One who defies and seeks to overthrow the authority to which he is rightfully subject." I think, under these definitions, they must plead guilty to both counts. They were 'bad boys,' who barred themselves out, but, having returned to their allegiance, all that is forgiven; and, having learned by experience, it is hoped they will

never again raise a hand to subvert the majesty and authority of the Union.

Although we are comparatively a new nation, our Stars and Stripes may to-day claim antiquity among national flags. They are older than the present flag of Great Britain, established in 1801; than the present flag of Spain, established in 1785; than the French tricolor, decreed in 1794; than the existing flag of Portugal, established in 1830; than the flag of the Empire of Germany, which represents the sovereignty of fourteen distinct flags and States, established in 1870; than the Italian tricolor, established in 1848; the Swedish Norwegian ensign; the recent flags of the old empires of China and Japan; or the flags of all the South American States, which have very generally been modelled from 'Our Flag.'

I wish to return my acknowledgments to many old friends for their continued interest in my work, who have given me much valuable aid and information; and I would also thank the Hon. A. R. SPORFORD, Librarian of Congress, H. A. HOMES, LL.D., Librarian of the New York State Library, Hon. WILLIAM A. COURTENAY, Mayor of Charleston, S. C., Hon. JOHN F. H. CLAIBORNE, of Natchez, ex-Governor of Mississippi, Colonel J. P. NICHOLSON, of Philadelphia, Miss D. L. DIX, of Washington, D. C., and the authors of our songs who have furnished autograph copies of them, with many others too numerous to name here, but whose favors have been credited elsewhere in the text.

COTTAGE FARM, BROOKLINE, MASS.

July 4, 1880.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

PROUDHON, the French socialist, had a peculiar manner of proceeding in the composition of a work.

“When an idea struck him, he would write it out at length, generally in the shape of a newspaper article; then he would put it in an envelope, and whenever a new idea occurred to him, or he obtained additional information, he would write it on a piece of paper, and add it to the envelope. When a sufficient quantity of material was assembled, he would write an article for some review or magazine. This article he would place in a larger envelope, and add thoughts and information until, at last, the article became a book; and the day after the publication of his book, he would place it in a pasteboard box, and add thoughts and additional information as he came into possession of them.”

Very much in the same way have these memoirs grown to the size of this volume. More than twenty years since, their compiler became interested in tracing out the first display of Our Flag on foreign seas, and the notes he then gathered resulted in the preparation of an article entitled “The First Appearance of the Flag of the Free,” which was published in the “Portland Daily Advertiser,” in 1853, and thence extensively copied into other journals. Around that article from time to time became concreted numerous additional facts, which were embodied in another and longer newspaper article on the same topic. His interest in the subject grew with the increase of knowledge; new facts were accumulated and sought for, wherever to be obtained. The War of the Rebellion added a fresh impulse to his inquiries, and new and interesting incidents. The result is the present volume, which, if not rendered interesting by the graces of a practised authorship, can claim to be a faithful record of facts.

Following the idea of Proudhon, the writer will be glad to receive from his readers any facts, incidents, or corrections, that will enable him to complete his memorial of our grand old flag, and help perpetuate it as the chosen emblem of Liberty and Union.

Collected for his own amusement and instruction, in committing these memoirs to the public the compiler hopes they may interest and amuse others as much as the collecting of them has himself. If they revive and preserve, in the least degree, a patriotic sentiment for our starry banner, his ambition will be accomplished, his end attained.

More than a thousand volumes have been examined in their preparation, and an extensive correspondence has been a necessity. I may say, therefore, to my readers, considering the score of years I have spent in the pursuit, as Montesquieu remarked to a friend concerning a particular part of his writings, "You will read it in a few hours, but I assure you it has cost me so much labor that it has whitened my hair."

I would express my obligations to Messrs. WILLIAM J. CANBY, WILLIAM D. GEMMILL, and CHARLES J. LUKENS of Philadelphia, and Messrs. B. J. LOSSING and CHARLES J. BUSHNELL of New York, for valuable suggestions and facts, and particularly to Mr. JOHN A. MCALISTER, who has been unwearied in searching for and completing evidences of facts otherwise beyond my reach. Other friends, too numerous to mention, who have given me their assistance, will please accept my silent acknowledgments.

In 1864, the manuscript of this book, in its then incomplete state, was forwarded from Lisbon, Portugal, to the managers of the National Sailors' Fair at Boston, as a contribution to that charity, which resulted in the establishment of the National Sailors' Home at Quincy, Mass. It arrived, however, too late to be printed for its benefit.

NAVAL RENDEZVOUS, NAVY YARD,
CHARLESTOWN, MASS.

September 10, 1872.

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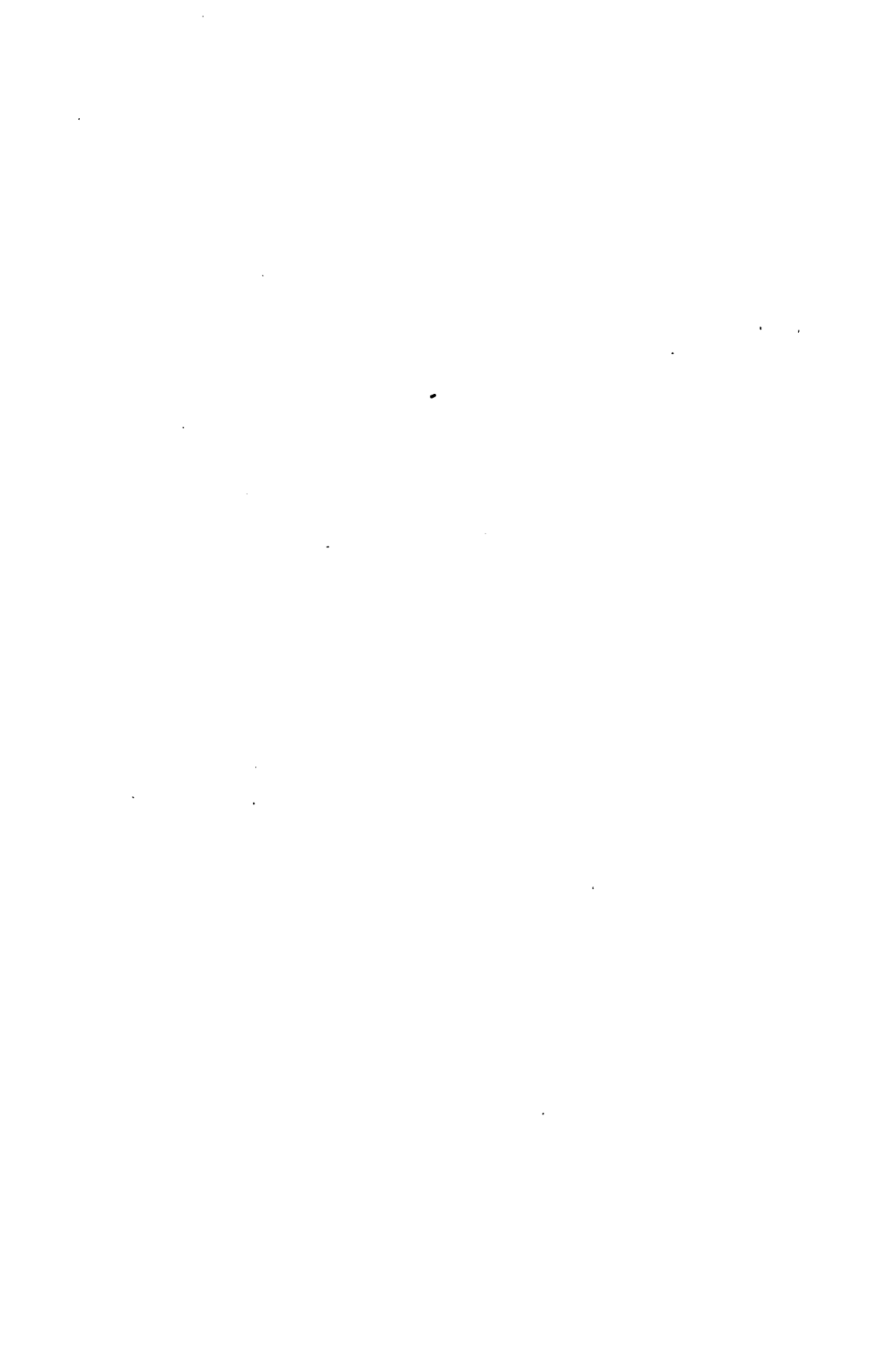
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HERALDIC COLORS OF THE ENGRAVINGS OF FLAGS.

Red. Perpendicular lines.
Blue. Horizontal lines.
Black. Vertical crossed by horizontal lines.
Green. Diagonal lines from left to right.

Purple. Diagonal lines from right to left.
Yellow. Black dots on white.
White. A plain white field.

MAPS.

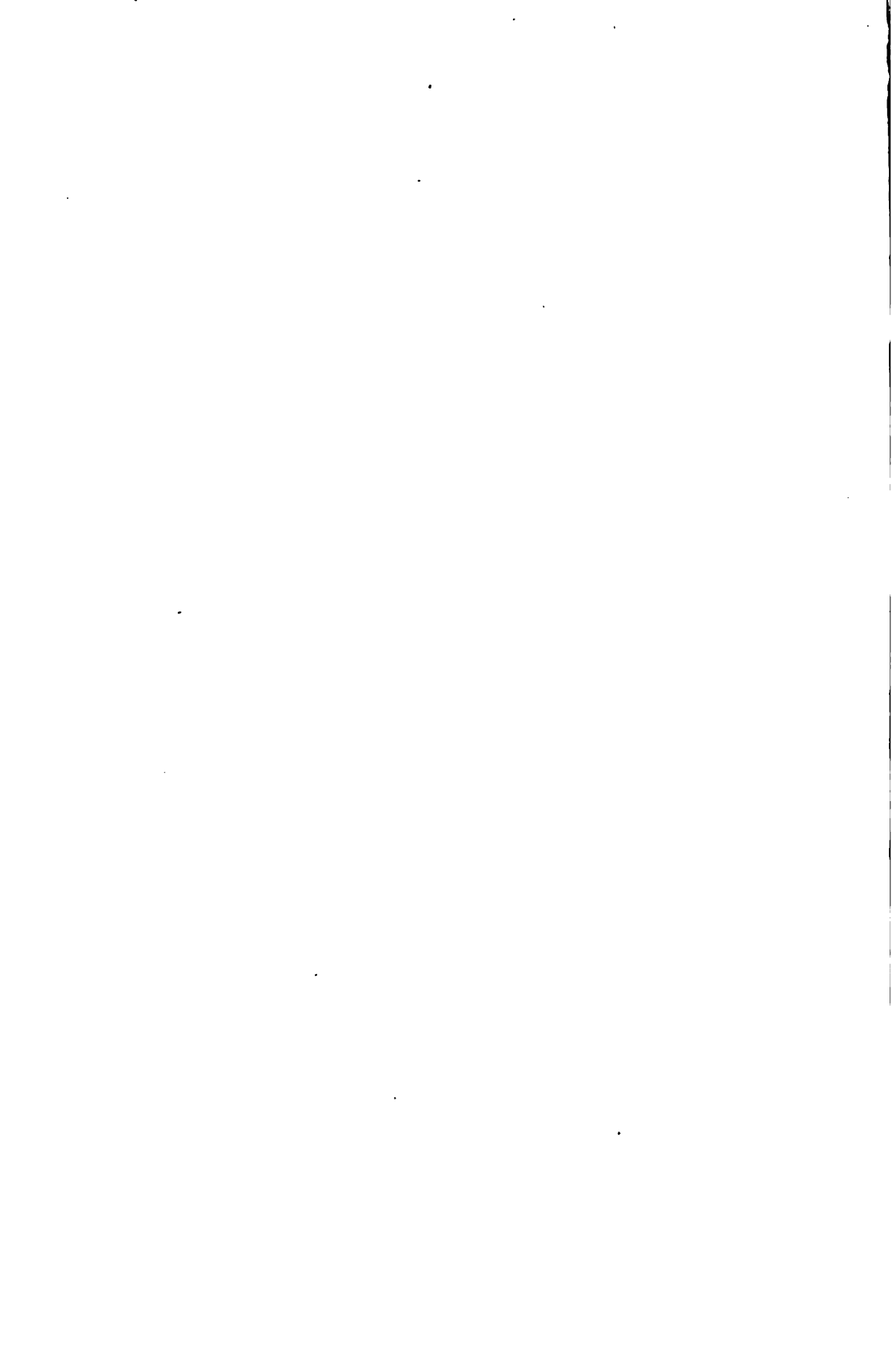
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**ORIGIN AND HISTORY
OF THE AMERICAN FLAG**

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“ It is in and through symbols that man consciously or unconsciously lives, moves, and has his being. Those ages, moreover, are accounted the noblest which can best recognize symbolical worth and prize it at the highest.”

CARLYLE.

“ Out of monuments, names, wordes, proverbes, private recordes and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of books, and the like, we doe save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time.”

BACON.

“ Many things contained in this book are no other than collections of other authors, and my labor is no more therein than theirs who gather a variety of flowers out of several gardens to compose one sightly garland.”

SIR WM. MONSON.

“ Great room there is for amendments, as well as additions. Either of these, in what dress soever they come, rough or smooth, will be heartily welcome.”

A HISTORY OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WITH A CHRONICLE OF THE SYMBOLS, STANDARDS, FLAGS,
AND BANNERS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN NATIONS.

SYMBOLS and colors enabling nations to distinguish themselves from each other have from the most remote periods exercised a powerful influence upon mankind. It is a fact well established both by sacred and profane history that a standard or ensign was borne in the armies of all nations from the most distant era. A colored banner was one of the earliest, as it was the simplest, of military ensigns. As tribes and nations multiplied, these banners naturally became particolored by stripes and other linear divisions, and finally emblazoned with the devices of the several chieftains. Thus these symbols, which during peaceful times were but trivial ornaments, became in political or religious disturbances a lever like that of Archimedes, and convulsed the world.

Before commencing the memoir of *the* flag which this volume commemorates, I propose to notice some of the symbols, standards, and banners of other nations. History, in general, has failed to appreciate the value of these symbols, which have given ascendancy to party, and led armies to victory with more certainty and despatch than all the combinations of tactics and the most disinterested valor.

We talk of the eagles of the Romans, of the contest between the crescent and the cross, and of the wars of the white and red roses; of the meteor flag of England, and of the cross of St. George; of the white plume and banner of Henry IV., and the lilies and tricolor of France; and of our own starry banner, which, said Edward Everett (May 27, 1861), "speaks for itself. Its mute eloquence needs no aid

to interpret its significance. Fidelity to the Union blazes from its stars, allegiance to the government beneath which we live is wrapped in its folds."

The tassels which are customarily pendent from the upper part of military banners and standards, and the fringes which surround them, have their origin in sacred emblems, which, passing from gentile, mosaic, pagan, and Christian banners and sacerdotal garments, have finally crept upon profane standards and dresses. The high-priests of Brahma, Baal, Osiris, Mithras, Jehovah, the priestesses of Vesta, Isis, Lucina, Ceres, and Diana, were adorned with tassels, fringes, ribbons, and colors consecrated to their respective worships. When Moses had adjured the gods of Egypt, his native country, to follow the Jehovah of Midian, he wrote a ritual, bidding pomegranates of blue, of purple, and of scarlet, alternating with golden bells, to be placed about the hem of the blue robe of Aaron, to minister in the priest's office (Exodus xxviii. 31-35). The pomegranates were sometimes figured by tassels. The Mosaic law bade the Israelites to border their garments with fringes and blue ribands, as being, in their eyes, a remembrance against lusting (Numbers xv. 38, 39). Thus early was blue the emblem of purity and innocence. The Popes having wedded the Jewish and Heathen rites with the Christian worship, the Christian prelates adopted the pagan garments with tassels. Hence the warlike priests of Christ, on their return from the crusades, having assumed armorial bearings, the sacred tassels became the badge of prelacy in ecclesiastical armories. The archbishops had their shields surmounted with a green *chapeau*, or hat, with tassels, interlaced by several rows of cordon or strings, pendent on both sides. The green color was the symbol of a See, which never dies, or always revives as foliage regenerates. The *chapeau*, or cardinal's hat, with the same tassels, is of scarlet, the emblematic hue of the criminal court of the Holy Inquisition. The tassels, having passed into profane customs, became ornaments for national standards, which were often blessed by the priests, and for royal girdles or cordelieres. These were a silk or gold cord, terminating in two heavy tassels of the form of pomegranates, and a fringe, with which the royal robe of kings and queens is fastened around the waist.

Our English word, FLAG,—which in Danish is the same, in Swedish *flagg*, in German *flagge*, in Teutonic and Old French *flacke*, Icelandic *flaka*, Belgian *flack*, *flak*,—signifying that which hangs down loosely, is said to be derived from the early use of rushes for streamers, and also from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "to fly," because the light material of which it is made is floated or lifted by every breeze.

In modern parlance, under the generic name of flag is included standards, ancients or ensigns, banners, bannerrolls, pavons, colors, streamers, pennons, pennoncelles, gonfanons, guidons, coronetts or coronells (hence the title of colonel), and the like.

A flag is defined by the 'London Encyclopedia' as "a small banner of distinction used in the army, and stuck in a baggage-wagon, to distinguish the baggage of one brigade from another, and of one battalion from another." It, however, properly denotes in our time the colors worn at mastheads of national vessels to mark the rank or quality of the person commanding a squadron or fleet. The admiral of a squadron or fleet is styled the flag-officer, from the square flag hoisted at one of the mastheads of the vessel on which he is embarked, and which denotes to the rest of the fleet his presence there, and causes his ship to be designated as "the flag-ship."

The *first flag* of Great Britain, generally known as the Royal standard, is a square flag, blazoned with the arms of the United Kingdom. When hoisted at the masthead it denotes that the sovereign, or some member of the royal family, is embarked on board the vessel; or, when hoisted on the flag-staff over a residence, wherever they may be on shore. The royal salute for this flag is twenty-one guns.

The *second flag*, that of the lord high admiral, or of "the commissioners performing the duties of that high office," is "a crimson banner," with "an anchor argent gorged in the arm with a coronet and a cable through the ring fretted in a true lover's knot with the ends pendant."

Thus it was carried by the Earl of Southampton in the reign of Henry VIII., and by the Earl of Lincoln in the time of Mary, except that he bore the stem and flukes of the anchor *argent*, the ring and stock *or*, and the cable *azure*. The Duke of Buckingham used the anchor with cable entwined, all *or*, much as it is now. In the reign of Charles II., the Duke of York placed his arms on an anchor surmounted by his coronet. Among the first acts of Charles II., after his restoration to the throne, was one declaring his brother the Duke of York lord high admiral, on the 4th of June, 1660. The Duke, having hoisted his flag on board the Royal Charles, put to sea on the 25th of April, 1665, with a squadron of fourteen sail, besides five ships and smaller vessels, and met and defeated the fleet of Holland under Opdam on the 3d of June. On the commencement of the second Dutch war, the Duke again hoisted his flag on board the St. Michael, and engaging the great De Ruyter's ship, the St. Michael was reduced almost to a wreck, when he shifted his flag to the Royal London, and was successful.

The only account we have of the flag of the lord high admiral being carried at sea by an individual not of the blood royal is in the *Memoirs of Sir John Leake*, which say, "The Earl of Berkeley being then (21st March, 1719) vice-admiral of Great Britain, and first lord commissioner of the admiralty, endeavored to come as near the lord high admiral as possible both in power and state; by a particular warrant from the crown he hoisted the lord high admiral's flag, and had three captains appointed under him as lord high admiral, Littleton, then vice-admiral of the white, being his first captain." The Earl of Berkeley was one of fortune's favorites. As Lord Dursley, at the age of twenty he commanded the *Lichfield*, 50, it being his second command. When twenty-three he commanded the *Boyne*, 80; at twenty-seven he was vice-admiral of the blue, and a few months afterward vice-admiral of the white; and the following year, being then only twenty-eight, vice-admiral of the red. At the age of thirty-eight he hoisted his flag on the *Dorsetshire* as lord high admiral, being then actually vice-admiral of England and first lord of the admiralty. He died near Rochelle, in France, Aug. 17, 1736, aged fifty-five.

The lord high admiral's flag is entitled to a salute of nineteen guns.

The *third flag*, that of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, is the Union Jack, having in the centre of the crosses a blue shield emblazoned with a golden harp. This flag is worn at the main of any ship in which his Excellency may embark within the Irish waters or in St. George's Channel, and is entitled to the same salute as that of the lord high admiral.

The *fourth flag*, the Union, or Union Jack, in which are blended the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew, and St. Patrick, emblematic of the United Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, is appropriated to the admiral of the fleet of the United Kingdom, and is worn at the main, and entitled to a salute of seventeen guns.

Somewhere before 1692, Sir Francis Wheeler, Knt., a rear-admiral, sent to command in chief in the West Indies, was granted the privilege of wearing "the Union flag" at the maintop-masthead "as soon as he was clear of soundings."¹

Fifth in rank is the cross of St. George, a white flag with a red cross, the sign of the old crusaders, now worn by the admirals of the royal navy at the main, by vice-admirals at the fore, and by rear-admirals at the mizzen mastheads of their respective ships. Until 1864, Great Britain had admirals, and vice and rear admirals of the

¹ Schomberg's *Naval Chronology*, vol. v. p. 227.

red, white, and blue. By an act of Parliament of that year, the red ensign was given up to the use of the merchant marine, the blue ensign assigned to merchant and packet ships commanded by the officers of the newly organized naval reserve or naval militia, and the white ensign alone reserved for the royal navy. The salute of an admiral in the royal navy is fifteen, of a vice-admiral thirteen, and of a rear-admiral eleven guns.

Merchant vessels frequently carry small flags at their mastheads, bearing the arms, monograms, or devices of their owners or commanders, or designating the province or port to which the vessel belongs.

The flag of the President of the United States, hoisted at the main, and denoting his presence on board a vessel of war, is appropriately the *National Ensign*, the flag of the sovereign people of whom he is the popular representative, and from whom he derives power and authority.

The Vice-President and members of the Cabinet (the Secretary of the Navy excepted) are also designated by the national flag worn at the fore during their presence on board a vessel of war, and it always floats at the Capitol over the Senate-Chamber and House of Representatives whenever those bodies are in session,—a custom followed in all or most of the States of the Union whenever their legislative bodies are in session.

A special mark for the Secretary of the Navy, established in 1866, was a square blue flag having a white fowl anchor placed vertically in the centre with four white stars surrounding it, one in each corner of the flag. By an order dated 1869, this flag became obsolete, and the Union Jack was ordered to be hoisted at the main whenever he embarked on board a vessel of the navy; but the flag of 1866 was restored by another order on the 4th of July, 1876.

The first rear-admiral's flag in our navy was a plain blue flag, such as had been used by the rank of flag-officer before the introduction of admirals to the service. This flag was, by law, required to be worn at the main by the three senior rear-admirals, at the fore by the next three in seniority, and at the mizzen by the three junior rear-admirals, and was first hoisted at the main on board the Hartford, in 1862, by Rear-Admiral Farragut, who had previously, as flag-officer, carried it at the fore.¹ The absurdity of a rear-admiral's wearing his flag at

¹ I have in my possession this flag, which was worn by Flag-Officer Farragut at the passage of the forts below New Orleans, and hoisted on the Hartford on his promotion to rear-admiral. Later, the two stars were added to it. The admiral presented the flag to Lieut. D. G. McRitchie, U.S.N., who gave it to me in 1875.

the fore or main was so contrary to the custom of other nations, that, by the suggestion of Hon. R. H. Dana, Jr., the next Congress repealed the law, after which a square flag hoisted at the mizzen, blue, red, or white, according to the seniority of the officer, was adopted. In 1866, after the introduction of the grades of admiral and vice-admiral, the device adopted for the admiral was four five-pointed white stars arranged as a diamond in a blue field, to be hoisted at the main. For the vice-admiral, three white stars arranged as an equilateral triangle on a blue field, to be hoisted at the fore. For rear-admirals, a square flag, blue, red, or white, according to seniority, at the mizzen, with two stars placed vertically in the centre of the flag. The color of the stars to be white when the flag was blue or red, and blue when the flag was white. The commodore's broad pennants were swallow-tailed flags, the same in color according to their seniority as the rear-admiral's flags. From the organization of our navy until the regulation of 1866 they had been studded with a constellation of stars equal in number to the States of the Union, by the regulations then established only one star in the centre was to be emblazoned on their field.

In 1869, a radical change was made in the flags of our admirals and commodores; square flags, with thirteen alternate red and white stripes, were then prescribed for all grades of admirals, their position on the fore, main, or mizzen mast showing whether the officer was an admiral, vice, or a rear admiral; and if two rear-admirals should happen to meet in the same port in command, then the junior was directed, while in the presence of his senior, to wear two red stars perpendicular in a white canton on the upper luff of his flag. The commodore's pendant was swallow-tailed, but otherwise like the admiral's flag, and worn at the main or fore, according to seniority, when more than one were in port together. The order of Jan. 6, 1876, restored the flags of 1866 on our centennial birthday.

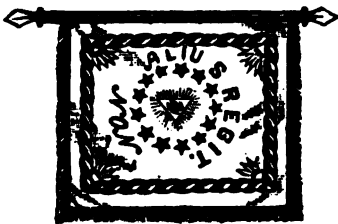
Each of the States of our Union and most of the Territories have flags of their own, generally of one color, white, blue, or red, and blazoned with the arms of the State. This flag is carried by the State militia into battle or on parade side by side with the national standard. We shall treat of these under an appropriate heading.

An interesting relic of the American revolution is the banner of Count Pulaski, presented to him by the Moravian Sisters of Bethlehem, Penn., in 1778. Count Pulaski was appointed a brigadier in the Continental army on the 15th of September, 1777, just after the battle of the Brandywine, and given the command of the cavalry.

He resigned that command in a few months, and obtained permission to raise and command an independent corps, to consist of 68 horse and 200 foot, which was chiefly levied and fully organized in Baltimore in 1778. Pulaski visited Lafayette while wounded, and was a recipient of the care and hospitality of the Moravian Sisters at Bethlehem, Penn. His presence and eventful history made a deep impression upon that community, and, when informed that he was organizing a corps of cavalry, they prepared a banner of crimson silk, with designs beautifully wrought with the needle by their own hands, and sent it to Pulaski, with their blessing. The memory of this event has been embalmed in beautiful verse by Longfellow.

Pulaski received the banner with grateful acknowledgments, and bore it gallantly through many a martial scene, until he fell at Savannah, in the autumn of 1779. His banner was saved by his first lieutenant, who received fourteen wounds, and delivered to Captain Bentalon, who, on retiring from the army, took the banner home with him to Baltimore. It was in the procession that welcomed Lafayette to that city in 1824, and was then deposited in Peale's Museum, where it was ceremoniously received by young ladies of the city. Mr. Edmund Peale presented it to the Maryland Historical Society in 1844, where it is carefully preserved in a glass case. Little of its pristine beauty remains. It is composed of double silk, now faded to a dull brownish red. The designs on each side are embroidered with yellow silk, the letters shaded with green, and a deep bullion fringe ornaments the edge. The size of the banner is twenty inches square. It was attached to a lance when borne in the field.

On one side of the banner are the letters U. S., and in a circle around them the words *UNITAS VIRTUS FORCIOR*,—Union makes valor stronger. The letter *c* in the last word is incorrect, it should be *t*. On the other side, in the centre, is the all-seeing eye, with the words *NON ALIUS REGIT*,—"No other governs."



Pulaski's Banner.

Another interesting Revolutionary relic is the flag of Washington's Life Guard, which is preserved in the Museum of Alexandria, Va. It is of white silk, on which the device is neatly painted. One of the guard is holding a horse, and in the act of receiving a flag from the Genius of Liberty personified as a woman leaning upon the Union shield, near which is an American

eagle. The motto of the corps, CONQUER OR DIE, is on a ribbon over the device. This Life Guard was a distinct corps of mounted men, attached to the person of Washington, but never spared in battle. It was organized in 1776, soon after the siege of Boston, while the American army was encamped near the city of New York. It consisted of a major's command; viz., one hundred and eighty men, and its chief bore the title of Captain Commandant. The uniform of the guard consisted of a blue coat with white facings, white waistcoat and breeches, blue half-gaiters, and a cocked hat with a white plume.



They carried muskets, and occasionally side-arms. Care was taken to have all the States from which the Continental army was supplied with troops represented in this corps.

BANNERS, BANDEROLES, GUIDONS, PENNONS, · ENSIGNS, ETC.

Several varieties of flags were formerly employed, indicating by their form and size the rank of the bearer. The use of many of these, however, has become obsolete; but, as frequent allusion is made to them in history and in ancient ballads, it is necessary that the modern reader should be acquainted with the names and significations of these flags of former times.

A passage in 'Marmion' alludes to several flags now fallen into disuse.

“ Nor marked they less, where in the air
A thousand *streamers* flaunted fair;
Various in shape, device, and hue, —
Green, sanguine, purple, red, and blue,
Broad, narrow, swallow-tailed, and square.
Scroll, pennon, pensil, bandrol, there
O'er the pavilions flew.
Highest and midmost was descried
The *Royal banner*, floating wide;
The staff, a pine-tree strong and straight
Pitched deeply in a massive stone
Which still in memory is shown.

Yet beneath the standard's weight,
 Whene'er the western wind unrolled,
 With toil, the huge and cumbrous fold,
 It gave to view the dazzling field,
 Where, in proud Scotland's royal shield,
 The ruddy lion ramped in gold."¹

BANNER—in Dutch, *baniere*; French, *bannière*; German, *banner*; Spanish, *bandera*; Italian, *bandiera*; Swedish, *baner*—signifies in these languages a flag, the emblem of a bond-roll or bond-sign, the sign of union, the standard under which men were united or bound for some common purpose.

Some derive the etymology of the name from the Latin *bandum*, a band or flag; others, from the German *ban*, a rallying-point, a field; a tenement, because only landed men were allowed a banner; others, again, believe it a corruption of *panniere*, from *pannus*, cloth, because banners were originally made of cloth. The Germans are said to have fastened a streamer to a lance, which the duke carried in front of the army, and which was called *band*; afterwards, a large cloth was used, ornamented with emblems and inscriptions.

Knights wore a pointed flag or pennon. A squire's mark was a long pennant similar to the coach-whip pennant of modern ships of war. Bannerets were of a rank above a simple knight, and yet below that of a baron, and carried a knight's pennon slit at the end. Barons were usually created on a battle-field, when the candidate presented his pennon to the king or general, who cut off the train of it, and thus making it square, returned it to him as the symbol of his increased rank. Thenceforward the knight was entitled to emblazon his arms upon a square shield, and was styled a Knight Banneret. Barnes, in his 'Wars of Edward III.,' writes that, before the battle of Nagera, Lord John Chandos brought his pennon to Edward the Black Prince, requesting to hoist it as a banner. The Prince took the flag, and, having torn off the tail, returned it, saying, "Sir John, behold, here is your banner; God send you much joy and honor with it." From these customs may be traced the coach-whip and broad pennants worn by commanding officers of ships, and of commodores, and the square flags of the admirals of our own and foreign navies.

The banner has been made to assume almost every shape a parallelogram so small could be converted into. As a rule, in banners of cognizance or individual escutcheons, its size bore relation to the rank of the owner; thus the banner of an earl was larger than that of a baron, and the baron's larger than that of a banneret. At first,

¹ Sir Walter Scott's *Marmion*, Canto III. 28.

the cantons distributed forty knights; to each he gave the power of assembling under their several banners as many effective men as were in their districts; whence they were called *bannerets*. 'Froissart' says that anciently such military men as were rich enough to raise and subsist a company of armed men, and had a right to do so, were called *bannerets*; not that these qualifications rendered them knights, but only bannerets,—the appellation of knights being added because they were knights before. Sir John Chandos was made a knight-banneret by the Black Prince, and the King of Castile was made one at Nagera, April 3, 1367.

Bannerets in England were only second to knights of the garter. They were next in degree below nobility, and were allowed to bear arms with supporters, which no one else could under a baron. In France the dignity was hereditary, but in England it died with the person who gained it. The order, after the institution of baronets or hereditary knighthood by King James I., in 1611, dwindled and became extinct in England.¹ The last person created a banneret was Sir John Smith, who was created a banneret after the Edgehill fight, Oct. 23, 1642, for his gallantry in rescuing the standard of Charles I. George III., however, in 1764, made Sir William Erskine a banneret.

According to Froissart, the degrees of chivalry were three: knights-bannerets, knights, and esquires. Before a man could become a knight-banneret, he had to serve as a squire and a knight to attain renown in arms, and to have a considerable military following. This was the letter of the law, but it was not always strictly enforced. The knight who aspired to the higher distinction could carry his pennon to the leader of the army in which he served, and demand to raise his banner; when his qualifications were proved, the leader cut off the end of the pennon, which thus became a square banner. This simple ceremony was completed with a short address on the banneret's duties, pronounced by the leader, or by a herald. The knight-banneret had no superior except the king, and was the equal of the feudal baron.

The banners of the Knights of the Garter, blazoned with their arms, hang over their stalls in Sir George's Chapel at Windsor; those of the Knights of the Bath over their stalls in Henry VII.'s Chapel, Westminster Abbey. In Roman Catholic countries, banners form an important feature in religious services, processions, &c. Before the Reformation, all the monasteries in England had banners preserved in

¹ The first baronet, Sir Nicolas Bacon, was created May 22, 1611; baronets of Ireland were created 1629; of Nova Scotia, 1625. All baronets created since the Irish union, 1801, are of the United Kingdom.

their wardrobes, from whence they were brought on anniversaries, festivals, and important occasions, and were sometimes displayed in battle. Edward I. paid eight and a half pence per day to a priest of Beverley for carrying in his army the banner of St. John, and one penny per day while taking it back to his monastery.

The celebrated painting of the 'Madonna di San Sisto' which is now in the Dresden Gallery, was painted by Raphael as a banner to be used in processions for the Benedictine Cloister of St. Sixtus, in Piacenza. It was, however, soon placed upon the high altar of the church, where it remained until purchased by Augustus III., Elector of Saxony, and was removed to Dresden in 1753 or 1754. The price paid, according to Wickelmann, was 60,000 gulden. In 1827, the painting was restored, and a portion that had been concealed in the framing was brought to light,—the top of the curtain with the rod and rings supporting it. Engravings by Schulze and Müller were made before this discovery; and by Nordheim, Steinla, and Keller after. Hence the difference in their details.

The union jack of Great Britain is a religious banner, composed of the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew, and St. Patrick. The corporations in former times had their banners, and several of the livery companies of London still retain them for public occasions, as do the St. Patrick, St. Andrew, and other societies of the United States. No political, religious, or secular procession would be considered complete in the United States without a display of banners. The study of this subject is of great importance to the historical painter, and few sources of information are available.

Drayton, in his 'Battle of Agincourt,' says:—

"A silver tower Dorset's red banner bears,
The Cornishmen two wrestlers had for theirs."

All the great nobles of England and Scotland carried banners blazoned with the family arms.



Simon De Montfort's Banner.

John of Dreux, Earl of Richmond, in the reign of Edward I., bore a banner charged with the chequy coat of Dreux, surrounded by a bordure of England, and a canton of Bretagne. The bordure of England is described as "a red orle with yellow leopards." The banner of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, is represented on a window of the cathedral at Chartres. On his shield he carries a lion rampant. *Banners* and *bannerols* were carried at funerals of the great in England, from the eleventh to the sixteenth century. They usually

consisted of banners blazoned with the arms of the individual, and the families with which he was allied. On some occasions ecclesiastical banners were displayed. In 1388, John Lord Montecute, a brother of the Earl of Salisbury, ordered in his will that no painting should be placed about his hearse, excepting one banner of the arms of England, two charged with that of Montecute, and two with the arms of Monthermer. In the fourteenth century, those who were descended from or connected by marriage with the royal family used the royal arms with their own. Isabel, Countess of Suffolk, 1416, and the Earl of Huntington, 1380, forbade any banners to be borne at their funerals; but Richard, Earl of Salisbury, 1458, ordered at his interment "there be banners, standards, and other accoutrements, according as was usual to a person of his degree." At the exposing of the body of Richard II. in St. Paul's Cathedral, 1400, four banners were affixed to the carriage or bier supporting it,—two of which contained the arms of St. George, and the other two the arms of Edward the Confessor. In 1542, Sir Gilbert Talbot, of Grafton, desired four banners should be carried at his funeral,—one of the Trinity, one of the Annunciation of Our Lady, one of St. John the Evangelist, and one of St. Anthony. Sir David Owen, who died the same year, ordered by his will, 1529, his body should be buried after the degree of banneret; that is, with his helmet, sword, coat armor, banner, standard, and pendant, and set over all a banner of the Holy Trinity, one of Our Lady, and another of St. George, borne after the order of a man of his degree; and the same should be placed over his tomb in the priory of Essebourne.

The BANNER, blazoned with all the quarterings of him to whom it belonged, was either attached to a staff or lance, or frequently depended from a trumpet,—a custom which is still retained by the trumpeters of the Household Brigade.

We read in Shakspeare,—

"I will a banner from a trumpet take, and use it for my haste;"

and in Chaucer,—

"On every trump hanging a brode bannere
Of fine tartarium full richly bete,
Every trumpet his lordis armes bere."

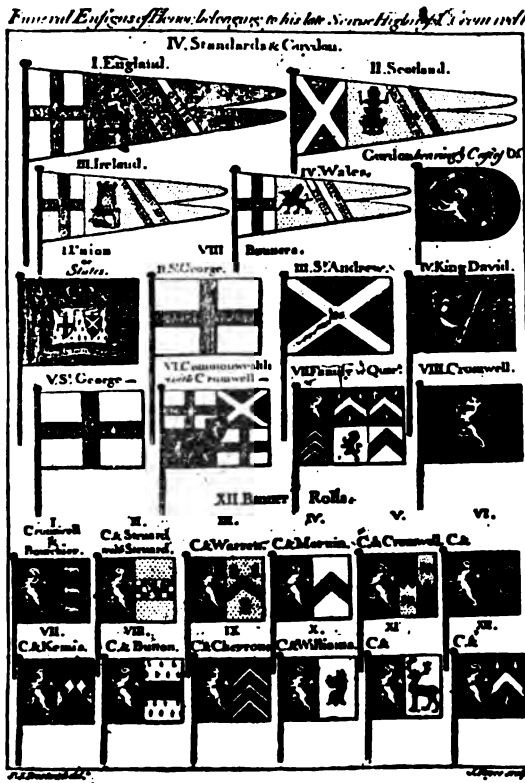
The flags carried by cavalry regiments, though usually called 'standards,' might properly be styled 'banners.' The term 'colors' is applied to the flags of foot regiments. Shakspeare uses *colors* to denote military flags.

During the reigns of Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, and even later, care was observed that the proper banners should be carried at the funerals of persons of rank.

The BANDEROLE, BANNEROL, or BANDROLL was a small banner about a yard square, generally but not always rounded at the fly, several of which were carried at funerals. They displayed the arms and the matches of the deceased's ancestors, especially of those which brought honor or estate into the family. These arms filled the entire flag, which was generally fringed with the principal metal and color of the arms of the deceased. The bannerol which was placed at the head of Cromwell, at his magnificent funeral, exhibited his arms, viz., *sable*; a lion rampant *argent*; impaling Stuart *or*; on a fess chequy *argent* and *azure*; an escutcheon *argent* debruised with a bend fretty.



Oliver Cromwell's Bannerol.



At his funeral there were also displayed four standards, eight great banners, and twelve bannerols, with a guydon, of which we give a reduced fac-simile from Prestwick's 'Res Republicæ.' These standards exhibit the shape and design of the standards of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales at the period of the great Protector's death, and also the banners of the 'Union or States,' 'St. George,' 'St. Andrew,' 'King David,' and of the Commonwealth, the

banner of Cromwell and his guydon, and the bannerols of the families with which he was allied.

It appears by the bill rendered for the funeral expenses that the six great banners cost £6 each, and the five large standards, "wrought in rich taffety, in oyle, and guilt with fine gold and silver," cost £10 each; the guydon, "as large as a great banner." £6; and the twelve bannerols, £30.

At the Restoration, Cromwell's body and the bodies of his associates were dug up, suspended on Tyburn gallows for a day, and then buried under it. The head of Cromwell was taken off, carried to Westminster Hall, and fixed there, where it remained until the great tempest at the commencement of the eighteenth century, which blew it down, when it was picked up by the great-grandfather of its present possessor, a citizen of London,—a significant commentary on earthly greatness. "The body of Cromwell, carried to his burial in royal state, only a few years after his interment is rudely torn from its last resting-place, and the half-decayed carcass, dragged by the heels through the mud and mire of London, is hanged upon Tyburn tree, the head afterwards torn off and placed so that, in grinning horror, it ever looked towards the spot where King Charles was executed."¹

The GUYDON, or GUIDON, Fr. (derived from *guide-homme*), resembled a banner in form and emblazonment, but was one-third less in size, and had the end rounded off. It was the standard of a company of soldiers, and borne by their cornet.

"The guydhome must be two yards and a half or three yards longe, and therein shall no armes be putt, but only the mans crest, cognizance & devyce, and from that, from his standard and streamer, a man may flee, but not from his banner or pennon bearinge his armes."

"Place under the guidhome fifty men, by the conduct of an esquire or gentleman."²

Every guydon carried, in chief, a cross of St. George.

The PENNON (Fr.), sometimes spelled *Pinione*, was a small streamer half the size of the guydon, of a swallow-tailed form, attached to the handle of a spear or lance, such as the lancers of the present day carry. Afterwards, by increase in length and breadth, it became a military ensign, and was charged with the crest, badge, or war-

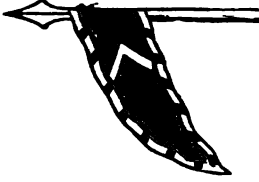


Pennon.

¹ Anonymus; Prestwick.

² MS. British Museum.

cry of the knight,—his arms being emblazoned on his banner, so arranged as to appear correctly when the lance was held in a horizontal



Daubernoun's Pennon, 1277.

position. The pennon charged with a cross is borne by St. George, St. Michael, and St. Ursula; that of John the Baptist is inscribed with his words announcing the coming of Christ: "*Ecce Agnus Dei.*" The illustration, a pennon of the earliest form, is copied from one held by the figure of Sir John Daubernoun, 1277, on his monumental brass in the church of Stoke D'Aubernoun, Surrey.

A manuscript, giving the size of banners, &c., in the fifteenth century, says: "Every knight may have his pennon, if he be chiefe capitaine, and in it sett his armes; and if he be made a banneret by the king or the lieutenant, shall make a slitte in the end of the pennon, and the heraldes shall raze it oute: and when a knight is made a banneret the heralds shall bringe him to his tente, and receive for their fees, three pounds, eleven shillings and four pence for every bachelor knight, and the trumpetter twenty shillings."

In 'Canterbury Tales,' Chaucer's knight says:—

"And by hys bannere borne is his pennon
Of gold full riche."

Sir Walter Scott thus alludes to the pennon in 'Marmion':—

"The trustiest of the four,
On high his forky pennon bore:
Like swallow's tail in shape and hue,
Fluttered the streamer, glossy blue,
Where blazoned sable, as before,
The towering falcon seemed to soar."



Pavon.

The PAVON was a peculiar-shaped flag, somewhat like a gryon attached to a spear. The cut is from an illuminated Psalter executed in 1340. The original is charged with the arms of Sir Geoffrey Loutterell: *azure; a bend between six martlets argent.*

PENONCELS, or PENSILS, were small narrow pennons, usually borne to ensign the helmet, or to form part of the caparisons of the knight's charger, though they were sometimes affixed to lances, as appears from a line of the 'Lyfe of Alesaunder,' a metrical romance of the fourteenth century,—

"Many a fair pencil on spere."

ENSIGN (Wal. *insigna*; Span. *ensena*; Lat. *insigne*; Fr. *ensigne*; also in English, *antient* or *ancient*), applied first to the flag, is now applied both to the flag and its bearer. In 'Othello,' Cassio, in speaking of Iago, says, "The lieutenant is to be saved before the ancient." Edward the Black Prince commanded his 'ancient' bearer, Sir Walter Woodland, to march forward.¹ King Richard took with him on his crusade the standard and ensigns of his kingdom. Of late years, the national flags borne by vessels of war or merchant ships have been known as *ensigns*, and a grade of junior officers has been introduced into the United States navy, who are styled 'ensigns,' though their duties necessarily have no connection with the colors. The French also have a class of officers in their navy styled *ensigns de vaisseaux*.¹

Winthrop, in his 'History of New England,' mentions, under date Saturday, May 22, 1634, his meeting, on his passage across the Atlantic, a small French vessel, and "when we drew near her, we put forth our 'ancient,' and she luffed up the wind to us."

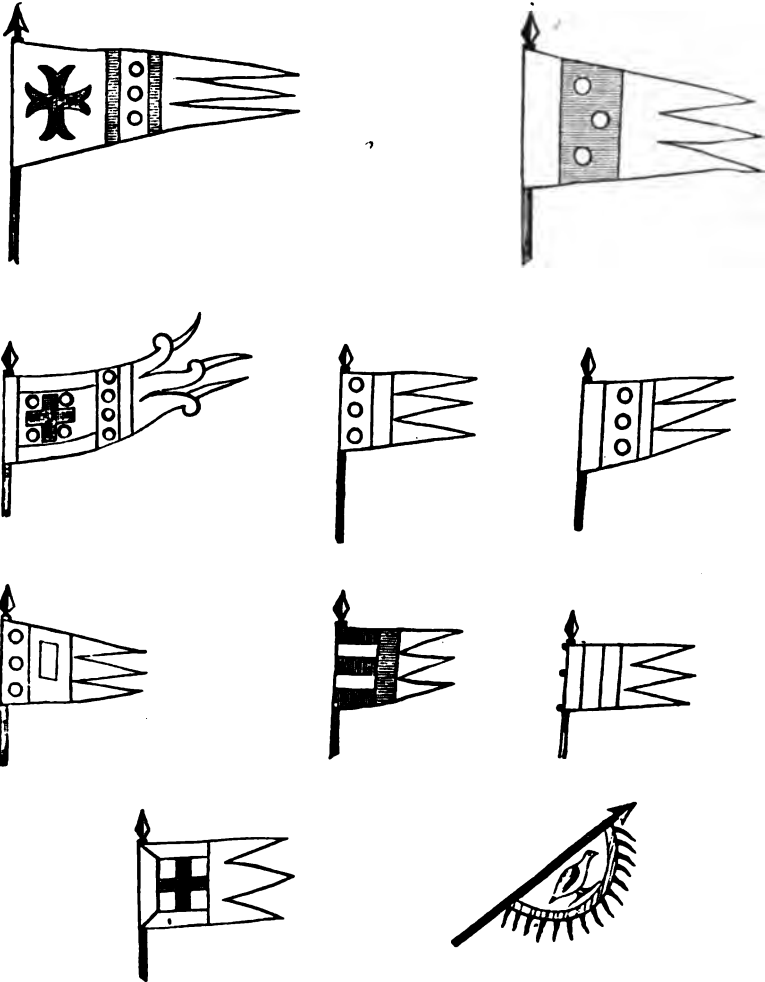
That celebrated piece of royal embroidery, the Bayeux tapestry, the handiwork of Matilda, the consort of William the Conqueror, and her ladies, exhibits a display of the military ensigns in use at the period of the conquest by the Norman invaders and the Saxon occupants of England. The examples I have given from it afford an idea of the shape and devices of the ensigns of the chieftains of the eleventh century.²

The Bayeux tapestry, divided into compartments showing the events from Harold's visit to the Norman court to his death at Hastings, is preserved in the public library at Bayeux, near Caen, Normandy. Only within a few years has it been where it could be seen with comfort or ability to appreciate its merits, having formerly been kept on a huge cylinder, from which an official unrolled seventy-two yards on to another cylinder. In this way it was carried through France in 1803, by order of Bonaparte, to be displayed from the stages of the theatres as an incentive to the public mind not to revive this kind of work, but to awaken the people to a project then on foot for the invasion of England. Now this grand work is shown on the walls of the town library, it consisting of a strip of linen cloth 218 feet long, and 1 foot 8 inches wide, having worked upon its entire length a series of fifty-eight scenes, representing the events in the 'Norman Conquests,' in which there are more than ten thousand figures, many of them being men who are 10 to 12 inches high; then there are horses, dogs, ships, and houses, and a running border

¹ Boutell's Heraldry.

² Stow.

with innumerable figures, all worked in worsted, and with only eight colors, dark and light blue, red, yellow, buff, and two shades of green; the horses are either blue, red, green, or yellow, to suit the surroundings.



Ensigns from the Bayeux Tapestry.

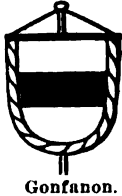
Thus the queen has handed down to the present day a memorial so explicit in its details and graphic in its delineations as to form a valuable standard of reference in an archæological point of view, and at the same time a perfect mirror of the curious usages, economy, manners, and even looks of the people of her time. Over each scene

is written, also in needle-work, the subject, in Roman capitals, in the Latin language.¹

The number of pennons carried by the Norman soldiers figured in the entire tapestry amounts to thirty-seven, and of these no less than twenty-eight have their ends cut into three points or flames.

Mr. French argues that the three-pointed ends on these pennons symbolize the Holy Trinity, as did those of crusaders of the first crusade subsequently. Whether the pennons with their triple terminations were intended to symbolize the Trinity or not, there is no doubt of their having been used extensively. When the crusader returned, this symbol of his hostility to the Saracen was removed, as shown on the tomb of Edward Crookback, Earl of Lancaster, the brother of Edward I., who returned from the first crusade of 1270. The tomb remains to this day, though defaced. In 1783, the colors were copied, and each of the figures of the ten knights who accompanied him to the East and returned with him to England are represented as holding a square banner.

GONFANONS were properly sacred banners carried in religious processions, and as such Chaucer and Milton speak of them. The great standard or banner of St. Mark was styled a gonfanon. The gonfanon was bordered with fringe or twisted silk, and usually supported as shown in the illustration. In the 'Lyfe of Alesaunder' we read,—



Gonfanon.

“ Ther gonfannons and their penselles
Wer well wrought off grene sendels.”

Dr. Myrick considers the small pennon attached to a lance in the hand of William the Conqueror on his great seal as a gonfanon, differing from a banner, being, instead of square and fastened to a transverse bar, of the same figure as the gonfanon, fixed in a frame, and made to turn like a modern ship's vane, with two or three streamers or tails. The object of the gonfanon was principally to render the leaders more conspicuous to their followers, and to terrify the horses

¹ Mrs. Emma D. Southworth, Cor. Boston 'Traveller,' Oct. 4, 1879. A copy drawn by C. Stothard, and colored after the originals, was published by the Society of Antiquaries in 1821-23. A fac-simile in chromo-lithograph, the full size of the original, has been published. In 1856, the Rev. John Collingwood Bruce published a quarto volume, entitled 'The Bayeux Tapestry elucidated,' which has reduced colored illustrations of the entire roll. In 1857, the Journal of the Archaeological Association of Great Britain printed a paper by Gilbert J. French on the 'Banners of the Bayeux Tapestry,' which was subsequently published in a thin 8vo. volume, for presentation only.

of their adversaries; hence the gonfanon was a mark of dignity. From the Bayeux tapestry it would appear that a standard was borne near the person of the commander-in-chief, which is described by the writer of the period as a gonfanon. Wace says:—

“The barons had gonfanons,
The knights had pennons.”

The Conqueror's gonfanon, depicted on the Bayeux tapestry,¹ has three tails, and is white, within a blue border charged with a cross, *or*. The same charge also occurs on the mast of his ship, though in a square form. Wace says, Harold's standard was a noble one,—a dragon sparkling with gems and precious stones.

One of the banners of the Bayeux tapestry, of which an illustration is given, represents a bird within a semicircle of rays, and has usually been called a Danish war-flag, the bird supposed to be the raven sacred to Odin; and Herr Worsac² adopts the opinion that it is the *danbrog* or war-flag of the Scandinavian vikings. He goes on to state that the banners (or marks) of the ancient Danes were in times of peace light-colored, but in war times of a blood color, with a black raven on a red ground. This is entirely against the supposition that the flag of the tapestry represents the raven of Denmark, since, after the lapse of six hundred years, the bird remains of a pale blue color, upon what appears to have been white, and it is represented with closed wings,—a peaceful and dovelike attitude. There is, therefore, reason for a belief that this singular and interesting banner bears a dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit, within a nimbus of rays.³ Speed informs us that the Duke of Normandy, “with three hundred ships fraught full of his Normans, Flemings, Frenchmen, and Britaignes, weighed anchor.” In this list there is no mention of Danes or Norwegians, and there is good reason for supposing that no soldiers of Scandinavian nations were present in the army of the Conqueror.

The strength of these nations had invaded England in the north, and been subdued in a sanguinary and decisive battle, only four days before the Duke of Normandy landed at Hastings. The probability, therefore, is that neither Dane nor Danish banner was in the Norman army.³

The STANDARD was a flag somewhat resembling an elongated pennon. It did not, like the banner, indicate a distinctive mark of honor,

¹ Retrospective Review—Sir Harris Nicolas.

² The Danes in England.

³ Gilbert J. French. Banners of the Bayeux Tapestry, 1857.

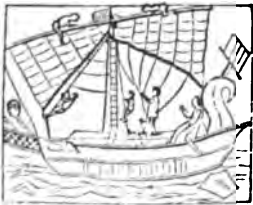
but might be borne by any noble commander irrespective of his rank, the only restriction being that of its length. A king's standard was eight or nine yards long; a duke's, seven; a marquis's, six and a half; an earl's, six; a viscount's, five and a half; a baron's, five; a banneret's, four and a half; and a knight's, four.

The banner was always charged with the arms of its owner; but on the standard only the crest or badge and motto were exhibited; the field being composed of the livery colors. When the livery of a family consisted of more than one color,—as the Tudor sovereigns, for example, who bore *argent* and *vert*,—the standard was always parted per *fess* of such colors. Next the staff was emblazoned the cross of St. George; then followed the badge or badges, repeated an indefinite number of times, surmounted by narrow bands, on which was inscribed the motto, or *cri-de-guerre*; the whole being usually surrounded by a roll of silk composed of the livery colors.

The charges were so depicted upon the standard as to appear correct when it was developed by the wind in a horizontal position. On account of its size, it was not generally carried in the hand, like a banner, but the staff to which it was attached was fixed in the ground,—hence its name. The Royal standards of the present time are really square banners, blazoned with the royal arms over the entire field.

THE EARLY USE OF ENSIGNS AND COLORS ON BOARD SHIP.

According to Wilkinson and Bonomi, there are no flags depicted upon Egyptian or Assyrian representations of vessels; but in lieu of a flag certain devices are embroidered on the sail, such as a phenix, flowers, &c., whence the sail bearing the device was called *nes*, or ensign.



The utility of vanes and pennons must have been soon suggested as a means of ascertaining the direction of the wind. The blazoning them with the arms of the owner or the name of the vessel naturally followed. Livy mentions that Scipio, B.C. 202, was met by a ship of the Carthaginians, "garnished with infules, ribbands, and white flags of peace, and beset with branches of olives," &c. A medal of the time of Antiochus VII., king of Syria, B.C. 123, shows a galley without mast or sail, having a swallow-tailed flag, not

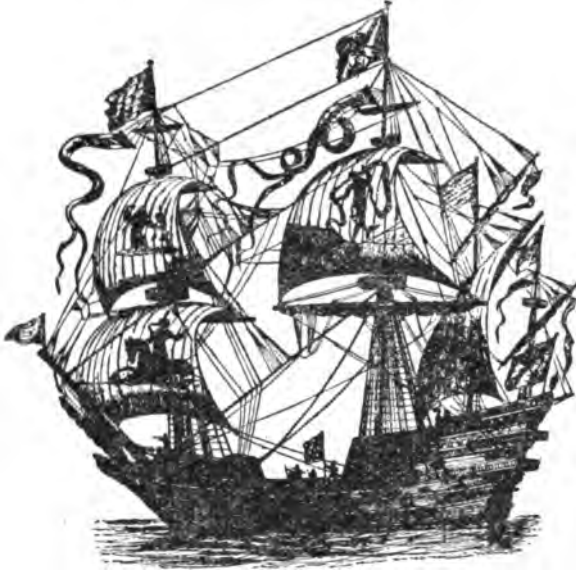
slung upon a spreader, but hoisted on an ensign-staff abaft. The Prophet Ezekiel, whose prophecies date 600 years B.C., metaphorically comparing the maritime city of Tyre to one of the ships by which they carried on their commerce, speaks of her banner as made of fine linen.

Pliny tells us that the sterns and prows of trading vessels and men-of-war, without exception, were decorated with colors; and at Athens, Corinth and Sicyon the profession of ship-painters founded the famous school of painters in those cities.

At first, merely to preserve the wood, the ship-builders covered every part of the vessel exposed to the action of the air and water with a coating of pitch; but this sombre and uniform tint soon wearied the eye. A more brilliant color, prepared with wax, was painted over the pitch; the costlier class of ships glistened in all the splendor of white, ultramarine, and vermilion; while pirates and occasionally men-of-war were covered with a coat of green paint, which, blending with the color of the sea, prevented them from being seen at a distance. Gildings glistened on the vessels of the rich, and the sculptor's chisel added busts and figures to the decoration of their bows and sterns. Even in this respect the Middle Ages still followed the traditions of antiquity.

The decorations of ships varied according to the caprice of owners and the fashion of the times. The Saracen dromon boarded and taken by Richard Cœur de Lion had one side colored green, and the other yellow. The Genoese at first painted their ships green; but in 1242, when they were at war with the Pisans, they colored them white, spotted with vermilion crosses; that is, "red crosses on a silver ground, which resembled the arms of Monsieur Saint-Georges." Red was the color generally adopted for ships' hulls in the sixteenth century, though a pattern in black and white was sometimes added, and sometimes the ground was painted black, and the pattern only vermilion. In 1525, when Francis I., made prisoner at the battle of Pavia, was taken to Barcelona, the six galleys which carried the captive sovereign and his suite were painted entirely black, from the top of the masts to the water-line. The Knights of St. Stephen, in the fifteenth century, hid the brilliant hues of the principal galley of their squadron, and painted its sails, pennants, awnings, oars, and hull with black, and swore never to alter the sombre hue till their order had recaptured from the Turks a galley lost by the Pisans. The Normans, or men of the North, were as fond of these brilliant standards as the nations of the Mediterranean; when they sailed on a warlike expedition, or when they celebrated a victory over pirates, they covered

their vessels with flags. The poet Benoît de Sante-More tells us that it was in this fashion, covered with seven hundred banners, that Rollo brought his fleet back up the Seine to Meulan. The Middle Ages made use of all kinds of fanciful decorations for their vessels. During



French Man-of-war of the Sixteenth Century.

From the Collection of Drawings in the National Library, Paris.

the Renaissance, this taste was renewed, and was an improvement upon the customs of antiquity, whence it drew its inspirations, and on those of the thirteenth century.

A galley, says the learned M. Jal, "was in those days a species of jewel, and was handed over for embellishment to the hands of genius, as a piece of metal was given to Benvenuto Cellini."

Sculptors, painters, and poets combined their talents to adorn a ship's stern. A striking example of this artistic refinement in naval ornamentation was the Spanish galley constructed in 1568 by order of Philip II., for his brother, Don John of Austria, to whom he confided the command of the fleet intended to fight the barbarous Moorish States of Africa. The vessel's cut-water was painted white, and emblazoned with the royal arms of Spain and with the personal arms of Don John. The prince being a Knight of the Golden Fleece, the history of Jason and of the good ship Argo was represented in colored sculpture on the stern, above the rudder. This pictured poem was accompanied with four symbolical statues—Prudence, Temperance, Power, and Justice,—above which floated angels carrying the symbols of the theological virtues. On one side of the poop might be seen Mars the avenger, Mercury the eloquent, and Ulysses stopping his ears against the seductions of the Sirens; on the other, Pallas, Alexander the Great, Argus, and Diana. Between these were inserted pictures, which conveyed either a moral lesson for the benefit

of the young admiral, or a delicate eulogium on Charles V., his father, or on Philip II., his brother. All these emblems were *chefs-d'œuvre* of drawing and sculpture, which the brilliancy of their gold, azure, and vermillion settings tended to enhance.¹

The illuminated copies of Froissart's 'Chronicles,' in the British Museum, present many curious illustrations of the manner of carrying flags at sea. Some of the vessels have a man at arms in the top holding on a staff the banner of the nation to which it belongs. One of the illu-



Ship of Henry VI.'s Time, 1430-61.

minations of the time of Henry VI. (1430-61) represents a ship with shields slung along her topsides,—a very ancient practice, which was continued by painting the arms and devices on the bulwarks, and from whence come the figure-heads and stern carvings of modern ships. Two trumpeters at the stern have standards blazoned with fleurs-de-lis, attached to their trumpets, and a similar standard is displayed from her masthead. In some instances, the banners of ships were consecrated. Baldwin, Earl of Flanders (1204) had one, and William the Conqueror, when he invaded England (1066), hoisted at the masthead of the *Mora*, the ship that conveyed him to its shores,

¹ *Le Croix's Military and Religious Life in the Middle Ages.*

a square white banner. This banner was charged with a gold cross within a blue border, surmounted by another cross of gold, consecrated by Pope Alexander II.

expressly for the occasion. Her name, the *Mira*, or *Mora*, is supposed to mean Mansion. She was presented to the Conqueror by his duchess as a parting gift. A picture of her, from which our illustration is drawn, is preserved on the Bayeux tapestry.



The Mora, 1066.

Her sail is painted in three stripes; viz., red or brown, yellow, and red. All the ships of William's fleet were painted in horizontal stripes, differently colored. The *Mora* was painted alternately brown and blue.

A variety of colors were borne by English ships in the fourteenth century. Besides the national banner of St. George, and the banner of the king's army (which, after the year 1340, consisted of three lions of England quartered with the arms of France,—azure semée of gold fleur-de-lis), every ship had pennoncel with the arms of St. George and two streamers charged with the image of the saint after whom she was called, if she had not a Christian name, the streamers contained other charges. About 1346, one hundred and sixty pennoncel with the arms of St. George were made for ships. The standards of St. George had sometimes a leopard, *i.e.* the lion of England, in chief.

In 1337, the St. Botolph and the St. Nicholas carried streamers with the images of those saints. These streamers were from fourteen to thirty-two ells long, and from three to five in breadth. Before the battle of Espagnols sur Mer, in 1350, two standards and two streamers were issued to all the king's ships, those called after saints having their effigies. Some of the other streamers were peculiar. That of the Jerusalem was white and red, and contained white dragons, green lozenges, and leopards' heads. That of the Edward had the king's arms with an E, and the streamer and banner of the ship appointed for the king's wardrobe was charged with his arms and a black key. Two gonfanons are stated to have once been supplied to ships, probably to distinguish the vessels that bore them, carrying ecclesiastics, from other vessels; also a streamer charged with a dragon.

STREAMERS were considered warlike ensigns. One of the requisitions made to the Mayor of Lyons by the French ambassadors

appointed to carry the treaty of Montreuil into effect, was, that the masters of ships belonging to Lyons, who were going to those ambassadors in Hainault, should be forbidden to bear unusual streamers, or other signs of mortal war, until commanded to do so by the king, to avoid incurring the dangers mentioned in the eighth article of a convention agreed to before Pope Boniface the Eighth, for settling some disputes between the French and the inhabitants of Lyons, and of other maritime towns of England and of Gascony.

The banner of the admiral of a fleet was hoisted on board his ship; and when any eminent person was a passenger, his banner was also displayed. In 1337, Sir John Roos, admiral of the northern fleet, was sent to convey the Bishop of Lincoln and the Earls of Salisbury and Huntingdon on their return to England from a foreign mission; and the *Christopher* was furnished with banners of the arms of Sir John Roos, of the Bishop of Lincoln, and of the Earl of Salisbury. These banners were one ell and three-quarters long, and two cloths wide. The *Christopher* also received a banner of the king's arms, and two worsted standards, which were nine ells long and three cloths wide.

Besides streamers bearing a representation of the saint for whom a ship was named, his image was sent on board. When Edward III. embarked in his Cog, the *Thomas*, in 1350, before the battle with the Spaniards, an image of St. Thomas was made for that vessel; and an image of Our Lady, captured in a ship at sea by John de Ryngeborne, was carefully conveyed from Westminster to Eltham, and there delivered to the king, February, 1376. Targets and pavises or large shields, great numbers of which were placed on every ship, were sometimes painted with the arms of St. George, or with an escutcheon of the king's arms within the garter.¹



Ship of the Earl of Warwick, 1437.

On a manuscript relating the principal events in the life of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, written by John Rous, a chanting priest of Guy's Cliff, there is a representation of a ship having a main and mizzen mast with the sail braced up for sailing on a wind, contrary to the earlier practice of sailing always before the wind. The streamer does not fly in accordance with the angle of the sail; but this anomaly by the priestly artist may be supposed to have arisen from his desire to

¹ Sir N. Harris Nicolas's *History of the Royal Navy*, vol. II.

make the best display of the armorial bearings on the streamer. From the following bill, the original of which is preserved in Dugdale's 'Warwickshire,' it seems this streamer was made in 1437, viz. :—

"These be the parcells that Will Seburg, citizen and peyntour of London, hath delivered in the month of Juyn [July], the xv year of the reign of King Harry Sext [1437], to John Ray, taillour of the same city, for the use and stuff of my Lord Warwick.

"*Item*, for a grete Stremour for the ship of xl yerdes length, and vij. yerdes in brede, with a grete Bear and Gryfon holding a ragged staff, poudrid full of ragged staves, and for a grete crosse of St. George, for the lymming and portraying 1. 6. 8.

"*Item*, for a guiton for the shippe, of viij. yerdes long, poudrid full of ragged staves, for the lymming and workmanship 0. 2. 0.

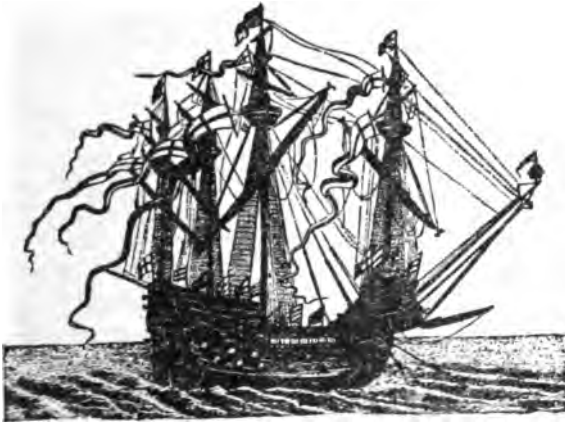
"*Item*, iij. Pennons of satyn entreteyned with ragged staves, for the lymming full of ragged staves, price the piece, ijs, 3. 6. 0."

The gryfon mentioned in this account does not appear on the streamer; probably it was painted on the side not seen; with this exception, the streamer of the ship is identified with that described in the bill, and shows that the ship was equipped July, 1437. The use of streamers was confined to ships, and is continued in the narrow or coach-whip pennants of modern ships of war.

When Eustace, the monk, in 1217, put to sea from Calais with a fleet of eighty ships, besides galleys and smaller craft, intending to proceed up the Thames to London, and was descried off the coast of England, some one exclaimed, "Is there any one among you who is this day ready to die for England?" and was answered by another, "Here am I;" when the first speaker observed, "Take with thee an axe, and when thou seest us engaging the tyrant's ship, climb up the mast and cut down the banner, that the other vessels may be dispersed for the want of a leader." We may infer from this that the French commander of a fleet carried a distinguishing banner. Yet nothing has been found showing that the English admiral in the reign of Edward II. bore any distinguishing ensign by day. As the admiral and his vice-admiral certainly carried distinguishing lights by night, it is extremely probable that his ship was indicated by his banner at the masthead, which agrees with the fact that vessels were supplied with the banner of the admiral who sailed in them. In 1346, on an expedition against Normandy, Froissart says, Edward III. took the ensign from the Earl of Warwick, the admiral, and declared that he himself would be admiral on the voyage, and, running ahead, led the fleet.

On a *rose noble* of Edward III. the king is represented as standing on a ship which carries at its masthead a pennon of St. George.¹ On a rose noble of Queen Elizabeth, her Majesty is seated in the ship, which is charged with a Tudor rose, and carries at the bow a banner bearing an initial letter,—a Gothic **E**.

Henry VII. ordered built a great ship, such as had never been seen in England, which was finished in 1515, and called the *Harry Grace de*



The Harry Grace de Dieu, 1515.

Dieu. A drawing of her, preserved in the Pepsian collection at Cambridge, England, shows her at anchor profusely decorated with twenty-five flags and standards. The ship has four masts and the high poop and forecastle of those times. Each of the round tops at

her lower and top masts' heads, and the bowsprit end (nine in all) are furnished with a streamer or standard bearing a cross of St. George at the luff, with the ends divided longitudinally by a red and white stripe, the red in chief. At three of the mastheads are St. George ensigns, and on the principal mast a flag or standard blazoned with the royal arms, and having a St. George cross in the fly. The poop, waist, and forecastle show a line of flags or banners, two of which are St. George flags with a blue fly bearing a fleur-de-lis, and one bearing a rose, also two plain blue flags charged with a fleur-de-lis and rose. Four are striped horizontally red and white, and four striped horizontally yellow and white.

A drawing of the same ship under sail, given by Allen, exhibits a banner with the royal arms at the main masthead, a blue banner bearing a rose on the mast next abaft it, and St. George flags, white with a red cross, at both the fore and mizzen mastheads. A large royal standard on the ensign staff at the poop, and seven streamers

¹ For a description of this rose noble, see 'The American Journal of Numismatics' for January, 1872, also Entick's 'Naval History,' published 1757. It was coined to assert King Edward's title to France, his dominion of the sea, and to commemorate his naval victory over the French fleet in 1340,—the greatest that had ever been obtained at sea by the English, and the first wherein a king of England had commanded in person, and wherein the French are said to have lost 30,000 men.

or standards of various colors and devices are scattered about the rigging.¹

In the ancient picture preserved at Windsor Castle of the embarkation of Henry VIII. at Dover, May 31, 1520, the ship he is in—



Ship of War in which Henry VIII. embarked at Dover in 1520.

supposed to be the Harry Grace de Dieu, or the Great Harry—is represented as sailing out of the harbor of Dover having her sails set. She has four masts, with two round tops to each mast, except the shortest mizzen; her sails and pennants are of cloth of gold damasked. The royal standard of England is flying on each of the

quarters of the forecastle, and the staff of each standard is surrounded by a fleur-de-lis, *or*; pennants are flying from the mastheads, and at each quarter of the deck is a standard of St. George's cross. Her quarters and sides, as also her tops, are fortified and decorated with heater-shaped shields charged differently with the cross of St. George *azure*, a fleur-de-lis *or*, party per pale *argent*, and *vert* a union rose, and party per pale *argent* and *vert* a portcullis *or*, alternately and repeatedly.

On the main deck the king is standing, richly dressed in a garment of cloth of gold edged with ermine, the sleeves crimson, and the jacket and breeches the same. His round bonnet is covered with a white feather laid on the upper side of the brim. On his right hand stands a person in a dark violet coat slashed with black, with red stockings; and on his right three others, all evidently persons of distinction; behind them, the yeomen of the guard. Two trumpeters are seated on the edge of the quarter-deck, and the same number on the forecastle, sounding their trumpets. On the front of the forecastle and on the

¹ A return of the Royal Shippes at Wolwidge in the 1st year of Edwd. VI. names the "Harry Grace a Dieu, 1000 tons; Souldiers, 349; Marryners, 301; Gunners, 50; Brass Pieces, 19; Iron Pieces, 103."

stern are painted, within a circle of the garter, the arms of France and England, supported by a lion and a dragon, being the supporters then used by Henry VIII. The same arms are repeated on the stern. On each side of the rudder is a port-hole, with a brass cannon; and on the side of the main deck are two port-holes with cannon, and the same number under the fore-castle. The figure on the ship's head seems meant to represent a lion, but is extremely ill carved. Under the ship's stern is a boat, having at her bow two standards of St. George's cross, and the same at her stern, with yeomen of the guard and other persons in her.

On the right of the Great Harry is a three-masted ship, having her sails furled, and broad pennants of St. George's cross flying. She has four royal standards on her fore-castle. Between these two ships is a boat filled with a number of persons, having two pennants with armorial bearings at the bow, and two at the stern.

These two ships are followed by three others, each having pennants of St. George's cross flying, their sides and tops ornamented with shields. On the fore-castle of the nearest of these ships three royal standards are visible, a fourth being hid by the foresail. All these ships are crowded with passengers. Between these ships and the shore are two boats carrying passengers on board the ships. In the stern of one of them is an officer dressed in green, slashed, holding up an ensign or ancient of five stripes—white, green, red, white, and green,—the same as displayed from the nearest fort.¹

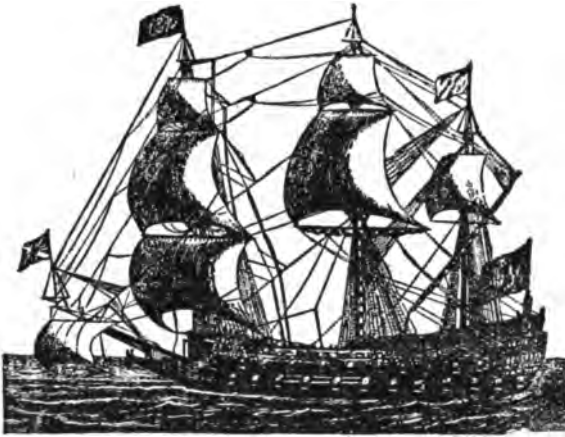
Francis I. had a magnificent carack constructed in Normandy, so richly decorated, with such lofty decks and towers, that it was called the 'Great Carack.' It was anchored in the roadstead of Havre de Grace, and was about to set sail at the head of a powerful fleet to meet the English monarch, when he was coming to the Field of the Cloth of Gold. On the eve of its departure, Francis I., desirous of inspecting the ship, went on board, accompanied by a numerous and a brilliant court. A collation had been prepared for him and his suite, the band was playing, salutes were thundering out in his honor, and he was in the midst of his inspection of the floating citadel, when an alarm was given,—a fire had broken out between decks, and before help could be efficiently rendered the whole of the rigging was in flames. In a few hours all that remained of the Great Carack was an immense hull half consumed aground on the beach, upon which the sea was casting up the corpses of those of its crew who were killed by the discharges of its cannons during the progress of the conflagration.²

¹ Charnock's Marine Architecture.

² La Croix's Middle Ages.

An engraving prefixed to Heywood's description of the *Sovereign of the Seas*, built in 1637 by order of Charles I., and which "was just as many tons burthen as the year of our Lord in which she was built," shows that famous ship with four masts. A white ensign, cantoned with a St. George's cross, flies from a staff on her bowsprit, and a St. George flag at the fore. A banner, blazoned with the royal arms, is at the main, and the union jack of 1606 at the mast next abaft.¹

A picture of the same ship, painted by Vandevelde, exhibits her with only three masts, and under sail, with a union jack at the bow-



The *Sovereign of the Seas*, 1637, by Vandevelde.

sprit. A banner, bearing the royal arms and supporters, is on the ensign staff, and flags at the fore and mizzen mast-heads are blazoned with the crown and royal cypher surrounded by the garter and mottoes on ribbons.

Vessels in the Middle Ages, as in

ancient times, frequently had golden-colored and purple sails. The sails of seigniorial ships were generally brilliantly emblazoned with the coat-of-arms of the seignior; the sails of merchant vessels and of fishing-boats, with the image of a saint, the patron figure of the Virgin, a pious legend, a sacramental word, or a sacred sign, intended to exorcise evil spirits, who played no inconsiderate part in the superstitions of those who went down in ships upon the great waters,—a custom which is still kept alive by the maritime people of China and Japan. Different kinds of sails were originally employed to make signals at sea; but flags soon began to be used for this purpose. A single flag, having a different meaning, according to its position, ordinarily sufficed to transmit all necessary orders in the daytime. At night its place was taken by lighted beacons. These flags, banners, standards, and

¹ "A true description of His Majesty's royal ship, built this year, 1637, at Woolwich, in Kent, to the Glory of the English Nation, and not to be paralleled in the whole Christian world." by Thomas Heywood; to which is prefixed a Portrait of the Ship.

pennants, most of them embroidered with the arms of a town, a sovereign, or an admiral, were made of light stuffs, taffeta, or satin; sometimes square, sometimes triangular, sometimes forked, each had its own use and significance, either for the embellishment of the vessel's appearance, or to assist in manœuvring. The galleys were provided with a smaller kind of pennant, which was put up at the prow, or fastened to the handle of each oar. These were purely for ornamental purposes, and were often trimmed with golden or silk fringes.

Amongst the most celebrated flags and standards of the French navy was the *baucents*, a name that recalls the banner of the Knights Templar. These flags of red taffeta, sometimes sprinkled with gold, were only employed in the most merciless wars; for, says a document of 1292, "they signified certain death and mortal strife to all sailors everywhere." It is related of Philip the Bold, of Burgundy, in his preparation for the invasion of England, 1404, his ship was painted outside in blue and gold, and there were three thousand standards with his motto, assumed, no doubt, for the occasion, but which he afterward always retained: "*Moult me tarde.*" It was also embroidered on the sails of his ships, encircled by a wreath of daisies, in compliment to his wife. In 1570, Marco Antonio Colonna hoisted on his flag-galley a pennant of crimson damask, which bore on both sides a Christ on the cross, between St. Peter and St. Paul, with the Emperor Constantine's motto, "*In hoc signo vinces.*" The banner which Don Juan of Austria received at Naples, on the 14th of April, 1571, with the staff of supreme command over the Christian League, was made of crimson damask, fringed with gold, on which were embroidered, besides the arms of the prince a crucifix, with the arms of the Pope, those of the Catholic king, and of the Republic of Venice, united by a chain, symbolical of the union of the three powers "against the Turk."

A ship on the tapestry of the House of Lords, which has been destroyed by fire, exhibited the royal standard at the main, swallow-tailed banners at the fore and mizzen, and a St. George ensign.

In a very old representation of the fight with the Spanish Armada, on the coast of England, all the ships wear ensigns, flags, and streamers.

The Venetian galleys of the fourteenth century carried blue banners and ensigns, blazoned with the winged lion and book of St. Mark, *or*.

A manuscript in the British Museum, of the time of Henry VIII., assigning directions relative to the size of banners, standards, &c., says: "A streamer shall stand in the toppe of a shippe, or in the fore castle, and therein be putt no armes, but in mans conceit or device, and may be of the lengthe of twenty, thirty, forty, or sixty yardes, and it is slitte as well as a guyd homme or standarde, and that may

a gentler man or any other have and beare." This answers to the description of the modern coach-whip pennant, used to denote the commander of a single ship of war.

When William, Prince of Orange, sailed for England, on the 21st of October, 1688, with five hundred sail, he carried the flag of England and his own arms, with this motto: "*I will maintain the Protestant Religion and the Liberties of England.*"

SOVEREIGNTY OF THE SEA.—STRIKING FLAGS.

As early as the reign of King John, England claimed the sovereignty of the narrow seas surrounding her little island, and in the second year of his reign, 1200, it was declared by the Ordinance of Hastings, so called from the place where it bore date, "That if any lieutenant of the king's fleet, in any naval expedition, do meet with on the sea any ships or vessels, laden or unladen, that will not vail and lower their sails at the command of the lieutenant of the king, or the king's admiral, or his lieutenant, but shall fight with them of the fleet, such, if taken, shall be reputed as enemies, and their ships, vessels, and goods be seized and forfeited as the goods of enemies, notwithstanding any thing that the masters or owners thereof may afterwards come and alledge of such ships, vessels, and goods, being the goods of those in amity with our lord the king; and that the common sailors on board the same shall be punished for their rebellion with imprisonment of their bodies at discretion."¹

In the reign of Mary, 1554, a Spanish fleet of one hundred and sixty sail, having Philip, their king, on board, to espouse Queen Mary, fell in with that of England, of twenty-eight sail, under the command of Lord William Howard, lord high admiral, in the narrow seas. Philip had the flag of Spain flying at the maintop-masthead, and would have passed the English fleet without paying the customary honors, had not the English admiral fired a shot at the Spanish admiral, and *forced the whole fleet to strike their colors and lower their topsails as an homage to the English flag*, before he would permit his squadron to salute the Spanish prince.

In the reign of James I., in 1604, a dispute having arisen between the English and Dutch with respect to the compliment of the flag, a fleet was sent to sea under the command of Sir William Monson, who, on his arrival in the Downs, discovered a squadron of Dutch men-of-war, whose admiral, on Sir William Monson's passing their squadron,

¹ Kent's Blog. Nau., vol. 1.; Burchet's Naval History; Macaulay.

struck his flag three times. The English admiral, not satisfied with the compliment, persisted in his keeping it struck during his cruise on the English coast.

November, 1625, Sir Robert Mansell fell in with six French men-of-war on the coast of Spain, and obliged their admiral to strike his flag, and pay him the usual compliments.

In 1629, the various disputes constantly arising respecting the honor of the flag, which the English claimed, induced Hugo Grotius to write a treatise called 'Mare Liberum,' on the futility of the English title to the dominion of the sea, which he considered was a gift from God common to all nations.

When Sir John Pennington carried the Duke of Hamilton into Germany, in 1631, the Dutch ships which he met with in the Baltic Sea made no difficulty in striking their flags to him; and the same respect was paid by the Dutch admirals in the Mediterranean.

In 1634, Mr. Selden wrote a treatise in answer to Grotius, called 'Mare Clausum,' in which he asserted that Britons "have an hereditary and uninterrupted right to the sovereignty of their seas, conveyed to them from their ancestors, in trust for their latest posterity." A copy of this book was ordered by the king "to be kept in the Court of Admiralty, there to remain as a just evidence of our dominion of the sea." A proclamation was published the same year, asserting the sovereignty of the sea, and to regulate the manner of wearing the flag.

In 1635, at the blockade of Dunkirk, the admiral of Holland always struck his flag to any English ship of war which came within sight. The same year, the combined fleets of France and Holland vauntingly gave out that they intended to assert their independence, and dispute that prerogative which the English claimed in the narrow seas; but as soon as they were informed an English fleet of forty ships was at sea, and in search of them, they quitted the English coast and returned to their own.

On the 20th of August, 1636, the Dutch vice-admiral, Van Dorp, saluted the English admiral, the Earl of Northumberland, by lowering his topsails, striking his flag, and firing of guns; and the same year, on the Earl's return to the Downs, he discovered twenty-six sail of Spaniards from Calais, bound to Dunkirk, who, on their own coast, upon his approach, paid him like marks of respect.

In the same ship (The Happy Entrance), Sir George Cartaret, the same year, carried the Earl of Arundel to Helvoet Sluice, where Van Tromp, the Dutch admiral, was then riding at anchor, who took in his flag, although Sir George wore none, and saluted him with seven

guns; but "in regard he was in a harbor of the States General, he hoisted it again."

A French ship of war at Fayal, the same year (1636) struck her flag, and kept it in while a British ship of war was in sight; and another French ship of war, coming out of Lisbon, struck her topsails to Sir Richard Plumbly.

The memorable war with Holland, in 1652, was occasioned by Commodore Young's having fired upon a Dutch man-of-war, on the 14th of May, 1652, which had refused the accustomed honor of the flag. Young first sent a boat on board the Dutchman to persuade him to strike. The Dutch captain very honestly replied, that "the States had to take off his head if he struck." Upon this the fight began, and the enemy were soon compelled to submit. There were present two other ships of war and about twelve merchantmen, none of which interfered; nor, after the Dutch ships had taken in their flags, did Commodore Young attempt to make any prizes.¹

On the 4th of April, 1654, a peace was concluded between England and Holland, by which the Dutch consented to acknowledge the sovereignty of the sea to the English.

"That the ships of the Dutch, as well ships of war as others, meeting any of the ships of war of the English Commonwealth in the British seas, shall strike their flags and lower their topsail, in such manner as hath ever been at any time heretofore practised under any forms of government."

This is the first instance of England's establishing her right by a formal treaty.²

In 1673, an order was issued to the commanders of his Majesty's ships of war, that in future they were not to require from the ships of war of France the striking of the flag or topsail, or salute; neither were they to give any salute to those of the Christian king.³

On the 9th of February, 1704, another treaty was made with Holland, which stipulated that any Dutch ships of war or others meeting those of the King of Great Britain, "in any of the seas from Cape Finisterre to the middle point of the land Van Staten, in Norway, shall strike their topsail and lower their flag, in the same manner and with the like testimony of respect as has been usually paid at any time or place heretofore by the Dutch ships to those of the king or his ancestors."

¹ Burchet's Naval History; Naval Biography. London, 1800.

² Anderson's Origin of Commerce, vol. II.

³ Memoirs relating to the Navy.

In 1704, a dispute arose at Lisbon respecting the ceremony of the flag, in which the English admiral, Sir George Rooke, the King of Spain, and the King of Portugal, were participators. The King of Portugal required that on his coming on board the admiral's ship in his barge of state, and striking his standard, the English flag might be struck at the same time; and that when his Catholic Majesty, with himself, should go off from the ship, his standard might be hoisted, and the admiral's flag continued struck until they were on shore. This proposition was made from the King of Portugal to the King of Spain. The admiral replied, "That his Majesty, so long as he should be on board, might command the flag to be struck when he pleased; but that whenever he left the ship, he was himself admiral, and obliged to execute his commission by immediately hoisting his flag." "So the flag of England was no longer struck than the standard of Portugal."¹

Only six years before our Revolutionary war, viz. in 1769, a French frigate anchored in the Downs, without paying the customary salute, and Captain John Hollwell, of the Apollo frigate, sent an officer on board to demand it. The French captain refused to comply; upon which Captain Hollwell ordered the Hawke sloop of war to fire two shots over her, when the Frenchman thought proper to strike his colors and salute.

Falconer's 'Dictionary,' published the same year, contains the regulations of the royal navy with regard to salutes, and says: "All foreign ships of war are expected to take in their flag and strike their topsails in acknowledgment of his Majesty's sovereignty in his Majesty's seas; and, if they refuse, it is enjoined to all flag-officers and commanders to use their utmost endeavors to compel them thereto, and not suffer any dishonor to be done his Majesty." "And it is to be observed in his Majesty's seas his Majesty's ships are in no wise to strike to any; and that in other parts no ship is to strike her flag or topsail to any foreigner, unless such foreign ship shall have first struck, or at the same time strike, her flag or topsail to his Majesty's ship."

Instances of British arrogance in claiming this sovereignty of the narrow seas could be multiplied.

The present rule for ships of the United States meeting the flag-ships of war of other nations at sea, or in foreign parts, is for the United States vessel to salute the foreign ship first, if she be com-

¹ Campbell's *Lives of the Admirals*, vol. III.; James's *Naval History*; Lediard's *Naval History*; Entick's *Naval History*; Burchet's *Naval History*; Harris's *Hist. Royal Navy*; Schomberg's *Naval Chronology*, &c.

manded by an officer his superior in rank, and he receives assurance that he will receive gun for gun in return. The national flag of the vessel saluted is displayed at the fore and the jib, hoisted at the first gun and hauled down at the last.

“No vessel of the navy is to lower her sails or dip her colors to another vessel of the navy; but should a foreign vessel, or merchant vessel of the United States, dip her colors or lower her sails to any vessel of the navy, the compliment shall be instantly returned.”

THE STANDARDS OF SYMBOLIC MASONRY.—STANDARD OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.—STANDARDS OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN.

STANDARDS OF SYMBOLIC MASONRY.—The standard designated as the principal or general standard of symbolic masonry is described as follows:—

The escutcheon or shield on the banner is divided into four compartments or quarters by a green cross, over which a narrower one of the same length of limb, and of a yellow color, is placed, forming what is called a cross *vert*, voided *or*; each of the compartments formed by the limits of the cross is occupied by a different device. In the first quarter is placed a golden lion in a field of blue, to represent the standard of the tribe of Judah; in the second, a black ox on a field of gold, to represent Ephraim; in the third, a man in a field of gold, to represent Reuben; and in the fourth, a golden eagle on a blue ground, to represent Dan. Over all is placed on a crest an ark of the covenant, and the motto is, “*Holiness to the Lord.*” Besides this, there are six other standards proper to be borne in processions, the material of which must be white bordered with a blue fringe or ribbon, and on each of which is inscribed one of the following words: FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, WISDOM, STRENGTH, BEAUTY.

In the royal arch degree, as recognized in the United States, there are five standards:—

The royal arch standard, for commandery use, is of scarlet silk, usually twelve by eighteen inches, with painted quarterings; viz., a lion, a priest, a bull, and an eagle.

The royal arch captain carries a white standard, emblematic of purity of heart and rectitude of conduct.

The standard of the master of the third vail is scarlet, emblematic of fervency and zeal, and is the appropriate color of the royal arch degree.

The standard of the master of the second vail is purple, which is emblematic of union, being a due mixture of blue and scarlet, the appropriate colors of the symbolic and royal arch degrees; and this teaches to cultivate the spirit of harmony and love between brethren of the symbolic and companions of the sublime degrees, which should ever distinguish the members of a society founded upon the principle of everlasting truth and universal philanthropy.

The standard of the master of the first vail is blue, the peculiar color of the ancient craft or symbolic degrees, which is emblematic of universal friendship and benevolence.

In the royal arch degrees, as practised in the chapters of England, twelve standards are used, illustrating the twelve tribes of Israel, which are as follows: ¹—

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Judah, scarlet, a lion couchant. 2. Issachar, blue, an ass. 3. Zebulon, purple, a ship. 4. Reuben, red, a man. 5. Simeon, yellow, a sword 6. Gad, white, a troop of horsemen. 7. Ephraim, green, an ox. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Manasseh, flesh color, a vine by the side of a wall. 9. Benjamin, green, a wolf. 10. Dan, green, an eagle. 11. Asher, purple, a cup. 12. Naphtali, blue, a hind. |
|--|---|

The rabbins suppose that the standards of the Jewish tribes were flags bearing figures, derived from the comparisons used by Jacob in his prophetic blessing to his sons. Genesis xlix.²

The following-described banners are used in the lodges of the United States, viz. :—

The Persian banner, twelve by eighteen inches, with a sun and rays on the upper half, and three crescents on the lower half. This banner is usually blue.

¹ Macoy's *Cyclopedia of Masonry*.

² In removing Cleopatra's Needle, at Alexandria, Egypt, from its base for transportation to the United States, in the latter part of 1879, Lieut.-Commander Gorringe, U. S. N., made the interesting discovery of the following masonic emblems under its base; viz., a block of hewn syenite granite, 40 inches in the cube, representing a perfect masonic altar. Under this a white marble slab, representing the apron, 102 inches long and 51 inches broad and 25½ inches thick, the upper half hewn into a perfect square. At the same level, and in the west angle of the foundation, another block of syenite granite, markedly regular in form, the surface of which represented rough ashlar steps, and the foundation of which was composed of white granite. Besides these four pieces were other less noticeable but equally significant emblems. —*Boston Journal*, Jan. 22, 1880.

A *white silk banner*. Motto at top, "*The will of God;*" a Maltese cross in the centre; a lamb and small pennant below. The cross on staff composed of four passion crosses.

A *white silk banner*, as above, with cock, shield, spear, sword, and trumpet, also an axe.

A *white silk banner*, with a nine-pointed star; in the centre of the star a Maltese cross, surrounded by the motto, "*Rex Requim Dominus Dominorum.*"¹

The *regulation grand standard of masonic knighthood* (Knights Templar) is of white silk, six feet in height and five feet in width, made tripartite at the bottom, fastened at the top to the crossbar by nine rings. In the centre of the standard a blood-red passion cross, edged with gold, over which is the motto, "*In hoc signo vinces,*" and under, "*Non nobis Domini, non nobis sed nomini tuo da Gloriam!*" The cross is four feet long and seven inches wide. On the top of the staff is a gilded ball or globe four inches in diameter, surmounted by a patriarchal cross twelve inches in height.

The *grand standard of the ancient and accepted Scottish rite* is of silk, three and a half feet long by two and a half wide, edged with gold, gold fringe, and tassels. In the centre a double-headed eagle, under which, on a blue scroll, the motto, "*Deus Meumque Jus.*" In the upper part of a triangle irradiated over the crowned heads of the eagle are the figures 33 in the centre.²

The *standard of the Red Cross Knights* is a green silk banner, suspended by nine rings on a stretcher. In the centre of the banner is a Geneva cross within a six-pointed star, with this motto around it, "*Magna est veritas et prevalebit.*" A trefoil cross heads the staff.

Another standard is a green silk flag, with triple triangles, and a passion cross in the centre of each triangle; a trophy below, composed of a spear, two crossed swords, a trowel, trumpet, and sash grouped. On the sash, "*Venici Imp. Trata.*" A Geneva-shaped cross on the top of the staff.¹

STANDARD OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS OF THE UNITED STATES.—At a meeting of the Grand Lodge of the United States, held in Baltimore, September, 1868, a committee, consisting of William E. Ford, of Massachusetts, Joseph B. Escavaille, and Fred. D. Stuart, submitted the following design for a flag, to be the flag of

¹ Letter of Horstman Brothers & Co., Philadelphia, Jan. 8, 1880.

² Macoy's Cyclopedia of Masonry.

the order at the approaching celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Odd Fellowship on this continent:—

“Resolved, That the R. W. Grand Lodge adopt for an Odd Fellows’ flag the pattern or design presented by the special committee appointed for that purpose; to wit, ‘the flag to be manufactured of white material, either bunting, satin, or cotton cloth, as may be selected by those desiring one. The proportions to be 11-19 of the length to the width. The emblems to consist of the three links, to be placed in the centre of the flag, with the letters I. O. O. F., to be painted or wrought in scarlet color, and trimmed with material of the same color. Wherever the flag is to be used by the encampments there should be added two crooks.’

“Resolved, That the R. W. Grand Corresponding and Recording Secretary be and he is hereby instructed to procure a flag of suitable size and proportions as above described for this Grand Lodge, to be used for the first time at the celebration of our fiftieth anniversary, on the 26th of April, and in addition to the emblems add the letters G. L. U. S.”

Mr. Hevener, of the District of Columbia, proposed that after the letters I. O. O. F. in the resolution there should be inserted, “and the name of the State, District, or Territory using it;” and Mr. Ross, of New Jersey, moved further to amend, by adding that the letters “I. O. O. F. and F. L. T. may be inserted *in* the links.” These amendments were agreed to, and the flag as thus amended adopted, Friday, Sept. 25, 1868.

At the meeting of the Grand Lodge in Chicago, September, 1871, it was voted that the crooks should be “painted or wrought in purple.”

It was subsequently proposed that this flag should be only used for grand lodges and encampments, and that the subordinate lodges and encampments should have a smaller flag,—of scarlet, if only a lodge, and of purple, if an encampment; but it was considered by a select committee of five, reported against, and voted unnecessary.



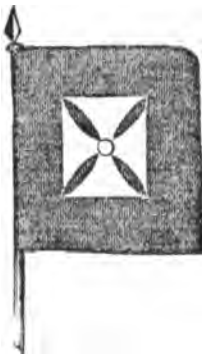
Knight of Malta.¹

THE HOSPITALLERS, OR KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, RHODES, AND OF MALTA.—As early as the middle of the eleventh century some merchants of Amalfi obtained from the Caliph of Egypt permission

¹ Fac-simile of a wood-cut in Jost Ammans, ‘*Cleri Toitus Romanæ Ecclesiæ Habitus.*’ 4to. Frankfort, 1585.

to build a hospital at Jerusalem, which they dedicated to St. John, and in which they received and sheltered the poor pilgrims who visited the Holy Land. Godfrey de Bouillon and his successors encouraged this charitable institution, and bestowed upon it large donations. Pierre Gérard, a native of Provence, proposed to the brothers who managed the hospital to renounce the world, to don a regular dress, and to form an uncloistered monastic order, under the name of the *Hospitallers*. Pope Pascal II. appointed Gérard director of the new institution, which he formally authorized, took the Hospitallers under his protection, and granted them many privileges.

Driven out of Jerusalem by Saladin in 1191, they transferred their hospital to Margat, until the capture of Acre, in which they took part in 1192, when they established themselves there, and took the name of 'Knights of St. John of Acre.' Driven from their new residence by the Infidels, by permission of the King of Cyprus they established the central house of their order in the town of Limisso. Heavily taxed by the King of Cyprus at Limisso, and having to defend themselves from the Saracens, in 1306 the Hospitallers laid siege to Rhodes, which, after an investment of four years, was taken by assault in 1310, and thence became their home, and gave to them the title of 'Knights of Rhodes' for more than two centuries, or until 1522, when, Rhodes being taken by Solymán, they retired into Candia, thence into Sicily, and in 1530 removed to the Island of Malta, which was ceded to them by Charles V., and became the definitive residence of the order; thenceforward they assumed the title of 'Knights of Malta.' The Emperor Paul of Russia declared himself grand master of the order, June, 1799; and the Czar of Russia has continued to be the grand master and patron of the order to the present time. The banner of the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem was black, and charged with a white or silver cross of eight points.



Hospitaller's Standard.

Every country in Europe furnished its quota to the *Order of Malta*, which entirely replaced that of St. John, and was divided into eight tongues or nations, each under the direction of a grand prior. The regular dress of the order consisted in each nation of a black robe, with a pointed cape of the same color; on the left sleeve of each robe was a cross of white linen of eight points, typical of the eight beatitudes

they were always supposed to possess, and which, according to a manuscript preserved in the library of the arsenal, were: 1. Spiritual contentment; 2. A life free from malice; 3. Repentance for sins; 4. Meekness under suffering; 5. A love of justice; 6. A merciful disposition; 7. Sincerity and frankness of heart; and, 8. A capability of enduring persecution. At a later period, the regulations permitted the knight to wear an octagonal golden cross inlaid with white enamel, and suspended from the breast with black watered ribbon. This badge was decorated so as to distinguish the country of the bearer; namely, Germany, by an imperial crown and eagle; France, the crown and fleur-de-lis, &c.

All the insignia of the order were symbols. The pointed black mantle with its peaked cape, worn only on occasions of solemn ceremony, was typical of the robe of camel's hair worn by St. John the Baptist, the patron of the order; the cords which fastened the mantle about the neck and fell over the shoulder were significant of the passion our Saviour suffered with such calmness and resignation; the girdle around his waist signified he was bound for the future by the vows of the order; the golden spurs on his heels were emblems that he was bound to fly wherever honor called him, and to trample under his feet the riches of this world. At his initiation, the knight brandished his sword around his head in token of defiance of the unbelievers, and returned it to its scabbard, first passing it under his arm as if to wipe it, as a symbol that he intended to preserve it free from stain.

In time of battle, the members wore a red doublet embroidered with an eight-pointed cross, and over it a black mantle with a white cross.

The KNIGHTS TEMPLAR originated twenty years after the establishment of the Hospitallers, in the piety of nine French knights, who in 1118 followed Godfrey de Bouillon to the Crusades. They were suppressed March 22, 1312. Baldwin II. granted them a dwelling within the temple walls, a circumstance which gave them the name of 'Templars,' or 'Knights of the Temple.' At first they led a simple and regular life, and, contenting themselves with the humble title of "Poor Soldiers of Jesus Christ," their charity and devotion obtained for them the sympathy of the kings of Jerusalem and the Eastern Christians, who made them frequent and considerable donations. In the first nine years of their existence, from 1118 to 1127, the Templars admitted no strangers to their ranks; but their number having nevertheless considerably increased, they soon preferred a request to

the Holy See to ratify their order. At the Council of Troyes, in 1128, Hugues de Payens, with five of his companions, presented the letters



A Knight Templar.

that the brotherhood had received from the Pope and the Patriarch of Jerusalem, together with the certificate of the founding of their order. Cardinal Matthew, who presided over the council, granted them an authentic confirmation of their order; and a special code was drawn up for them under the guidance of St. Bernard.

St. Bernard, describing the Knights Templar in their early days, says: "They lived without any thing they could call their own; not even their fair will. They are generally simply dressed and covered with dust, their faces embrowned with the burning sun, and a fixed, severe expression. On the eve of

battle, they arm themselves with faith within and steel without: these are their only decoration; and they use them with valor, in the greatest perils fearing neither the number nor the strength of the barbarians. Their whole confidence is placed in the God of armies, and fighting for his cause they seek death. Oh, happy way of life, in which they can await death without fear, desire it with joy, and receive it with assurance!" The oath they took on their entrance, found in the archives of the Abbey of Accobaga, in Aragon, was as follows:—

“I swear to consecrate my words, my arms, my strength, and my life to the defence of the mysteries of the faith and that of the unity of God. I also promise to be submissive and obedient to the Grand

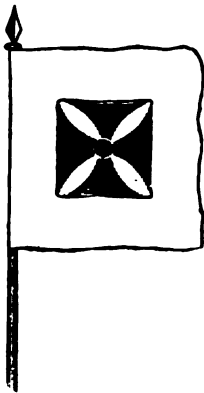


A Templar in Travelling Dress.¹

Master of the Order. Whenever it is needful, I will cross seas to fight. I will give help against all infidel kings and princes; and, in the presence of three enemies, I will not fly, but fight, if they are infidels.”

The Templars were bound to go to mass three times a week, and to communicate thrice a year. They wore a white robe, symbolical of purity, to which Pope Eugenius III. added a red cross, to remind them of their oaths to be always ready to shed their blood in defence of the Christian religion. Their rules were of great austerity. They prescribed perpetual exile, and war for the holy places to the death. The Knights were to accept every combat, however outnumbered they might be, to ask no quarter, and to give no ransom. The unbelievers dreaded no enemy so much as these poor soldiers of Christ, of whom

it was said that they possessed the gentleness of the lamb and the patience of the hermit, united to the courage of the hero and the strength of the lion.



A Knights Templar Standard.

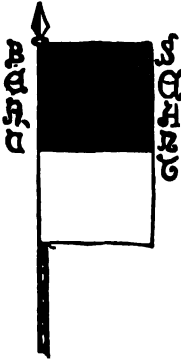
The Knights Templar carried at their head their celebrated standard, called the ‘beauceant,’ or ‘seant,’ which bore the motto, “*Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam;*”² and after this they marched to battle reciting prayers, having first received the holy sacrament. It was in 1237 that the knight who carried the beauceant in an action where the Mussulmans had the advantage, held it raised above his head until his conquerors, with redoubled blows, had pierced his whole body and cut off both his hands.

The beauceant was of woollen or silk stuff, six feet in height and five feet in width, and tripartite at the bottom, fastened at the top to the crossbar by nine rings. The upper half of the standard was

¹ Fac-simile from Jost Ammans, ‘*Clæri Toitus Romanæ Ecclesiæ Habitus.*’ Frankfurt, 1585.

² “Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to thy name ascribe the glory.”

black, and the lower half white. The illustration of this standard is as it is represented in the Temple Church, at London. They also displayed above their formidable lance a second banner of their own colors, white, charged with a red cross of the order, of eight points.



The Beauceant.

In 1309, the Knights Templar were suppressed, and by a papal bull, dated April 3, 1312, their order was abolished. Numbers of the order were tried, condemned, and burnt alive or hanged, 1308-10; and it suffered great persecutions throughout Europe; eighty-eight were burnt at Paris, 1310. The grand master, De Molay, was burnt alive at Paris, March, 1314.

ANCIENT MILITARY STANDARDS.—THE EGYPTIAN, GREEK, HEBREW, ASSYRIAN, PERSIAN, STANDARDS.

OF STANDARDS.

ANCIENT MILITARY STANDARDS consisted of a symbol carried on a pole. In more modern times, they were the largest and most important flags borne. Fixed on the tops of towers or elevated places, or on platforms, and always the rallying-point in battle, they obtained the name of 'standards,' from being stationary. Ducange derives the name from *standarum* or *stantarum*, *standardum*, *standate*, used in corrupt Latin to signify the principal flag in an army. Menage derives it from the German *stander*, or English *stand*. The standard might or might not have a banner attached to it. Although now the two words are used by custom without distinction, it is nevertheless true there might be a thousand banners in the field, but there could be but one standard of the king.



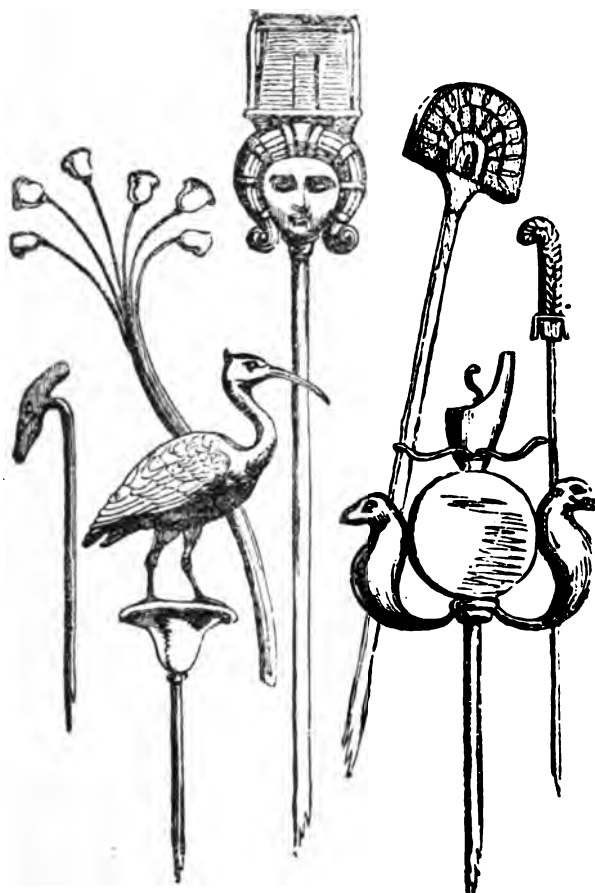
Isis.

EGYPTIAN STANDARDS.—The Egyptians considered Osiris, the eldest son of the Nile, as their first king, and believed that his soul ascended into the sun, and adored him in that planet. His sister and wife, Isis, remained queen after his death, and established female power in Egypt. At her death she was reputed to have made her resurrection into the moon with her son Orus, the god of

futurity, and thus was established the Egyptian trinity of Osiris, Isis, and Orus, whose mysterious motto was, "I am all that *was*, that *is*, and that *shall be*," represented in a solar triangle. The annual feast of Isis, or Daughter of the Nile, was on the vernal equinox (March 21), which

was the announcement of the opening of its navigation after a stormy winter. On that day her image—a statue of solid gold standing on a crescent and clouds of silver—was carried in solemn procession. She had a glory of twelve golden stars around her head, symbolic of the twelve lunar months; and her own shining face represented the thirteenth, which was the sacred moon, or the equinoctial month of spring.

In subsequent ages, when Egypt was conquered



Egyptian Standards.

by the Romans, the conquerors adopted the worship of Isis, and consecrated her equinoctial feast as "*Noster Domina Dies*" (Our Lady Day), and qualified her the "*Heaven's open gate*;" *Star of the Sea*; *Queen of the Heavenly Spheres*; and introduced the feast and labarum or banner of Isis and her legendary worship into all the conquered provinces of the Roman Empire. Her attributes remind one of the "Queen of Heaven" of the Chinese mythology of to-day, and Murillo's paintings of the Virgin Mary.

The invention of standards is attributed, with great probability, to the Egyptians, as they had the earliest organized military forces of which we have any knowledge, and it is equally probable that the Hebrews obtained the idea, or at least the use, of ensigns from the Egyptians. The wandering tribes of shepherds who conquered Egypt set one of their pastoral chiefs as king on the throne of Osiris. This warlike shepherd introduced into Egypt the annual oblation of an unblemished lamb or kid, sacred to their conductor, the Angel Gabriel, and bore a lamb as his standard.

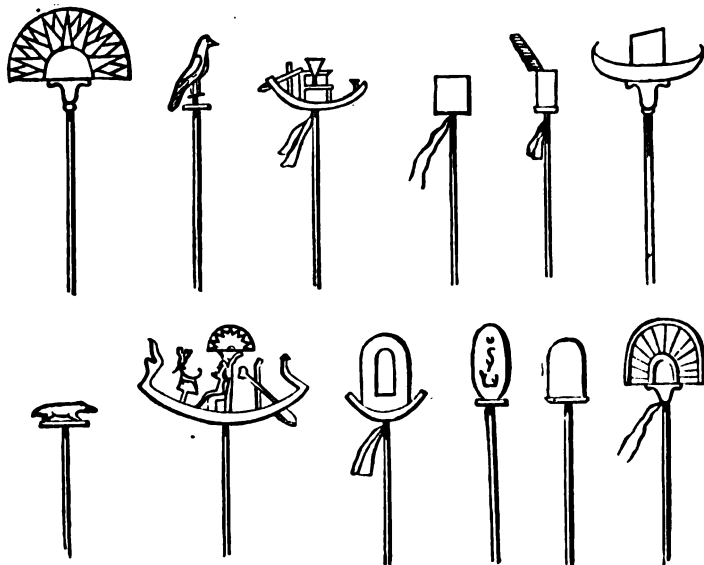


Standards of Pharaoh.

as their standard. Sir G. Wilkinson, in his work on the 'Ancient

When the Egyptians recovered their independence, under chieftains styled *Pharo*, or *revenger*, the lamb on their standards, arms, and coins was superseded by the face of Pharo, but the oblation of the lamb was continued. The illustration represents a group of Egyptian standards as they were used in the army in the time of Pharaoh.

According to Diodorus, the Egyptians carried an animal at the end of a spear as their standard. Sir G. Wilkinson, in his work on the 'Ancient



Egyptian Standards, from Wilkinson.

Egyptians,' speaking of their armies, says: "Each battalion, and indeed each company, had its particular standard, which represented a sacred subject, a king's name, a sacred boat, an animal, or some emblematical device." Among the Egyptian standards there also appear standards which resemble at the top a round-headed table-knife or an expanded semicircular fan. Another of their ancient standards was an eagle stripped of its feathers,—the emblem of the Nile.

GREEK STANDARDS.—The Greeks set up a piece of armor at the end of a spear as a rallying signal, and Homer makes Agamemnon use a purple vail with which to rally his men.



The Horse and the Grasshopper.

A white horse was the standard of Cecropia, founded by Cecrops, the chieftain of an Egyptian colony. This badge recalled that the finest white horse had been brought by sea from Egypt into Greece. The tradition of the white horse arriving by sea was arranged into a sacred pedigree; viz., Neptune created a white war-horse to endow Athens. This swift animal was given to Mars, the god of war, for the defence of the country and the standard of Attica. The aborigines of Attica styled themselves the children of the earth, and boasted to be sprung from the soil; therefore they distinguished themselves from aliens by wearing in their hair a grasshopper of gold or silver, to signify that, like that insect, they were produced from the ground. The golden grasshopper was granted to any Athenian who had rendered the country eminent service, and was later assumed by the nobles of Athens, and it became a badge of Greek nobility. The Athenians also bore an owl, the emblem of Minerva, and the olive, on their standards. Other nations of Greece carried effigies of their tutelary gods and their particularly chosen symbols on the end of a spear. The Thessalonians adored the immortal sorrel horse Xanthus, who spoke to his master Achilles. The Corinthians bore a winged horse, or Pegasus, on their standard; the Messenians, the letter *M*; the Lacedæmonians, the letter *L*, in Greek, *Α*. Alexander the Great, when he began to claim for himself a divine origin, caused a standard to be prepared, inscribed with the title of *Son of Ammon*, and planted it near the image of Hercules, which, as that of his tutelary deity, was the ensign of the Grecian host.

The standards and shields of the Thracians exhibited a death's-head; as a signal to revenge the death of Thrax, the son of the

nominal father of the Thracians, a wandering people near the Black Sea. This people settled north of Byzantium, the modern Romania, and named their new country Thrace. They soon took the city of Byzantium, which was dedicated to Diana, and united her symbol, 'the crescent,' to 'the death's-head' of Thrax, to whom they paid divine respect. The death's-head and crescent were afterward adopted by the Romans, Turks, and other nations which invaded Thracia and Byzantium.



Death's-head and
Crescent.

The CHALDEANS adored the sun, and represented it on their standard. Heber, a Chaldean, gave his name to his descendants, who were called the children of Heber, or the Hebrews. The greater number of the Hebrews were born in Ur, a city of Chaldea, in which a perpetual fire and lamp were sacred to Baal, or the sun of Chaldea. The money of Hebron bore the type of Heber adoring the sun.¹

HEBREW STANDARDS.—In the time of Moses, the Hebrews had their emblems. We find in the book of Numbers, 1491 B.C., 1st chapter, 52d verse, the children of Israel directed to "pitch their tents every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts;" and 2d chapter, 2d verse, "Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch [camp] by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation."

In the wilderness, says Adam Clarke, they were marshalled according to their tribes, each tribe being subdivided into families. Every head of a subdivision or thousand was furnished with an ensign or standard, under which his followers arranged themselves according to a preconcerted plan, both when in camp and when on the march; and thus all confusion was prevented, how hastily soever the order might be given to proceed, or halt and pitch their tents. The four leading divisions—viz., Reuben, Ephraim, Judah, and Dan—were designated by the component parts of the cherubim and seraphim,—a man, an ox, a lion, and an eagle.

Solomon, of the tribe of Judah, hoisted the standard of the lion in Jerusalem. According to the Talmudists, the standard of Judah had on it a lion painted, with this inscription, "Rise, Lord, let thine enemies be dispersed, and let those that hate thee flee before thee." They gave to Issachar an ass; to Zebulun, a ship; to Reuben, a river, and

¹ Brunet's Regal Armorie.

sometimes the figure of a man; to Simeon, a sword; to Gad, a lion; to Manasseh, an ox; to Benjamin, a wolf; to Dan, a serpent or an eagle.



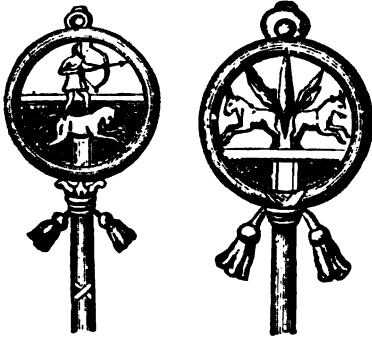
Standards and Devices of the Hebrews.

The ensign of Asher was a handful of corn, and that of Naphtali a stag. The cities of Samaria and Shechem, being in the land of the tribe of Joseph, the standard of Samaria bore the bough or palm of Joseph.

Allusions to standards, banners, and ensigns are frequent in the Holy Scriptures. The post of standard-bearer was at all times of the greatest importance, and none but officers of approved valor were ever chosen for such service; hence Jehovah, describing the ruin and discomfiture which he was about to bring on the haughty king of Assyria, says, "And they shall be as when a standard-bearer fainteth."

ASSYRIAN STANDARDS.—Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, had for its device an arrow, which represented the swiftness of the Tigris, whose waters washed its walls,—the Chaldean name, Tigris, expressing the swiftness of an arrow. Semiramis, the widow of Ninus the son of Belus, its founder, having united Nineveh to Babylon, founded

the first great empire of the world. Her subjects symbolized her by a turtle-dove, and that bird was stamped on the coins, with an arrow



Assyrian Standards.

on the reverse. Mossoul, built on the ruins of Nineveh, impressed on its goods the sign of an arrow and dove; and that badge, printed on a light stuff called muslin, has been exported to all modern nations.¹

Among the sculptures of Nineveh which Layard brought to light are representations of the standards of the Assyrians carried by charioteers. These sculptures have only two devices: one of a figure standing on a bull and drawing a bow; the other, two bulls running in opposite directions, supposed to be the symbols of peace and war. These figures are enclosed in a circle, and fixed to a long staff ornamented with streamers and tassels. These standards seem to have been partly supported by a rest in front of the chariot. A long rope connected them with the extremity of the pole. In the bass-relief at Khorsabad this rod is attached to the bottom of the standard.

PERSIAN STANDARDS.—The standard of ancient Persia, adopted by Cyrus, according to Herodotus, and Xenophon, and perpetuated, was a golden eagle with outstretched wings painted on a white flag.

The standard of Koah, the sacred standard of the Persians, was originally the leather apron of the blacksmith Kairah, or Koah, which he reared as a banner B.C. 800, when he aroused the people and delivered Persia from the tyranny of Sohek, or Bivar, surnamed Deh-ak (ten vices). It was embroidered with gold, and enlarged from time to time with costly silk, until it was twenty-two feet long and fifteen broad; and it was decorated with gems of inestimable value. With this standard the fate of the kingdom was believed by superstitious Persians to be connected.

This standard was victorious over the Moslems at the battle of El Iiser, or the battle of the bridge, A.D. 634, and was captured by them two years later at the battle of Kadesir, which the Persians call, of Armath, and the Moslems, "the day of succor from the timely arrival of reinforcements." To the soldier who captured it thirty thousand pieces of gold was paid by command of Saad, and the jewels with

¹ Brunet's Regal Armorie.

which it was studded were put with the other booty. In this battle, which is as famous among the Arabs as Arbela among the Greeks, thirty thousand Persians are said to have fallen, and seven thousand Moslems.¹ Thus, after 1,434 years' service, this standard was destroyed.

The Persians also employed a figure of the sun, especially on great occasions, when the king was present with his forces. Quintus Curtius mentions the figure of the sun enclosed in crystal, which made a most splendid appearance above the royal tent. To the present day the sun continues to divide with the lion the honor of appearing upon the royal standard of Persia.

Among the ancient sculptures at Persepolis are found other specimens of ancient Persian standards. One of these consists of a staff terminating in a divided ring, and having below a transverse bar, from which two enormous tassels are suspended. The other consists of five globular forms on a crossbar. They were doubtless of metal, and probably had some reference to the heavenly bodies, which were the ancient objects of worship in Persia. At the present day, the flag-staff of the Persians terminates in a silver hand.

THE ROMAN STANDARDS.

Romulus, in founding Rome, adopted the image of the she-wolf, his reputed foster-mother, as well as of his brother Remus. The Senate of Romulus assumed the eagle of Jupiter, which became the Roman standard, with the wolf. In the following ages, the Romans increased their standards to as many as ten different badges.



The Device of Romulus. of Romulus.²

1. The peacock of Juno. 2. The boat of Isis.
3. The cock of Mars. 4. The imperial elephant.
5. The dragon of Trajan. 6. The minotaurus of Crete.
7. The horse of Greece. 8. The pecus or sheep of Italy.
- 9 and 10. The she-wolf and eagle

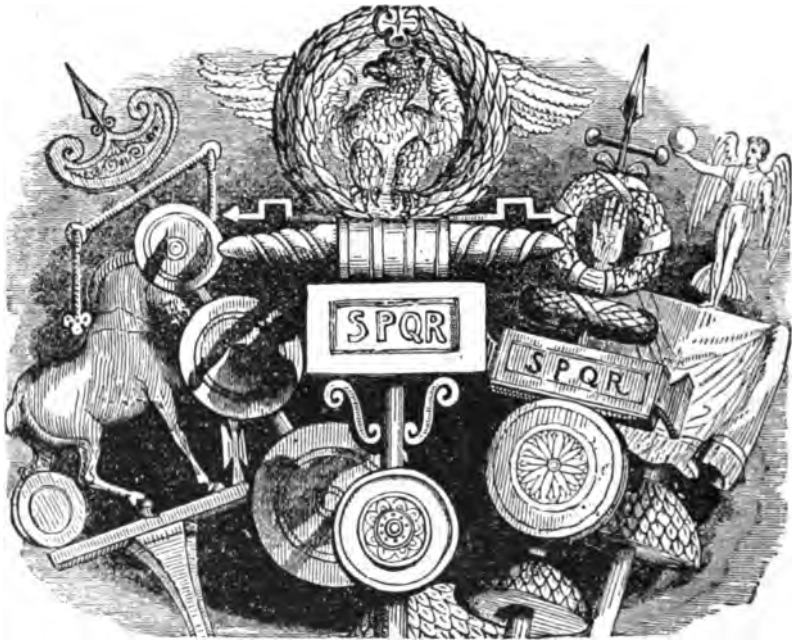
Each legion of the Roman army was divided into ten cohorts, each cohort into three maniples, each maniple into two centurions, which would give sixty centurions to a legion, the regular strength of which was therefore six thousand; sometimes the number of men in a legion varied. In the time of Polybius, a legion had but four thousand two hundred.

¹ Irving's Successors of Mahomet.

² Brunet's Regal Armorie.

When the army came near a place of encampment, tribunes and centurions, with proper persons appointed for that service, were sent to mark out the ground, and assigned to each his proper quarters, which they did by erecting flags (*vexillas*) of different colors. The place for the general's tent was marked with a white flag.

Each century, or at least each manipule, had its proper standard and standard-bearer. The standard of a manipulus in the time of Romulus was a bundle of hay tied to a pole. Afterwards, a spear with a cross-piece of wood on the top, sometimes the figure of a hand above, probably in allusion to the word *manipulus*; and below, a small



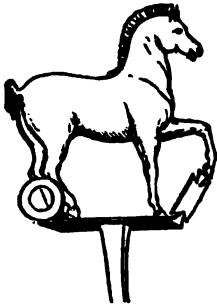
Roman Standards.

round or oval shield, on which were represented the images of war-like deities, as Mars or Minerva, and in later times of the emperors or of their favorites. Hence the standards were called *numeria legionum*, and worshipped with religious adoration. There were also standards of the cohorts. The standards of the different divisions of the army had certain letters inscribed on them, to distinguish the one from the other. The standard of the cavalry was called *vexillum* (a flag or banner), from being a square piece of cloth fixed on the end of a spear; and Cæsar mentions it as used by the foot, particularly by the veterans who had served out their time, but under the emperors

were still retained in the army, and fought in bodies distinct from the legion, and under a particular standard of their own. Hence these veterans were called *vexillarii*.

In the year 20 B.C., Phraates, the Parthian king, apprehensive that an attack was meditated upon his dominions, endeavored to avert it by sending to Augustus the Roman standards and captives that had been taken from Crassus and Anthony. This present was received with the greatest joy, and was extolled as one of the most glorious events of the emperor's reign. It was commemorated by sacrifices and by the erection of a temple in the capitol to Mars, "the avenger," in which the standards were deposited.¹

To lose the standard was always disgraceful, particularly to the standard-bearer, and was at times a capital crime. To animate the soldiers, their standards were sometimes thrown among the enemy. After a time, a horse, a bear, and other animals were substituted for the bundle of hay, open hand, &c. In the second year of the consulate of Marius, 87 B.C., a silver eagle with expanded wings, on the top of a spear, with the thunderbolt in its claws, the emblem of Jove, signifying might and power, with the figure of a small chapel above it, was assumed as the common standard of the legion; hence *aquila* is often put for legion. The place for this standard was near the ordinary place of the general, in the centre of the army. When



Roman Standard.

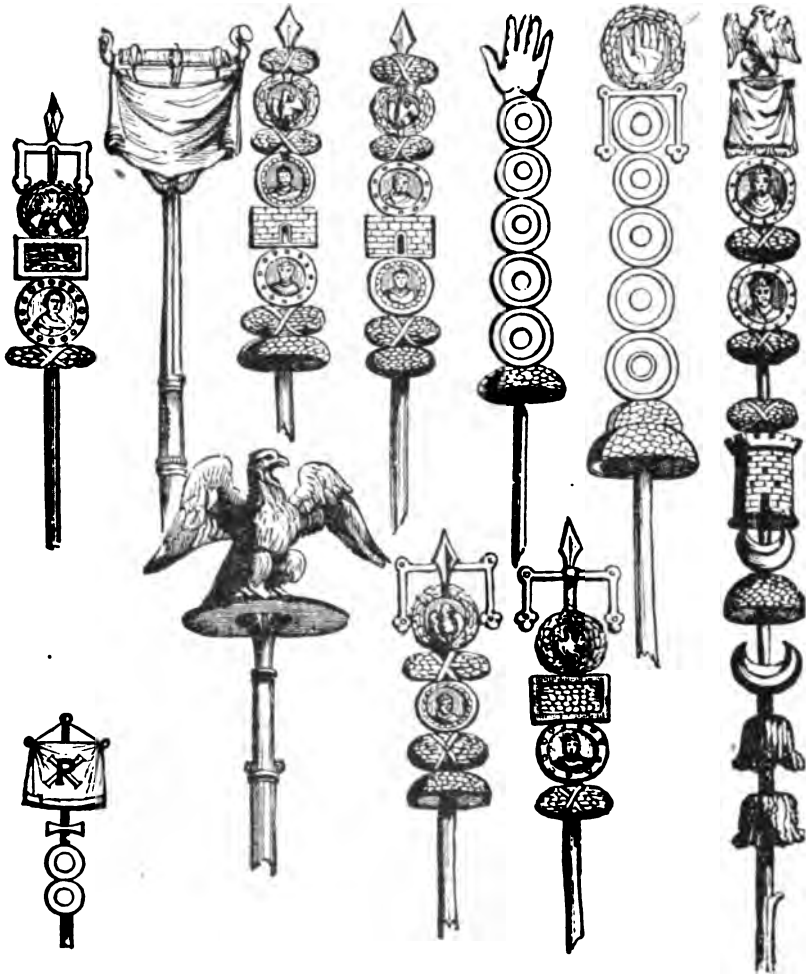
Bronze horse half the size of the original, which is preserved at Goodrich Court.

a general, after having consulted the auspices, determined to lead forth his troops against the enemy, a red flag was displayed on a spear from the top of the prætorium, as a signal to prepare for battle.² The standard of Augustus was a globe, to indicate his conquest of the globe. Roman standards were also ornamented with dragons and silver bells, as a trophy, after Trajan's conquest of the Dacians, A.D. 106, as shown on Trajan's column. The Etruscans were the first who adopted the eagle as the symbol of royal power, and bore its image as a standard at the head of their armies. From the time of Marius it was the principal emblem of the Roman Republic, and the only standard of the legions. It was represented with outspread wings,

¹ Lynam's History of the Roman Emperors, vol. 1. p. 28. London, 1828.

² Flag-Officer Farragut, when he ordered to pass the forts below New Orleans, April 23, 1861, directed a red lantern should be hoisted as the signal for getting under way; thus repeating the old Roman signal for battle, perhaps without ever having heard of it.

and was usually of silver, till the time of Hadrian, who made it of gold. The double-headed eagle was in use among the Byzantine emperors, to indicate their claim to the empire both of the east and west. From the Roman standard is derived the numerous brood of white, black, and red eagles, with single or double heads, which are



Roman Imperial Standards.

borne on so many of the standards of modern Europe. The countries they represent claim to be fragments or descendants of the great Roman Empire. The changes of the Roman standard marked the epoch of their conquests, first of the Greeks, then of the barbarians. The double-headed eagle of Russia marks the marriage of Ivan I.

with a Grecian heiress, the princess of the Eastern empire; and that of Austria, the investiture of the emperors of Germany with the title of 'Roman Emperor.' The arms of Prussia are distinguished by the black eagle, and those of Poland bear the white.

The LABARUM, or imperial standard of Constantine the Great, which he caused to be made in commemoration of his vision of a shining cross in the heavens two miles long, has been described as a long pike, surmounted by a golden crown set with jewels, and intersected by a transverse beam forming a cross, from which depended a square purple banderole wrought with the mysterious monogram, at once expressive of the figure of the cross, and the two initial letters (X and P) of the name of Christ. The purple silken



The Labarum of Constantine.

banner which hung down from the beam, was adorned with precious stones, and at first was embroidered with the images of Constantine, or of the reigning monarch and his children. Afterwards, the figure or emblem of Christ woven in gold was substituted, and it bore the motto, "*In hoc signo vinces*,"—"In this sign thou shalt conquer." The labarum is engraved on some of the medals of Constantine with the famous inscription, ENTOYΩNIKA. This banderole, which was about a foot square, judging from the height of the men carrying the standard on ancient monuments, says Montfaucon, "was adorned with fringes and with precious stones, and had upon it the figure or emblem of Christ." Prudentius describes its glories with poetical fervor, and says, "Christ woven in jewelled gold marked the purple labarum;" also, "that the monogram of Christ was inscribed on the shields of the soldiers, and that the cross burned on the crests of helmets." The illustration given of the labarum is from a medal of Valentinian¹ (A.D. 364-375). It will be noticed there is no crown on the staff.

A medal of the Emperor Constantine, which represents the banner of the cross piercing the body of the serpent, and surmounted with the monogram of Christ, with the motto, "*Spes. Publica*," expresses the hope of the Christian world from the conversion of the emperor. Upon the banner which hangs from the cross three circles are distinctly marked. As all the other objects upon this medallion have a symbolical meaning, it may be assumed that these three circles have one.

The labarum is believed to have been the first military standard

¹ Appleton's Journal, Dec. 28, 1872.

emblazoned with the cross. It was preserved for a considerable time, and brought forward at the head of the armies of the emperor on important occasions, as the palladium of the empire. With it Constantine advanced to Rome, where he vanquished Maxentius, Oct. 27, A.D. 312.

The safety of the labarum was intrusted to fifty guards of approved valor and fidelity. Their station was marked by honors and emoluments; and some fortunate accidents soon introduced an opinion that the guards of the labarum were secure and invulnerable among the darts of the enemy. In the second civil war, Licinius felt and dreaded the power of this consecrated banner, the sight of which in battle animated the soldiers of Constantine with an invincible enthusiasm, while it scattered terror and dismay through the adverse legions. Eusebius introduces the labarum before the Italian expedition of Constantine; but his narrative seems to indicate it was never shown at the head of an army till Constantine, ten years afterward, declared himself the enemy of Licinius and the deliverer of the Church. The Christian emperors who respected the example of Constantine displayed in all their military expeditions the standard of the cross; but when the degenerate successors of Theodosius ceased to appear at the head of their armies, the labarum was deposited as a venerable but useless relic in the palace of Constantinople.

The etymology of its name has given rise to many conflicting opinions. Some derive it from *labar*; others from the Greek for *reverence*; others from the same, *to take*; and others from the Greek for *spoils*. A writer in the 'Classical Journal' considers the labarum like S. P. Q. R., a combination of initials to represent an equal number of terms, and thus L. A. B. A. R. V. M. will stand for *Legionum aquila Byzantium antiquâ Româ, urbe mulavit*. The form of the labarum and its monogram is preserved as the medal of the Flavian family.



The Hand.

The hand on the top of the Roman standard was an ancient symbol of Oriental or Phenician origin. It is found as a symbol in India and in ancient Mexico. A closed hand grasping the Koran surmounts the sacred standard of Mahomet. The present flag-staff of the Persians terminates in a silver hand.

Cæsar has recorded that when he attempted to land his Roman forces on the shores of Great Britain, meeting a warmer reception than was anticipated, considerable hesitation arose

among his troops; but the standard-bearer of the Tenth Legion, with the Roman eagle in his hand, invoking the gods, plunged into the waves, called on his comrades to follow him, and do their duty to their general and to the republic; and so the whole army made good their landing.

The bronze or silver eagle of the Roman standards must have been of small size, not larger than the eagles on the color-poles of modern colors, since a standard-bearer under Julius Cæsar, in circumstances of danger, wrenched the eagle from its staff, and concealed it in the folds of his girdle; and the bronze horse preserved in the collection at Goodrich Court is equally small, as will be seen by the engraving on a previous page, which represents it as half the dimensions of the original. Another figure, used as a standard by the Romans, was a ball or globe, emblematic of their dominion over the world.

STANDARDS OF THE TURKS AND MOSLEMS.

TURKISH AND MOSLEM STANDARDS.—The *basarac* or *sandschaki* sheriff, or *cheriff*, is a green standard, which was borne by Mahomet, and, being believed by his devout followers to have been brought down from heaven by the Angel Gabriel, is preserved with the greatest veneration. It is enveloped in four coverings of green taffeta enclosed in a case of green cloth. It is only on occasions of extreme danger that this sacred symbol is brought from its place of deposit. It was formerly kept in the imperial treasury at Constantinople, but, latterly, deposited in the mosque of Ayyub, where the sultans at their investiture are guarded with the sword of the caliphate. In the event of rebellion or war, it is obligatory upon the Sultan to order the mullahs to display the banner before the people and to proclaim the *Iihad*, or holy war, exhorting them to be faithful to their religion, and to defend the empire with their lives. The usual address is as follows: "This is the prophet's banner; this is the standard of the caliphate. It is planted before you and unfurled over your heads, O true believers, to announce to you that your religion is threatened, your caliphate in peril, and your lives, your women and children and property, in danger of becoming a prey to cruel enemies! Any Moslem, therefore, who refuses to take up arms and follow this holy *Bairak* is an infidel amenable to death." According to another account, it is carefully preserved in the seraglio, in a case built into the wall on the right-hand side as you enter the

chamber in which is the grand seignior's summer-bed. The standard is twelve feet high, and the golden ornament, a closed hand, which



The Doseh. ²

surmounts it, holds a copy of the Koran written by the Caliph Osman III. In times of peace this banner is guarded in the hall of the Noble Vestiment, as the dress which was worn by the prophet is styled. In the same hall are preserved the sacred teeth, the holy beard, the sacred stirrup, the sabre, and the bow of Mahomet.¹ Every time this standard is displayed, by a custom which has become law, all who have attained the age of seventeen who profess the Mahometan faith are obliged to take up arms, those who refuse being re-

¹ An English author, Mr. Thornton, has published, in his work on Turkey, copious details relating to this standard, which the Turks, who hold it in the highest veneration, believe to be the original Mahomet's standard from the temple of Mecca, — a delusion carefully nursed by their modern rulers, though history describes many standards of various colors which have served in its place, the original of which was white, then black, and lastly of green silk.

² Suspecting the above cut was an exaggeration of this Turkish ceremony, I wrote the Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, D.D., President of the Bangor Theological Seminary, and long a resident of Constantinople, who, under date of Feb. 24, 1879, replied, "The

garded as infidels unworthy the title of Mussulmans, or True Believers. The unfurling of this standard is supposed to insure success to the Ottoman arms; and despite the many tarnishes its honor has suffered, the Turks continue to rally around it with implicit belief in its sanctity. So jealously is it watched over, that none but emirs may touch it, emirs are its guard, the chief of the emirs is alone privileged to carry it, and Mussulmans are alone permitted to see this holy trophy, which, touched by other hands, would be defiled, and if seen in other hands, profaned. The ceremony of presenting the banner is called *alay*, a Turkish word signifying triumph. The ceremonies consist of an open-air masquerade. All the trades, professions, and occupations of the inhabitants, seated in gaudy carriages, are represented and paraded in front of the assembled army, each trade performing in dumb show the manual operations of its art: the carpenter pretends to saw, the ploughman to drive his oxen, and the smith to wield his hammer. After these have passed, the sandschaki cheriff is brought out with great veneration from the seraglio, and solemnly carried along and presented to the army.¹ The blessed banner, having thus been presented to the adoring eyes of the true believers, is carried back to its depository; and the troops, inspired with confidence and victory, set forth on their march to death and glory. The observance of this ceremony in the war between Turkey and Russia in 1768 was the occasion of frightful outrages upon the Christians. So long a period had elapsed since its last presentation, that much of the sanctity of the occasion had been forgotten, and the Christians, expressing a wish to observe the ceremony, found the Turks ready and eager to let windows and house-tops at high prices to the unbelievers, who accordingly mustered strong on the line of the procession to gratify their curiosity. A few minutes, however, before the starting of the banner, an emir appeared in the streets, crying: "Let no infidel dare to profane with his presence the holy standard of the prophet; and let every

engraving is an exaggerated representation of the Dosh ceremony. When the sacred standard is brought out, a scene is witnessed which no doubt resembles that represented in the wood-cut. The believers crowd all the narrow streets where it passes. They fall down before it, but not in this extended, stretched-out manner. It is the regular worship prostration; their heads do not often come very near the horse's feet. Some of the excessively devout may throw themselves before the horse, but the trained, intelligent Arabian would no more tread upon them than a mother would tread upon her child. But of such a scene of universal worship and prostration, it is a very moderate stretch of the Greek fancy and fidelity to represent the horse and his attendants as travelling upon a compact pavement of living believers. Were there no greater exaggerations than this about Oriental affairs, one-half of our supposed knowledge of the East would be disposed of."

¹ Dictionary of Useful Knowledge.

Mussulman, if he sees an unbeliever, instantly make it known, on pain of punishment." At this a sudden madness seized upon the people, and those who had let their premises to the greatest advantage became the most furious in their bigoted zeal, rushing among the amazed Christians, and with blows and furious violence tearing them from their houses, and casting them into the streets among the infuriated soldiery. No respect was paid to age, sex or condition. Women in the last stages of maternity were dragged about by the hair, and treated with atrocious outrage. Every description of insult, barbarity, and torture was inflicted upon the unoffending Christians, the usual gravity of the Turk having on the instant given way to a fanaticism more in accordance with fiends than men. The whole city, as one man, was seized with the same *furor*; and if a victim managed to escape from one band of miscreants, he was certain to fall into the hands of others equally savage and remorseless.¹

According to another account, this sacred standard of Mahomet is not green, but black; and was instituted in contradistinction to the great white banner of the Koraishtes, as well as from the appellation *okab* (black eagle), which the prophet bestowed upon it. Mahomet's earliest standard was the white cloth forming the turban which he captured from Boreide. He subsequently adopted for his distinguishing banner the sable curtain which hung before the chamber of his wife Ayesha, and it is this standard which is said to be so sacredly preserved and so jealously guarded from infidel sight. It descended first to the followers of Omar, at Damascus, thence to the Abassides, at Bagdad and Cairo, from whom it fell to the share of the bloodhound Selim I., and subsequently found its way into Europe under Amurath III. The device upon it is "*Nasrum min Allah*,—"The help of God."

Besides their sacred standard, the Turks have the *sanjak*, which is a red banner; the *alem*, a broad standard; and the *tugh*, consisting of one, two, or more horse-tails, the number varying with the rank of the person who bears it.

The title of 'pacha' is merely a personal one, denoting the official aristocracy, civil and military, of the Ottoman Empire, and is derived from two Persian words, signifying "the foot of the king." In former times, when the chief territorial divisions were called 'sanjaks,' ruled over by beys, the larger sanjaks, or two or more smaller ones, were put under a pacha, and called 'pachaliks.' The military governors of provinces, who were only subordinate to the grand vizier, were styled

¹ Baron Tolt's Memoirs of the Turks and Tartars. Two vols. 1785.

'beylerbeys,' or 'bey of beys.' European Turkey was divided into two beylerbeyliks,—Roumelia and Bosnia; the latter included Servia, Croatia, and Herzegovina. Constantinople and Wallachia and Moldavia were not included in any of these jurisdictions. The archipelago was under the capitan pacha. The pachas consisted of three classes, and were distinguished by the number of horse-tails borne before them as standards,—a custom brought from Tartary, said to have originated with some chief, who, having lost his standard, cut off his horse's tail and displayed it as a substitute. The governors of the larger districts were viziers, by virtue of office. Their insignia were the *alem*, a broad standard, the pole of which was surmounted by a crescent; the *tugh*, of three horse-tails, artificially plaited; one sanjak, or green standard, similar to that of the prophet; and two large ensigns, called *bairak*. Other pachas had but two tails, with the other insignia. A bey had only one, together with one standard. The sultan's standard counts seven horse-tails, and the famous Ali Pacha, of Janina, arrogated to himself no less than thirteen. At the present day all this is much modified.

In the time of Omar, the General Mesiera Ibu Mesroud was given a black flag, inscribed "*There is no God but God. Mahomet is the Messenger of God.*"¹

At the battle of Yermouk, Abu Obeidah, a Moslem general, erected for his standard a yellow flag given him by Abu Beker, Mahomet's immediate successor, being the same which Mahomet had displayed in the battle of Khaibab. One of Mahomet's standards was a black eagle.² When Monwyah rebelled against Ali, the bloody garment of Othman was raised in the mosque at Damascus as the standard of rebellion.

The crescent standard, which has been set against the cross in so many battle-fields, representing the opposing force of Mahometanism, had its origin in the simple circumstance that the ancient city of Byzantium was saved from falling into the hands of Philip of Macedon, from the approach of his army being betrayed to the inhabitants by the light of the moon. In consequence, they adopted the crescent, which the Turks, when the place came into their possession, found everywhere as an emblem, and retained, believing it to be of good omen; probably in its meaning they saw a promise of increasing power.³ The origin of the crescent as a religious emblem is as old, certainly, as Diana; in fact, the very beginning of history.

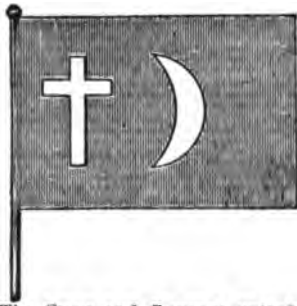
¹ Burkhardt's Notes on the Bedouins.

³ Irving's Successors of Mahomet.

² Appleton's Journal.

The standard with the star and crescent upon it was first hoisted by Mahomet II., after the capture of Constantinople, A.D. 1453. Prior to that event the sign was very common on the arms of English knights and esquires, but fell into disuse when it became the device of the Mahometans. The history of the device belongs to the Grecian, if not the more extensive, sphere of the Aryan mythology.¹

At the commencement of the recent Russo-Turkish war, the sultan, in his dire need for help, resolved to call for volunteers, and arouse the loyal of Stamboul to arms, and that the aid of the Christian inhabitants should be asked. Thus for the first time in Moslem history a crimson banner, emblazoned with the cross and crescent, the symbols of two antagonistic religions, was paraded through the streets of Constantinople. It was heralded by weird playing upon pipes and the monotonous note of a drum. There came



The Cross and Crescent united,
1876.

first, pressing through the throng, a youth, whose quietest movements were those of a maniac. In his hands gleamed two long scimitars, on his head was the green turban which denoted his descent from the prophet; and as the noise of the musicians rose, he kept time and rhythm with head, hands, and feet; now turning round, and now jumping; now writhing as though in direful agony; and then, with a glance toward heaven, as though delivering an earnest petition, bending his head to the dust, and prostrating himself on the ground. Behind him were the reeds and the drum; in the rear marched a standard-bearer, and in his hands was borne aloft the flag which bore the emblems of the crescent and the cross. At sight of the lad the bystanders turned pale with excitement, and every minute some one, enchanted by the rough melody and the dancer, fell silently into the procession which followed the banner. A strange *cortège*, truly: Softas, Armenians, Old and New Turks, Greeks, and Roman Catholics, some with fez and others in turban, some with straw hats and others with bare heads,—all following the lead of the frantic youth. And when the air grew livelier, or his gyrations more rapid, when he raised his own voice and gave a loud cry of anguish, knives, pistols, sticks, swords, were lifted high in the air or flourished round by those more moved than the rest. When was such a spectacle ever beheld before in the city of the sultan, under the very shadow of the great mosque

¹ Notes and Queries, 4th series, vol. viii., 1870, p. 405.

of St. Sophia? The device was successful, and band after band was forwarded to the seat of war.¹

The great standard won by the King of Poland from the infidels in 1683, at Kalemberg, was about eight feet in breadth, rounded at the fly, and of a green and crimson stuff, of silk and gold tissue mixed, bearing a device in arabesque characters signifying, "There is no God but God, and Mahomet is his Prophet." The ball on the top of the staff, about the size of a man's joined fists, was of brass gilt. The standard was presented by the King of Poland to the Pope, who caused it to be suspended from the roof of St. Peter's, by the side of another standard taken from the infidels at the battle of Ohotzen. Irving, in his 'Life of Mahomet,' says that the general always carried the standard into battle.

The pirates of Algiers and of the coast of Barbary are the only people who ever bore an hexagonal flag or standard. Theirs was a red flag with a Moorish head coifed with its turban, &c., designed as the portrait of Hali, the son-in-law of Mahomet, who ordered his effigy expressed on the standards of his followers, believing that the bare sight of his image would carry undoubted victory over the Christians. This device was remarkable, as the Koran forbids the making of any image or representation of any man; for they who make it will be obliged at the day of judgment to find souls for them, or be themselves damned. This superstition has been so modified that Muley Abbas, the brother of the Emperor of Morocco, in 1863, sat for his photograph; and the sultan has allowed his portrait to be painted, at the request of the foreign ambassadors to his court.

The fashion of pointed or triangular flags came from the Mahometan Arabs or Saracens, upon their seizure of Spain, A. D. 712, before which time all the ensigns of war were square, and extended on cross-pieces of wood or yards like church banners, on which account they were called *vexilla*.

SLAVONIC STANDARDS AND ENSIGNS.—DRAGON STANDARDS.

THE BANNERS AND NATIONAL COLORS OF POLAND, &c.—In our research concerning religious and military ensigns, standards and flags, one family, the Slavonic, mighty in renown, has disappointed our exertions. Greek writers knew them by no name that can be brought home, and the Romans felt them more than they have described them.

¹ Cor. London Telegraph, July 18, 1876.

It is a question whether they were in full or at all included in the denomination of 'Scythians.' The military achievements of the Jazyges, Dacians, Sarmatians, and other of the Slavonic race of later date, we find on Roman bass-reliefs of Roman triumphs over these barbarians. The civilized and sedentary nations have always shown the most anxiety to commemorate victories over enemies they could not subdue. The victories of Thosmes II. and III., and of Sesostris, over nations probably of Slavonic stock, painted on the walls of Thebes, are of this description. The columns of Trajan and Antonine show the Slavonic cavalry, and representations of the ensigns which those riding and migratory nations adopted for carrying on horseback, before the stirrup was invented. In China, Japan, and Tartary, west of Germany, dragon-shaped symbols, resolvable into some sort of flag, were adopted as military ensigns from the earliest age. In ancient times, the Southern and Western nations had effigy standards of statues or sculptured objects without cloth beneath them, or, at most, a knotted shawl or cloth. These dragon standards consisted of a metal or wooden head, representing the figure of a dragon, with the mouth open, and were perforated at the neck, to which a long bag, in the shape of a serpent, was fastened; the lower jaw was bored through, for the purpose of receiving the point of a spindle, whereon it turned according to the wind, which, blowing in at the open mouth, dilated the pendulous bag, giving it the appearance of a twisting snake. There were instances when tow and burning materials were placed in the mouth, to give the dragon an appearance of breathing fire. Indications of this practice occur in early Chinese works, and in the Tartar armies that invaded Europe. In the Teutonic armies, a dragon standard belonged to about every thousand men. In a letter, the Emperor Marcus Aurelius states his camp is invested by a German force of seventy-four dragons, forming an army of seventy-nine thousand men. When this form of ensign, adopted over so vast a territory, was so long in use, and so multiplied, it is evident, in order that friend and foe might discriminate each from other, that differences of form, color, and ornament must have been resorted to. Black, golden, and silver dragons were common in the far East. White, red, and green were more general colors among the Celtæ; and the last was held in high respect by the Scandinavians. Slavonic nations caused their dragons to appear in that color, or introduced it in stripes, bands, or additional ribbons. All these modifications can be traced on the dragon ensigns of the Sarmatians and Daci of the Trajan column at Rome.

As the Slavonic nations numbered many pagan tribes among them, to the middle of the thirteenth century, the solar worship typified by Thor, or the Bull God, originated effigies of the bull, his head, skull, or horns, as national ensigns; others adopted the skull or figure of the horse. The Moxian's national ensign was a horse-skin. The skull of a horse, with the tail hung behind it, was borne in the religious processions of the Rugii, and was known in Sweden as an attribute of Odin. There was a tribe of Bielsk which had for a standard a white bear-skin; another carried a pair of urus' horns; the Ostii, the head of a wild boar. The Jazyges carried horse-tails. All these ensigns preceded Christianity in Poland. When Ringold, 1237, assembled the Poles, Lithuanians, and Samogitians to oppose the Tahtan Bati, each tribe received an ensign, made for the occasion, of red or black cloth, secured like a vexillum. In Poland, a black flag was the particular distinction of the court, the palace, and the royal person: it may be that this color was connected with the assertion of André Barden, that several Sarmatian tribes "*portaient dans leurs bannières l'image de la mort.*" The Cossacks, when they shook off the religious oppression which King Vladislaus VII. wanted to fix upon them, had on their ensigns no emblazonment, but only invocations and imprecations.

When serfship was introduced, about the tenth or eleventh century, all tribal symbols disappeared, or were appropriated by the nobles, who then began to imitate the feudal inventions of Western Europe.

Stephen the Saint, King of the Magyars, received a white patriarchal cross from the Pope, which was carried on the top of a pole as a standard, and had a guard instituted to surround it. From that time, eagles' or herons' wings, the ancient ensigns of the Huns or of the Onoguro, were left to adorn the lances of private warriors. Attila is said to have carried a hawk for his standard.

In Constantinople there was a monkish order¹ which wore a green habit and a scarlet mantle, with a patriarchal yellow or blue cross on the breast. This order spread westward, and constituted the guard of St. Stephen's cross in Hungary. When Hedwega united Lithuania with Poland by her marriage with the Duke Jagillon in the fourteenth century, his national standard, a mounted warrior, in token of his conversion to Christianity, received in addition this cross on the shield of the horseman. It remained, however, a distinct banner in the Polish armies,—a double white cross bordered with gold, borne in a blue field. There is a legend that this cross was placed on the shield to commemorate a victory over the Teutonic knights.

¹ The *Fratres Constantinopolitani*.

A white eagle on a red ground was the cognizance of the kingdom of Poland in the eleventh century, and is coeval with the numerous eagles of the German Empire, originally all single-headed. Lipsius has a cut of one having two heads with wings displayed, as in modern heraldry, which he copied from the Theodosian column.

The Polish silver eagle on a red ground is of the same age as the golden eagle on a red field, the imperial ensign of the house of Saxony, and long impaled with the gold and sable bars traversed with a bend of green rue. Silesia, Moravia, and Prussia assumed eagles differenced in their structures or by particular marks on their breast. We have no knowledge when the two-headed eagle was assumed by Russia, but the mounted horseman of the Muscovites may be the original type of the Lithuanian ensign. In Western Europe at the time of the first crusade, and among the Moslems at the same date, standards and ensigns were generally without charge or symbolic figures, unless it were the cross, which, whenever it occurs, was always an imitation of the cross mark, standing for the sign-manual of the person whose ensign it was. Thus, in England, the crosses on rough Saxon coins, commonly called 'sciatta,' are the mark of the sign-manual of the sovereign who caused them to be struck, and also the cross which he placed upon his banner; for in several it is represented in a flag upon the coins themselves.¹

The black ensign of Poland, derived or imitated from the Tahtar standards, was older than the white eagle, or white cross on a blue field of the *Goncsa*, as the latter banner was called. It may have been plain, or marked with a skeleton *l'image de la mort*, and later with the cross or sign-manual of the reigning prince, until, diminishing in consideration, the St. Stephen's patriarchal cross became the religious ensign. The arrow, consecrated by the blood of the martyr St. Sebastian, which formed part of the royal sceptre of Poland, may have had its symbolical figures on a banner. The name of *Goncsa*, given to the banner which united the devices of Lithuania and Poland, we find nowhere explained.

When the white eagle and horseman became national, other symbols were appropriated by the provinces. A list of the ensigns of the western Slavonic nations in the British Museum shows that the armorial ensigns of the provinces was borne on the breast of the white eagle, recognizing the allegiance of the provinces to the national standard.¹

¹ United Service Magazine, October, 1844.

In a curious plan of the battle of Praga, near Warsaw, A.D. 1656, there is in the foreground a representation by a Swedish artist of the Polish standards surrendered to Charles X., of Sweden, nearly all of which bear the symbols and distinctions of the great nobles.¹

A custom among the Poles of bearing military signs attached to the backs of warriors deserves attention, because it is of Mongolic origin, and can be traced even to Mexico.² The western Slavonians appear to have copied the custom from the Tahtars, who often bore a slight staff with a flag or bundle of feathers secured by straps in a scabbard between the shoulders. There exist copperplate etchings of these horsemen. In Poland, as late as the reign of John Sobieski, outspread wings of swans and eagles appear to have been secured to the backs of knights. A body of warriors thus equipped figured in a magnificent charge, when that hero relieved Vienna, and a similar device was attached to each side of the back of the saddles of the nobles at the surrender of Praga. This was in part of metal, and produced in galloping a crashing noise, designed to increase the terror of horses opposed to them, who encountered at the same moment the bewildering flutter of the small flags on the lances, which are still retained by modern uhlans, hussars, lancers, &c. In the magnificent Hall of Armor in Vienna is preserved the famous horse-tail standard of John Sobieski, who rolled back the tide of Moslem invasion.³

A fac-simile of the standard of ancient Poland, under which Sobieski defeated the Turks in 1673, was made in Philadelphia for the Polish association in 1863 and in 1876 was deposited in the National Museum at Independence Hall, Philadelphia.³

CHINESE, JAPANESE, JAVANESE, AND EAST INDIAN STANDARDS.

CHINESE SYMBOLS AND STANDARDS.—At the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt, China was seven hundred years old, and when Isaiah prophesied of her, she had existed fifteen centuries. She has seen the rise and decline of Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome, but remains a solitary and wonderful monument of patriarchal time, with a population which, roughly estimated, establishes the fact that every third person who lives upon this earth, or is buried in it, is a Chinese.

¹ United Service Journal, October, 1844.

² See Prescott's Conquest of Mexico, and Mexican Standards in this volume.

³ American newspaper.

According to Chinese cosmogony, Poankon, at the formation of the world, was the first man born from Chinese soil or clay. In his age the earth was inhabited by huge animals of greater size than the whale. Among these bulky monsters was a dragon, sovereign of the air by its wings, and, as a serpent, monarch of the earth by its swiftness. It preyed upon human flesh, was worshipped as a malevolent spirit, and human victims were immolated to appease its voracity.

Tien Hoang, a prince and legislator of China, abolished human sacrifices, together with the adoration of the dragon; but its idol was preserved in the temples, and exhibited on the standards of the Chinese princes. In the following age, Tien Hoang was reported to have destroyed the dragon, and was depicted as killing the monster,¹ just as St. George has been painted in modern times.



Tien Hoang and the Dragon.

The type of the dragon is probably the sea-serpent or boa-constrictor, though the researches of geology have brought to light such a counterpart of 'the lung' of the Chinese in the iguanodon as to make it probable it may have been its prototype.

According to the Chinese, there are three dragons: viz., the *lung* in the sky, the *li* in the sea, and *Oian* in the marshes. But the first is the only authentic one, and has the head of a camel, the horns of the deer, eyes of a rabbit, ears of a cow, neck of a snake, belly of a frog, scales of a carp, claws of a hawk, and the palms of a tiger. On each side of the mouth are whiskers, and its head contains a bright pearl, its breath is sometimes changed into water and sometimes into fire, and its voice is like the jingling of copper pans.¹

The dragon is allowed to be worn by Chinese noblemen or mandarins and vassals of the empire in various colors and postures, to distinguish families, accompanied by emblematical flowers, silk knots, and peacock's feathers; but it is forbidden, under penalty of death, to have more than *four* claws to each foot, in order to distinguish the imperial dragon, which has *five* claws.²

The word 'dragon,' in Greek, signifies a looker-on, or a watcher who guards an entrance. Most of the Oriental cities of old bore on their fortified gates the effigy of a dragon.

The exalted conception the Chinese entertain of the dragon has caused the name to symbolize the dignity and supremacy of the Chinese emperor. He is spoken of as seated on the *dragon* throne; to see

¹ Williams's Middle Kingdom.

² Brunet's Regal Armorie.

him is to see the *dragon's* face; his standard is the *dragon*; and the coat of arms embroidered on the breasts and back of his followers is a *dragon*. This monster is not regarded by the Chinese as a fabulous animal, but as a real existence, or rather as a power of nature pervading the air and ocean and earth, seen, perhaps, in water-spouts and clouds and bursting fountains.¹

IMPERIAL STANDARDS OF CHINA.—The *standard of the Emperor of China* is of yellow satin with a red border, on which is worked a gold embroidered dragon. The fly is four feet in length by fourteen inches in breadth, and its edges are serrated or fringed. The Chinese characters on it simply signify 'emperor.' The standard pole is about eight feet in length.

The *standard of the empress* is of the same size, shape, device, and material as that of the emperor, but it is all yellow, having no colored border. The inscription on this flag signifies 'empress.'

The *standard of the empress-dowager* is the same as the preceding, but made of white satin on which is worked a golden dragon.

The *national flag*, announced as such in 1872 to all foreign ministers, superintendents of trade, and foreign officials, is triangular in shape, and of deep yellow bunting, with a blue dragon with a green head snapping at a red pearl or ball in its centre. It is worn by Chinese war vessels and custom-house cruisers. Another Chinese flag is square, and red, blazoned with two blue fishes, for which of late a white ball has been substituted.

Whenever the governor-general starts on a warlike expedition, he must worship his flag. Whenever he sends any high military officer to fight the enemy, and whenever any high military officer is about to proceed to battle, the flag of his division or brigade must be worshipped. The worship is often performed on the public parade-ground in the suburbs, near the south gate of the city. The viceroy, or governor-general, sometimes chooses to sacrifice to the flag on his own parade-ground connected with his gamuns. The time usually selected is daylight, or a little later. However, the day, hour, and minute are fixed by a fortune-teller. Oftentimes high officials, civil and military, connected with the government, are present. It

¹ Letter, S. Wells Williams, LL.D., Dec. 3, 1879. For further account of the dragon, see Chinese Repository, vol. vii. In Chinese books the ancient Chinese flags are often figured. 'Mémoires concernant les Chinois,' printed last century in Paris, has a plate of three or four styles of military flags.

is necessary that all the officers who are to accompany the expedition should witness the ceremony and take part in it. The same is true of the soldiers who are to be sent away, or are to engage in the fight. In the centre of the arena is placed a table having upon it two candles, one censer, and several cups of wine. The candles are lighted. An officer, kneeling, holds the large flag by its staff near the table. The officer who is to command the expedition, standing before the table and the flag, receives three sticks of lighted incense from the master of the ceremony, which he reverently places in the censer arranged between the candles. He then kneels on the ground, and bows his head three times. Some wine taken from the table is handed him while on his knees, which he pours on the ground. Then a cup of wine is dashed upon the flag, and the professor cries out, "Unfurl the flag, victory is obtained; the cavalry advancing, soon it is perfected." The whole company of officers and soldiers who had knelt and bowed their heads now rise up with a shout, and commence their march for the scene of action or appointed rendezvous.¹

In 1854, the writer, while in command of the United States chartered steamer *Queen*, a little vessel of 137 tons, mounting four iron 4-pounders and a 12-pounder brass boat-howitzer, the latter loaned from the United States ship *Macedonian*, participated in an expedition—English, American, and Portuguese (guided by a Chinese admiral's junk)—against the piratical strongholds at Tyho and Kulan, which resulted in the complete destruction of the piratical fleet and batteries. As one of the fruits of this expedition, he forwarded to the Navy Department at Washington twelve flags taken by his force from the pirate's junks and batteries. These are believed to be the first flags ever captured from the Chinese by our arms. One of these trophies, a large white cotton flag, was inscribed in bold Chinese characters, "*The flag of Lue-ming-suy-ming of the Hong-shing-tong company, chief of the sea squadron,*" and "*that he takes from the rich and not from the poor, and that his flag can fly anywhere.*" The inscriptions on another large triangular flag were written with blood, and, translated, read, viz.: No. 1. "*The band of Triads.*" No. 2. "*May the Manchos be overthrown and the Mings restored.*" No. 3. "*Shou,*" the name of one of the five originators of the Triad society. No. 4. "*Let the seas be like oil swept of our foes,*" or, "*We the Triads spring up in every quarter.*" No. 5. On the fly, or extreme end of the flag, is a character which signifies "*Victory.*" From these inscriptions it would

¹ Doolittle's *Social Life of the Chinese*.

seem that this pirate was a rebel from the Mandarin or Manchoo authority, and a Triad.¹

Rear-Admiral John Rodgers, in 1871, forwarded to the Navy Department at Washington twenty-one standards and pennants, together with four staffs from which the colors have been torn,—all of which were captured by the Naval Expedition to the Corea. The Secretary of the Navy forwarded them to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, to be deposited there with other trophies.

These banners present every variety of color and design, but still indicate some method and arrangement. The flag of the commanding general and those of the principal officers are of flowered silk, and those of the subordinate officers of cotton, the latter closely woven. The staffs are alike, from six to eight feet long, and shod at the foot with iron, that they may be driven into the ground. The head of each staff is ornamented with carved wood, painted in brilliant colors, and capped by a rim of brass. The middle of each staff is painted with a series of white and black rings, which, according to their number, seem to indicate some rank or station. The staves of the flags representing superior officers are surmounted by a bunch of pheasant's feathers, those of a lesser rank by a flat piece of iron fancifully cut, and others have no mounting. The flags generally are a square of one color, surrounded by a border of another color. A few smaller, and which appear to be inferior, flags have two equal stripes of different colors. The interior squares of the superior flags bear representations of flying dragons, flying serpents, turtles, &c., printed in brilliant colors, and well drawn. The flag of the Corean commanding general is of fine yellow silk, with a figure representing a tiger rampant, and is surrounded by a border of green silk. Flag No. 2 is of plain blue silk bound with black, with a representation of a flying turtle. It is badly torn by shell and bullets. No. 3 is of yellow silk trimmed with brown; to its centre are sewed two cardboards with hieroglyphics covered with silk. No. 4 is similar to No. 3, but of plain light blue silk. No. 5 is of yellow silk, bound with pale red silk, and bears the representation of a flying serpent. This flag is much torn by bullets. The remaining flags are of cotton dyed in various colors. One has a Corean inscription, signifying it is "The flag of the squad captain of the rear battalion of the regiment." Another has a representation of an officer on horseback; another, of a flying serpent; another has a turtle; several are blood-stained. Accompanying the flags are four pennants of silk and cotton of various

¹ These inscriptions were interpreted by S. Wells Williams.

colors, printed with curious devices. Specimens of Korean spears, with little flags attached, resembling gnydons, were also received at the Navy Department.

At the United States Legation at Peking there is a banner obtained at Fort McKee, an oblong cotton flag, blazoned with a winged tiger in red, having flames around it. Winged animals or men are almost unknown in China and Japan, and Dr. S. Wells Williams informs me he could learn nothing about the meaning of this flag. On the 11th of September, 1878, a red-dragon flag was hoisted for the first time at the Chinese consulate at Nagasaki, Japan, and the day was one of festivity and rejoicing among the Chinese.

The Chinese had no national flag until their intercourse with foreign nations, since the treaties of 1858 and the residence of foreign ministers at Peking, showed the government the necessity of adopting an ensign for their ships of war and merchantmen which would be recognized by other nations on the high seas, and serve to distinguish honest traders along the coast from piratical craft. It was made known to foreign ministers in a despatch of Oct. 22, 1862, and has gradually come to be used by all Chinese vessels and junks, if their owners or masters care to go to the expense, but is mostly hoisted on the foreign rigged and owned vessels. The government vessels in China have also had their flags to distinguish them. But a new regulation has been made, requiring a dragon flag triangular in shape, ten feet broad at its base for largest, and seven or eight feet for smaller vessels; length according to taste; the field yellow, with a dragon painted on it with head erect. Previous to its date, the imperial flag with a dragon was confined, under certain circumstances, to the land forces and to the guard of the emperor. The war junks usually hoisted yellow flags containing the full titles of the officer in command, and the junks bore distinctive banners, to mark their place or rank in the squadron. Every commander along the coast, from Ninchwang to Hainan, had a different flag, and none had blazonry of any kind. The ground was not always yellow, certain ranks having a white ground; the scalloped border, if used, was also of different colors.

The present army of China is divided into bannermen, which have eight corps, recognized by different flags, and the green-banner army, which constitutes the largest part of the paid forces. The flags of the bannermen are triangular,—plain yellow, white, red, or blue for the left wing, and the same with a colored border for the right wing. The uniform of the soldier shows by its color and facings the

banner which each man belongs to. The banners of both the army and navy have the official titles of the general or commander painted on them.

In the provinces, the Governor-general (Tsung-tuh) has command of all the green-banner (Luh-ying) army in his jurisdiction, and their disposal is in his hands. The Mantchoo force belonging to the eight banners is under the orders of an especial commandant, responsible directly to Peking. A triangular plain green flag indicates the general army; the facings of the uniforms generally indicate the corps. It is probable that the use of the national flag, adopted in 1862, will gradually extend to the army raised in the provinces. The usage of restricting the disposition of regiments and divisions to the province in which they have been raised has tended to neutralize national pride among the soldiers.

In ancient times, the form, blazonry, and material of flags used by the sovereign, feudal princes, generals, and officials of every grade, was directed by special regulations, and continues to influence their use.

The "dragon flag" is usually regarded by the Chinese as indicating the person, the envoy, the property, or the special cognizance of the monarch, distinguished from the ordinary department or officers of his government; the latter are known more by the yellow color of the flag than the dragon.¹

Private trading-junks adopt any flag they please, always excepting the prohibited ones, and consequently often adorn the masts with many and variously shaped pennons, signals, and flags, including some more religious than commercial, intended to secure the protection of the gods on the voyage. The difficulty of recognizing honest from piratical vessels along the coast has oftentimes led to the destruction of the former by foreign vessels of war; for as they usually go armed, and their officers and men could speak no English or other foreign language and ascertain the truth of matters, they were led to return the fire of their assailants. In the despatch announcing the adoption of the present flag, Prince Kung extends its use to foreign-built as well as to all native-built vessels.²

The members of the imperial family are allowed to use the dragon embroidered on their robes, and to carry flags or pennons on their carriages, tents, or elsewhere. The empress distinguishes hers by a plain yellow flag, and the empress-dowager by a white flag, indicating her

¹ Chinese Repository, vol. vii. p. 253.

² See American Diplomatic Correspondence for 1863, part iii. pp. 848-863.

widowhood. The emperor's is a yellow flag with a fringed red border, and is similar to the yellow banner of the Mantchoos. All these are emblazoned with the dragon.¹

JAPANESE STANDARDS.—The old imperial standard of the Japanese, in their opinion, was something sublime and sacred, and only when assured that it would be treated with respect would they allow a drawing to be made of it.

Its threefold device symbolized several things. The triple lobes represent Sin-to-ism, the religion of the Kamis, Buddhism, and Confucism. They also symbolized the three annual and three monthly festivals: 1st, the great New Year, which lasts a month; 2d, the feast of spring, held the third day of the third month, or that of the flowers and young maidens; and, 3d, the feast of neighbors, in the "won't go home until morning" style. The three monthly Japanese festivals are: 1st, The day of the new moon; 2d, the day of the full moon; 3d, the eve of the new moon. The colors of this standard were white and purple.



Old Imperial Standard and Arms of Japan.

Recently, the Emperor, or *Tenio*, has adopted the chrysanthemum for his emblem, having for supporters a dragon and phenix, typifying power and the reign of virtue, displayed on a round shield. The chrysanthemum, with sixteen petals, is used for outside imperial government business.



Imperial Arms of Japan, 1880.

Another imperial device, the personal crest of the mikado, is the *kiri* (*Paulownia imperialis*), used for palace matters personal to the emperor.

It is remarkable that in Japan a serpent is considered the vilest of animals, but a dragon is thought to be of high birth and of great importance, the symbol of power and the badge of royalty.

The phenix is an omen of prosperity and felicity, and is thought to have appeared at different times to signalize the coming of virtuous rulers, and reascending to heaven after the performance of wonderful

¹ Communicated by S. Wells Williams, LL.D.

works. A representation of this bird was formerly carried before the mikado whenever he made a journey.

All the nobles of Japan have a device or coat of arms, which is blazoned on their banners and on their tents, and worn on their shoulders and on the backs of their dresses. The *naval flag* recently adopted by the Japanese bears on the centre of a white field a red ball or globe, supposed to represent the sun.

The *imperial standard* has a golden sun in the centre of a crimson field, with a network of golden diamonds woven over it. The *admiral's flag* is the same as the naval flag, with a red, blue, or yellow border, in the order of their rank.

The Japanese bark, 'Tu-Ju-Mara,' of six hundred tons, commanded by Captain Samuel A. Lord, formerly of Salem, Mass., and manned exclusively by Japanese sailors, arrived in San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 23, 1872, and for the first time in history displayed the Japanese flag at the masthead of a merchantman in American waters.

JAVANESE STANDARDS.—Though the natives of Java have followed the customs of Europeans in the use of standards, yet their prince's rallying-sign continues to be the *payong*, or par-a-sol, which is a peculiar object of respect and veneration among the Javanese bands. The *tombak pussaka*, or lances hallowed by age, which they have inherited from their ancient sovereigns, serve for the same purpose as the payongs, and are distinguished by the horse-tails which dangle from them.¹

EAST INDIAN STANDARDS AND ENSIGNS.—The great banner of Mewar (whose prince was the legitimate heir of the throne of Rama), first of the thirty-six royal tribes, is blazoned with a golden sun on a crimson field; those of the chiefs bear a dagger. Ambler displays the *hanchangra*, a five-colored flag. The lion rampant on an *argent* field is extinct with the States of Chanderi.² The use of armorial bearings among the Rajpoot tribes has been traced anterior to the war of Troy. In the Mahabharat, or great war, B.C. 1200, the hero Bheesama exults over his trophy, the banner of Arjoona, its field adorned with the figure of the Indian Hanuman (monkey deity). The peacock was the favorite emblem of the Rajpoot warriors; the bird is sacred to their Mars (Kamara), as it was to Juno, his mother, in the West. The emblem of Vishnu is the eagle. Chrisna was the founder of the thirty-six tribes who obtained the universal sovereignty of India, and lived

¹ Colonel Piffer's Sketches of Java.

² Colonel Tod's Annals of Rajahstan.

B.C. 1200. These thirty-six tribes had their respective emblems, as the serpent, the horse, hare, &c.— One of these tribes, the Sacceseni, supposed to be the ancestors of the Saxon race, settled themselves on the Araxes, in Armenia, adjoining Albania. These migrating tribes of course carried with them their respective emblems, and hence the identity of European and Asiatic devices. The blue eagle belongs to the ensign of Vishnu, the red bull to that of Siva, and the falcon to that of Rāma. The ensign of Brahma bore a white lion. The sun rising behind a recumbent lion blazed on the ancient ensigns of the Tartars, and the eagle of the sun on that of the Persians. The humza, or famous goose, one of the incarnations of Buddha, is yet the chief emblem of the Burman banners.

The ensigns of the Bijala, reigning at Kalyan, were the lion, the bull, and the goose. The Tadu and the Silahara adopted a golden 'garuda' or eagle on their ensigns. The Rattas tribe had the golden hawk and crocodile. A hymn to Camdeva, the god of love, has this line:—

“Hail, warrior, with a fish on thy banner.”

Sir William Jones says Camdeo, the Hindoo god, is represented attended by dancing girls or nymphs, the foremost of whom bears his colors, which are a fish on a red ground.¹

The standards of the Indian princes, displayed over their chairs when Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India, at Delhi, were of satin, and represented their ancestral arms; viz., Odeyporis, a golden sun on a red disk; the Guicowar's, a blue elephant; the Nizam's, a full moon on a green standard; and the historic fish of the Begum of Bhopal.²

FLAGS AND STANDARDS OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS AND PACIFIC ISLANDS.

MEXICO, SAN SALVADOR, SANDWICH ISLANDS, SOCIETY ISLANDS, NEW
ZEALAND, PERU.

MEXICAN STANDARDS.—The ancient standard of Mexico, or rather of the Aztecs, which has been compared to the Roman standard, was an eagle pouncing on an ocelot, emblazoned on a rich mantle of feather-work; that of the Tlascalans, a white heron, the cognizance of the house of Xicontencatl. All the great chiefs of Mexico, in the time of Cortez, had their devices and banners. The standards

¹ Journal Royal Asiatic Society.

² Newspaper report.

of the Aztecs were carried in the centre of the army. A golden net on a short staff, attached to the back between the shoulders, so that it was impossible to be torn away, was the usual symbol of authority for an Aztec commander.¹ The standards of the Tlascalans were carried in the rear. The Rio de Vanderas (river of banners) was so named by Alvarado from the numerous ensigns displayed by the natives on its borders. Prescott says, "The Tlascalans, allies of Cortez, led by Xicontecatli, fifty thousand strong, marched proudly under their great national banner, emblazoned with a spread eagle, the arms of the republic." According to Clavigero, it was a golden eagle; but as Bernal Diaz speaks of it as white, it may have been a white heron which belonged to the house of the youthful leader. Elsewhere, Prescott speaks of the great standard of the Republic of Tlascala as a golden eagle with outspread wings, in the fashion of a Roman signum, richly ornamented with emeralds and silver work. Ellis, in his 'Antiquities of Heraldry,' says the natural emblem of the Mexicans was a swan. The Spanish historian Sagahan relates that, about two centuries before their conquest by the Spaniards, the Aztecs were compelled to surrender their emblematical bird, the swan, to a neighboring kingdom that oppressed them.

In the Mexican Tribute Tables (*Talegas*), small pouches or bags of tasteful form, and ornamented with fringe and tassels, frequently occur, having a cross of a Maltese or Latin form woven or painted on each. It is a surprising circumstance that they were thus ornamented before the arrival of the Spaniards, when the religion of Christ and significance of the cross were unknown to them.²

The Mexicans counted by units, twenties, four hundred, and eight thousand; and these were sufficient to express any number; their hieroglyphics are in accordance with this numeration. The unit was represented by a small circle; twenty, by a standard, shaped as a parallelogram; four hundred, by a feather; eight thousand, by a purse supposed to contain as many grains of cocoa; one to nineteen was represented by a number of small circles. The hieroglyphic of twenty was four squares, which, as they were colored, represented either five, ten, or fifteen. This mode of counting had a practical influence. Bernal Diaz, when speaking of the Indian armies, counts them as so many *xiquipillis*, or bodies of eight thousand men. It is not improbable they were divided into battalions of four hundred

¹ Prescott's Conquest of Mexico.

² Don T. A. Lorenzard's History of New Spain, Mexico, 1770; also, Historical Magazine, 1867.

men each; these again subdivided into squads of twenty men; and that the hieroglyphic for twenty originally represented the banner or standard of each of such squads.¹

Our North American Indians were found by the early voyagers and discoverers to carry for their standard a pole full-fledged with the wing-feathers of the eagle.

The principal standard of Cortez, at his conquest of Mexico, according to Bernal Diaz, says Prescott, was of black velvet, embroidered with gold and emblazoned with a red cross amidst flames of blue and white, with this motto in Latin beneath: "*Friends, let us follow the cross, and under this sign, if we have faith, we shall conquer.*"—a legend which was doubtless suggested by that on the labarum of Constantine.

Another standard of Cortez, described by his follower, Bernal Diaz, as borne in the procession when Cortez returned thanks to God, at Cuyoacan, for the capture

of the city of Mexico, 1519, is now preserved in the National Museum of that capital. The authenticity of this, probably the oldest flag in existence, is sustained by a series of accounts, beginning with that of Bernal Diaz. I am indebted to the Hon. John W. Foster, our minister to Mexico, for the illustration of this banner, engraved from his pencil sketch, as framed, and for the following description of it: "This standard is now deposited in the National Museum in this capital. The



Banner of Cortez.

evidences of its authenticity are accredited by documents in the museum, and it is vouched for by Don Lorenzo Boturini, a learned Spanish gentleman contemporaneous with its recovery from the Tlascalan allies to whom Cortez gave it (see '*Idea de una nueva historia general de la America Septentrional*'), and by Don Lucas Alaman, the distinguished Mexican historian and statesman ('*Disertaciones sobre la historia de Mérico*,' vol. i., Appendice, p. 19).

¹ Gallatin, cited by Sir John Bowring in his *Decimal System*.

“The standard has been placed in a frame and under glass for preservation, being much worn and faded. It is about one yard square, and is thus described by the authors cited: ‘The standard is of red damask. On the front side is painted a most beautiful figure of the Most Holy Mary, with a crown of gold, and surrounded with twelve stars of gold, her hands joined as if in praying to her Most Holy Son to protect and strengthen the Spaniards in conquering the idolatrous empire to the Catholic faith. The image has a blue mantle and a flesh-colored tunic; the embroidery forming the border is green. On the reverse side are painted the royal arms of Castile and Leon. A more modern damask has been sewed on this side, in framing for preservation, so that the arms cannot be seen.’”¹

During the colonial government, on the anniversary of the surrender of Guatemozin, the 13th of August, 1521, a solemn procession was annually made around the walls of the city, headed by the viceroy, and displaying the venerable standard of the conqueror.²

SAN SALVADOR.—By a decree issued in 1865, the national flag and arms of the Republic of San Salvador are as follows:—

Article 1. The national flag will consist of five blue and four white stripes, running horizontally; each stripe shall be nine inches in width and from three to four yards long. At the superior angle, adjoining the staff, there shall be a square on a red ground of one yard each way, in which shall be placed nine white five-pointed stars, to represent the nine departments of the republic.

Article 2. The above-described shall be the merchant flag. The battle-flag shall be of the same design and size, with the difference that the square shall contain the coat of arms of the republic on the converse [obverse], and the nine stars on the reverse.

Article 3. The national coat of arms will be the same as that of the old confederation, with the following modifications, viz.: 1. In place of five volcanoes there shall be but one in eruption. 2. In the space above the volcano there shall appear nine stars, forming a semicircle. 3. At the base, the new flag of the republic shall be represented, running entirely across the shield. 4. The cap of liberty will be placed where the cornucopias meet. 5. The inscription, “15th September, 1821,” shall appear in the centre of the shield, and running across the cap of liberty. 6. Within the circle above the centre of the arms shall be placed the words, “Republic of Salvador, in Central America.”

¹ Letters, Hon. John W. Foster, Aug. 31, 1878, and Jan. 23, 1879; also Letter, A. Nuñez Ortega, Jan. 17, 1879.

² Prescott's Conquest of Mexico.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—The flag of the Sandwich Islands has an English jack for a union; and for a field, nine horizontal stripes,—white, red, and blue alternately. This flag was given the islanders by the British Government, with an assurance that it would be respected wherever the British flag was acknowledged. The present flag has only eight stripes, the lowest blue stripe being omitted.

The *royal standard* has no union, but in the centre of the flag a white field, blazoned with the royal arms.

Formerly, the Sandwich Islanders hoisted a white flag on the end of a spear, at each end of the enclosure of their 'puhonas,' or cities of refuge. Whoever entered one of these enclosures,—the gates of which were always open,—whatever may have been his offence, it afforded him inviolable sanctuary.

A wag has suggested as an appropriate standard for the Sandwich Islands one having bread-and-butter stripes, with ham stars, on a groundwork of mustard, as a design that would readily suggest its nationality.

THE SOCIETY ISLANDS.—The flags of the gods, or the emblems of the Society Islanders, were carried in battle to inspire the combatants with confidence, and their martial banners were hoisted on board the different fleets, or carried by the bravest warriors in the centre of their armies. These flags were red, white, and black. They also used a flag of truce. A sacred flag was used in their processions, and regarded as an emblem of their duties.

March 17, 1829, Commander J. Laws, R.N., commanding H.B.M. Ship *Satellite*, proposed for the Georgian and Society Islands a flag "red above, white in the middle, and red below," which was adopted as a national flag by the chiefs.¹

The present flag of the islands has the French tricolor grafted on this flag as a jack or union, emblematic of the French protectorate established in 1844.

NEW ZEALAND.—The flag of these islanders was granted them by British authorities as an emblem of sovereignty and independence. It is a white flag, charged with a red St. George's cross. In the upper left-hand canton formed by this cross there is a blue union, divided by a similar red cross bordered with white, and each of its blue quarters has a five-pointed white star in its centre.

When this flag was given to the chiefs at the Bay of Islands, they were assembled, and told that as long as it was allowed to fly they

¹ Ellis's *Polynesian Researches*.

were free and independent, but as soon as the flag of any other power was flown in its stead, they would be no longer free, but slaves. In 1844, fearing the French might take possession of the islands, the English hoisted their own ensign at the Bay of Islands, and the act led to a war between them and the natives, which lasted several years.

PERU.—Prescott, referring to Gomara, Sarmiento, and Velasco, as his authority for the statement, says that in the Inca army each company had its particular banner, and that the imperial standard, high above all, displayed the glittering device of the rainbow, the armorial ensign of the Incas, intimating their claims as children of the skies.¹

The modern Peruvian flag and standard is composed of two red and one perpendicular white stripe,—the centre of the white stripe bearing the arms of the republic. The colors, red and white alternate, are said to have been suggested by the red and white feathers which were conspicuous ornaments of the head-dress or coronets of the ancient Incas.

THE STANDARDS AND FLAGS OF EUROPEAN STATES.

ITALY, DENMARK, SPAIN, AUSTRIA, GERMANY, RUSSIA, BELGIUM, GREECE, HOLLAND, PORTUGAL, SWEDEN AND NORWAY.

ITALIAN STANDARDS.—About A.D. 1040, the Italians, who borrowed the idea from the Persians, who borrowed it from the Egyptians, invented, at Milan, the *carriocium*, or car standard, which was introduced into France about A.D. 1100. This pompous and cumbrous standard of the Italians consisted of a 'banner royal' fastened to the top of a mast or small tree, which was planted on a scaffold and borne by a chariot drawn by oxen covered with velvet housings, decorated with the devices or cipher of the prince. At the foot of the mast stood a priest, who said mass early every morning. Ten knights kept guard on the scaffold day and night, and as many trumpeters at its foot never ceased flourishing, to animate the troops. This cumbrous machine continued in use one hundred and thirty years. Its post was the centre of the army; and the greatest feats of daring were in attacks upon it, and in its defence. No victory was considered complete, and no army reputed vanquished, until it had lost its standard.

¹ Prescott's Conquest of Peru.

Alviano, the great champion of the Orsini family, when he took the city of Vitebro, caused to be embroidered on his standard a unicorn at a fountain surrounded by snakes, toads, and other reptiles, and stirring the water with his horn before he drinks: motto, "*Venana pello*,"—"I expel poisons,"—alluding to the property of detecting poison assigned to the horn of the unicorn. This standard was lost on the fatal day of Vicenza. Marc Antonio Monte, who carried it, being mortally wounded, kept the tattered remnant clasped in his arms, and never loosed his grasp until he fell dead on the field.

The Marquis of Pescara's standard at the battle of Ravenna had for device a Spartan shield, with the injunction of the Spartan mother to her son before the battle of Mantinea for a motto, "*Aut cum hoc, aut in hoc*,"—"Either with this, or on it." Pescara is buried in the church of Domenico Maggiore at Naples. Above his tomb hangs his torn banner, and a plain short sword, surrendered to him by Francis I., at Pavia.

The ensign of the Roman family of Colonna is a silver column, with base and capital of gold, surmounted by a golden crown, the grant of the Emperor Louis of Bavaria, in acknowledgment of services rendered by Stefano Colonna, who, when chief senator of Rome, crowned Louis in the Capitol contrary to the wishes of the Pope.¹

The *royal standard* of the present kingdom of Italy is a square white flag bordered with blue, and has blazoned on the centre of its field the arms of Savoy, a *cross argent* on a *red (gules) shield*, surmounted by a regal crown, supported by an ermine mantle and by trophies of national flags.

The *man-of-war flag* of the United Kingdom of Italy is composed of equal green, red, and white vertical stripes, the green next the staff, the centre or white stripe being charged with the royal arms and crown. The *merchant flag* is the same, except that on it the crown is omitted.

The origin of the Savoy arms is this: In 1309, Filles de Villaret, grand master of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John, defended the Island of Rhodes against the Soldan, with the assistance of the Duke of Savoy, to whom, in gratitude for his timely help, they granted the badge of their order, a white cross on a red shield.²

THE MAGIC STANDARD OF DENMARK.—The banner of Denmark, taken from the Danes by Alfred the Great, was a famous magical

¹ Bury's *Historic War Cries and Devices*.

² *Hospinian de Orig. Monach*, lib. v. p. 333.

standard. According to Sir John Spelman, it had for a device the image of a raven magically wrought by three sisters, Hungar and Hubba, on purpose for the expedition, in revenge of their father Lodebrock's murder. It was made, said the sisters, in an instant, being begun and finished in a noontide. The raven has been regarded from very early ages as an emblem of God's providence,—probably from the record in Holy Writ of its being employed to feed Elijah in his seclusion by the brook of Cherith. The Danes believed it carried great fatality with it, and therefore it was highly esteemed by them. They believed that when carried in battle towards good success, the raven would clap his wings, or make as if it would. That the raven was their standard is confirmed by the figure of that bird on the coins of Aulef, the Danish King of Northumberland.

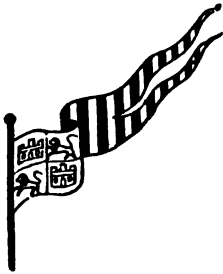
The embroidery of flags afforded occupation and amusement to the ladies of the Middle Ages; thence their value became enhanced, and it was highly shameful for a knight not to defend to the death what his mistress's hands had wrought.

When Waldemar II., of Denmark, was engaged in a great battle with the Livonians in the year A.D. 1219, it is said that a sacred banner fell from heaven into the midst of the army, and so revived the courage of his troops that they gained a complete victory over the Livonians. In memory of the event, Waldemar instituted an order of knighthood, called 'St. Dannebrog,' or 'the strength of the Danes,' which is the principal order of knighthood in Denmark. The truth appears to be, that King Waldemar, observing his men giving ground to the enemy, who had beaten down his standard, which bore an eagle, raised up a consecrated banner or silver cross, which had been sent him by the Pope, and under it rallied his troops, and ultimately gained the victory. This achievement caused the people to believe that the banner had been sent from heaven.¹

The present *royal standard* of Denmark and *man-of-war ensign* and *admiral's flag* are red swallow-tailed flags, with a white cross, the colors of Savoy. On the standard, the cross is quadrate and charged with the royal achievements, the shield being encircled with the collars of the orders of the Elephant and Dannebrog. The quadrate of the cross in the admiral's flag is blazoned with an oval shield, *azure*, bearing three golden crowns, surrounded by a border of gold, the whole encircled with a wreath of laurel. The flag for merchant ships is a square red flag with a white cross.

¹ Newton's Display of Heraldry. London, 1846.

SPANISH STANDARDS AND FLAGS.—The standard of Fernan Gonzales, Count of Castile, in the eleventh century, was a massive silver cross, two ells in length, with Our Saviour sculptured upon it, and above his head, in Gothic letters, "I. N. R. I.;" below was Adam awaking from the grave, with the words of St. Paul, "Awake thou who sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee life." This standard is said to be still preserved in a Spanish convent.



A Spanish Standard.

From the map of North America, by Diego Honem, 1558.

The standard of the Cid was green,—
 "There were knights five hundred went armed before,
 And Bermudez 'the Cid's' green standard bore."

During the famous engagement between the forces of Aragon and Castile, called, from the field where it took place, *de la Espina*, the brave Count of Candespina (Gomez Gonzalez) stood his ground to the last, and died on the field of battle. His standard-bearer, a gentleman of the house of Olea, after having his horse killed under him, and both hands cut off by sabre strokes, fell beside his master, still clasping the standard in his arms, and repeating his war-cry of 'Olea.'¹ This incident has been rendered in stirring verse by an American poet,—George H. Boker.

"Down on the ranks of Aragon
 The bold Gonzalez drove,
 And Olea raised his battle-cry,
 And waved the flag above.

.

"Backward fought Gomez, step by step,
 Till the cry was close at hand,
 Till his dauntless standard shadowed him,
 And there he made his stand.

.

"As, pierced with countless wounds, he fell,
 The standard caught his eye,
 And he smiled, like an infant hushed to sleep,
 To hear the battle-cry.

"Yield up thy banner, gallant knight!
 Thy lord lies on the plain;
 Thy duty has been nobly done;
 I would not see thee slain."

¹ Mr. George, *Annals of the Queen of Spain*.

“ Spare pity, King of Aragon,
I would not hear thee lie;
My lord is looking down from heaven,
To see his standard fly.’

“ Yield, madman, yield! Thy horse is down;
Thou hast nor lance nor shield.
Fly! I will grant thee time.’— ‘ This flag
Can neither fly nor yield! ’

“ They girt the standard round about
A wall of flashing steel;
But still they heard the battle-cry, —
‘ Olea for Castile! ’

“ And there, against all Aragon,
Full armed with lance and brand,
Olea fought, until the sword
Snapped in his sturdy hand.

“ Among the foe, with that high scorn
Which laughs at earthly fears,
He hurled the broken hilt, and drew
His dagger on the spears.

“ They hewed the hauberk from his breast,
The helmet from his head,
They hewed the hands from off his limbs, —
From every vein he bled.

“ Clasping the standard to his heart,
He raised one dying peal,
That rang as if a trumpet blew, —
‘ Olea for Castile! ’ ”

When Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Sept. 7, 1513, first touched the shore of the Pacific, at a bay which he named St. Michael, after the saint on whose day it was discovered, the tide was out, and so gradual was the incline of the strand that the water was full half a league distant. Nunez Balboa seated himself under a tree until it should come in. At last it came dashing on to his very feet with great impetuosity. He then started up, seized a banner on which was painted a virgin and child and under them the arms of Castile and Leon, and, drawing his sword, advanced into the sea until the water was up to his knees,—then waving the standard, he exclaimed with a loud voice: “ Long live the high and mighty monarchs Don Fernand

and Donna Juanna, sovereigns of Castile and Leon, and of Aragon, in whose name I take real and corporal and actual possession



Banner of Balboa.

of these seas, islands, coasts, &c., in all time, so long as the world endures, and until the final day of judgment to all mankind!" His followers having tasted the water, and found it indeed salt, returned thanks to God. When the ceremonies were concluded, Vasco Nunez drew his dagger and cut three crosses on trees in the neighborhood, in honor of the three persons of the Holy Trinity, and his example was followed by many of his soldiers.

Ferdinand and Isabella, in their Moorish wars, used a massive cross of silver, presented them by Pope Sixtus IV., as a standard, which Ferdinand always carried in his tent during his campaigns.

The ceremonials observed on the occupation of a new Spanish conquest, says Marineo, were for the royal 'alferez' or ensign to raise the standard of the cross, the sign of our salvation, on the summit of the principal fortress, when all who beheld it prostrated themselves on their knees in silent worship of the Almighty, while the priests chanted the *Te Deum Laudamus*. The ensign or pennon of St. James, the patron of Spain, was then unfolded, and all invoked his blessed name. Lastly, the standard of the sovereigns emblazoned with the royal arms was displayed, at which the army shouted as if with one voice, "Castile! Castile!" After these solemnities, a bishop led the way to the principal mosque, which, after rites of purification, he consecrated to the service of the true faith.

It was stated in 'All the Year Round,' in 1866, that the flag of Pizarro was then preserved in the Municipal Hall at Caracas, S. A., enshrined in a glass case, it having been sent from Peru in 1837. "All the silk and velvet are eaten off, but the gold wire with the

device of a lion and the word *Carlos* remained. The flag is about five feet long and three broad, and being folded double in the frame, but one-half is seen. They will not allow it to be taken out." *Per contra*, General San Martin, when he voluntarily resigned the reins of power at Lima, in his speech on that memorable occasion, said, "I keep as a record the standard which Pizarro bore when he enslaved the empire of the Incas." In answer to inquiries which I instituted in 1879, concerning this flag, through the Hon. Richard Gibbs, U. S. Minister to Peru, Señor Camacho, a nephew of Bolivar, wrote Col. Manuel de Odnoszola, under date, "Lima, April 22, 1879:" "When I was Secretary of the Municipal Council of Caracas, in 1848, I saw in a glass case, kept in the Hall of Sessions, a banner, richly embroidered, said to be Pizarro's. I can see it now, embroidered in gold,—the lion, the red ground, the creases in the flag, and all the details of the standard,—which I understood was brought from Peru by the regiments 'Janin' and 'Caracas' on their return, this valuable present having been made to the Liberator Bolivar, by the government of that republic; but Doct. Lama, chief clerk in the Foreign Office, and my immediate chief, has assured me that it could not be Pizarro's flag, as it never left Peru. Please clear up this point, as you have a great memory, and such abundant archives to draw from."

To this note, Colonel Odnoszola, librarian and keeper of the archives, who was over eighty years of age, replied, "April 23d:" "I immediately answer your note of yesterday, stating that I and my contemporaries never saw any other standard than that which was brought out on the 1st and 6th of January, '*Dia de los Reyes*,'¹ in the grand procession of the *alcaldes*." This standard was said to be, and all believed it to be, the one that Pizarro brought to the conquest of Peru. It was preserved in the municipal chamber, and was presented by that body to General San Martin, who, when he left the country, carried it with him, as he so stated in his valedictory address when he delivered the presidential scarf to the Constitutional Congress in 1822. By a clause in his will, he desired that the valuable relic should be returned to Peru; and the executor of the will in France delivered it to Coronel Bolonese to bring it to Peru, who complied with the order, depositing it in the palace when General Pezet had supreme command of the republic. On the 6th of November, 1865, when the palace was sacked, it was carried off, and up

¹ Lima was founded Jan. 6, 1535-36, King's Day, by Pizarro (*Dia de los Reyes*), and afterwards, on that anniversary, the flag was always carried in the procession up to the time of the Independence of Peru, 1822.

THE SYMBOLS, STANDARDS, AND BANNERS

... (1879) the thief remains unknown, or where it was found."

"In the work published in Buenos Ayres on the inauguration of the statue of General San Martin, there was printed or engraved a copy of the standard, drawn by Señor Balcacer, the son-in-law of General San Martin, previous to his delivering the original to Col. Bolonese."

Señor Ricardo Palma also writes Señor Camacho: "Pizarro's standard was presented by the Corporation of Lima, in 1822, to General San Martin, who, when he died, willed that it should be returned to Peru. Balcacer, son-in-law of San Martin, carried out the instructions of the will, and the flag was deposited in the palace. According to some, Pezet presented this precious relic to the rear-admiral or some chief of the reinstating or 'revin cadera' of the Chinchá Islands; by others, that it was stolen by the mob who sacked the palace, Nov. 6, 1865, when Pezet fell. The presentation of the standard to San Martin is recorded in the official-gazette of the year of its presentation, and it is mentioned by later historians. I have often tried to follow up the track of the flag, with no better result than I have mentioned. In the processions of the *alcaldes*, January 6, it was carried by the 'alferez real,' or royal ensign, to whose custody it was confided. The rich flag you saw in Caracas could not have been that of the 'conquistador.' When he commenced his daring enterprise he was not in a position to sport a valuable banner. Old men who saw the standard in 1822 have told me that it was of poor material, and badly used."

The standard of Cortez, described and illustrated heretofore, is preserved in the city of Mexico.¹

The present *royal standard* of Spain bears the arms of Catherine of Aragon, with those of Anjou in pretence displayed over its whole area. The *man-of-war flag* is yellow, interposed between two horizontal bars (each half its own depth) of red, and is charged towards its dexter with the arms of Castile and Leon impaled within a red circular bordure, and ensigned with the Spanish crown. The *merchant flag* is without the royal arms, and has a narrow yellow stripe at the top and bottom of the flag outside the two red bars.

Spain becoming a great kingdom on the union of Castile and Aragon, united as a national flag the arms of the two kingdoms. But long before that, Barcelona ships had worn the red and yellow stripes known as the 'bars of Aragon.' The tradition is, that in the year 873 Charles the Bald honored Geoffrey, Count of Barcelona, who had been mortally wounded in the battle against the Normans, by dipping his

¹ Pages 82, 83.

four fingers in the blood flowing from the Count's wounds, and drawing them down the Count's golden shield. The story is, however, a pure fable, as the stripes on the Spanish flags are not so old by two hundred years. They are simply a pun on the name of Barcelona,—‘*barras longas.*’ Afterwards, as Barcelona merged into the kingdom of Aragon, its arms were adopted for those of the kingdom. From the first greatness of Spain, her ships wore the Castilian flag,—quartering Castile and Leon. It was this, as the national flag, that was worn by the ships of Columbus,—noteworthy in the history of navigation as the first to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

On the accession of Charles V. to the kingdom of Spain, he introduced the Burgundian flag,—the red raguled saltire on a white ground,—which was to some extent used for two hundred and fifty years. The ships of the Armada, in 1588, bore the Burgundian cross. In a series of maps of the actions, preserved in the British Museum, the Spanish fleet is as distinctly marked by the red saltire as the English by the red cross.

There seems to be no doubt whatever that, during the latter half of the sixteenth and the first half of the seventeenth century, the Spanish flag was white, with the red Burgundian cross; and a memorandum drawn up at Toulon, in 1662, says that, “During the war with Spain, our ships always wore in battle a red ensign at the stern, to distinguish them from the Spaniards, who wore a white; but in the last war with the English they (the French) wore white, as different from the English red.”¹

To the Bourbon marriage must be attributed the introduction of a white flag, bearing the royal arms, similar in effect to the French standard. The old one, however, was not entirely abolished; and an order, dated Jan. 20, 1732, systematizes the complexity:—

“The king, having resolved that the ships of the fleet are to be divided into three squadrons, and that each of these shall belong to one of the ports already established in Spain, orders that every ship is to carry at the stern a white ensign, with the royal arms, as now in use. And to distinguish the different squadrons, those ships which belong to Cadiz shall wear as masthead flags or pennons, or at the bowsprit cap, white, with the royal arms. Ferrol ships shall wear white, with the Burgundy cross, charged at each of its four corners with an anchor; and Carthagena shall wear violet (*morado*), with the shield of the castles and lions.”²

¹ Jal: Abraham Du Quesne, vol. 1. p. 588.

² *Disquisiciones Nauticas*, por el Capitan de Navis, C. F. Duro, p. 271.

In the engraving in Anson's 'Voyage Around the World' of the Spanish galleon, '*Nostra Signiora de Cabadonga*,' captured by him near the Philippine Islands, in May, 1843, she is shown with the Burgundian ensign at the stern, and a blue or violet flag with the shield of the castles and lions at the main.¹

The ships that fought under Navarro, off Toulon, in 1744, belonged to Cadiz; those that formed the squadron off Havana, in 1748, were from Ferrol. The Spanish contingent of the allied fleet that invaded the channel in 1779 consisted of the Cadiz and Ferrol squadrons, with possibly some ships from Carthagena. Throughout the war of American Independence, no distinctive squadrons were fitted out from that port, and the head-quarters of the grand fleet were throughout at Cadiz.

During these wars of the eighteenth century, the white flag was found to be inconvenient, from its closely resembling, at a little distance, the white flag of France, and the shield bearing white flags of Naples and Tuscany. It was resolved, therefore, to alter it; and, after examining twelve patterns which were submitted, the existing flag was ordered, by a decree dated May 28, 1785. In this, the flag is defined as being in three horizontal stripes: the top and bottom red, each one-fourth of the whole breadth; the middle yellow, and on it the simple shield of Castile and Leon, quarterly, surmounted by the royal crown. The merchant flag was at the same time defined as having the yellow stripe in the middle without the shield, one-third of the whole width, each of the remaining parts being divided into two equal stripes colored red and yellow alternately.² There is no doubt the red and yellow then adopted was derived from the Aragon bars, being also the colors of the arms of Castile; but the Aragon arms are vertical. It is a coincidence that the arms of Admiral Cordova, at that time commander-in-chief of the Spanish navy, were barry of seven *or*, and *gules*.

Such as it was appointed in 1785, the Spanish flag has remained, with the exceptions of the short-lived change during the reign of Joseph Bonaparte, and at the time of the disturbance of 1868 to 1875, when the revolutionary ships flew any flag they thought best, with a preference for a plain red one, denoting the Commune; sometimes a tri-color of violet, white, and red.

¹ Anson's *Voyage Around the World, &c.*, by Richard Walter, p. 373. 1 vol. 4to. Printed for the author, 1748. Mr. Laughton says, in the plate in Harris's *Collection of Voyages*, the masthead flag is white.

² Duro, p. 273.

The red, yellow, red flag of 1785, but without shield or crown, was ordered by King Alfonso XII. to resume its place as the national ensign, on the 6th of January, 1875.¹

AUSTRIAN STANDARD AND FLAGS.—The field of the *imperial standard* of Austria is yellow, with an indented border of gold, silver, red, and black, and displays the eagle of the empire. The *national* or *man-of-war flag* is formed of three equally wide horizontal divisions, the central one white, and the two others red; on the central division towards the dexter is a shield charged as the flag itself, having also the imperial cipher within a narrow golden border, ensigned with the imperial crown. The *flag of the merchant service* is the same, except that the flag is additionally blazoned with the Hungarian arms, and for the outer half of the red stripe green is substituted, indicating the union of the Kingdom of Hungary with Austria, and also its independence.

The national colors of Hungary are red, white, and green, arranged horizontally,—the green in chief, and the red at the base. The imperial eagle of Austria is claimed to be the successor of the eagle of the German emperor, which succeeded the eagle of ancient Rome; and bears two heads, which symbolize the eastern and western Roman empires.

Since 1495, according to an official return, two thousand and thirty-three colors and standards have been taken by Austrian troops from the enemy, and nine hundred and sixty-nine Austrian standards and colors captured.

RUSSIAN STANDARD AND FLAGS.—The *imperial standard* of Russia is yellow, blazoned with a double-headed eagle, surmounted by the imperial crown; each of the eagle's heads is also crowned, and in each of the eagle's beaks and in each claw is borne a chart, supposed to represent the Caspian and Black Seas, the White Sea, and the Baltic. On the breast of the eagle there is a red shield charged with a St. George on horseback spearing a dragon under the horse's feet. Pendent from the necks of the eagle and surrounding the shield is the collar and badge of the order of St. Andrew, established by Peter the Great in 1698.



Royal Standard of Russia.

¹ 'The Heraldry of the Sea,' a lecture delivered by J. K. Laughton, A.M.R.N., Lecturer on Naval History at the Royal Naval College, Feb. 28, 1879, before the Royal United Service Institution.

The Czar of all the Russias bears on his standard the double-headed eagle, as an assured successor of the Roman Cæsars. Its two heads, however, might denote his own eastern and western empires,—Asiatic and European Russia.

The *merchant flag* has three horizontal divisions, the uppermost white, the central blue, and the lowermost red. The *man-of-war flag* is white, with a blue diagonal cross; and this flag is charged in the dexter chief quarter of the larger flags with stripes of red, white, and blue, for the three squadrons of the Russian navy.

The original ensign seems to have been borrowed by Peter the Great, who originated it, from the Dutch, and is merely the Dutch

flag upside down.

Afterwards, as a further distinction, the white was charged with a small blue St. Andrew's cross. During the greater part of the last century, the Russian navy wore a white, blue, or red ensign, the latter bearing the blue cross in a white canton.

The annexed engraving is a fac-simile of the banner under which the Russians conquered the Tartars in 1386, and is a curious specimen of the banners of



Russian Flag, 1386.

the fourteenth century. A fac-simile of the banner was presented to the Russian Legion in 1876.¹

¹London Graphic, Oct. 28, 1876.

'Scribner's Monthly,' for February, 1880, has an engraving of a military flag of Peter the Great's time, representing a warrior on horseback, with a drawn sword; but the magazine does not give any description of the flag, or state where it is preserved.

In the Russian navy they pay honors and a respect to their national flag that other nations would do well to follow. - The ensign is lowered with great formality at sunset. The officers are assembled on the quarter-deck, with the band in position, and the crew in their places. As the flag begins to descend, the national air is played, and the officers and crew stand uncovered before the emblem of the nation's sovereignty. It is hoisted with similar ceremonies. In 1871, the Emperor of Russia presented new flags to those regiments of his army which had reached their centenary, inscribed "1771-1871."

THE BELGIAN STANDARD AND FLAG.—The Belgian colors—black, yellow, and red—are those of the Duchy of Brabant. They were formed into a national flag in 1831, clearly on the French model. The standard is composed of equal bars of black, yellow, and red, arranged vertically, the black next the staff. The royal arms—a golden lion on a black shield with the supporters and crown—are charged on the central yellow division. The *national ensign* is the same flag without the arms. The *admiral's flag* is also the same, but has four white balls in the upper part of the black stripe. The *vice-admiral's* has three balls, and the *rear-admiral's* two. *Commodores' pennants* are like the ensign, but swallow-tailed.

GREECE has adopted the colors of Bavaria, from which she got her first king.

The *merchant flag* of Greece has a blue union with a white cross cantoned on the ensign, the field of which is white, with five blue bars; that is, it has nine alternate stripes of blue and white.

The *man-of-war flag* has a yellow crown in the centre of the cross. The *Alexandros*, the first vessel bearing the Greek flag that ever arrived at a port of the United States, entered the port of Boston, Mass., in August, 1835. She was built for a brig of war, but was owned by her commander; and her officers and crew were all Greeks. She was laden with Samos wine, which, from her being a pioneer vessel, was admitted free of duty.

STANDARD AND FLAG OF THE NETHERLANDS.—The *national flag* is of three equal stripes or bars, red, white, and blue, horizontally arranged, the red in chief, and white in the centre.

The *standard* has the royal achievement of arms charged upon the white, with the motto, "*Je maintiendray.*" The three colors were given to the Dutch by Henry IV., of France, on their requesting him to confer on them the national colors of his country. They have ever since continued the colors of the Dutch Republic, and its successor, the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The *admiral's* and *lieutenant-admiral's* flags are the same as the national ensign, but bear in the upper or red stripe four white balls. The flag of the *vice-admiral* has only three balls, and a *rear-admiral* but two.

Holland, as an independent State, had no existence till the latter part of the sixteenth century. Before that time, it had followed the fortunes of the Duchy of Burgundy, and had become incorporated in the dominions of the King of Spain,—with them it had the Burgundian flag; and as the different ports were in the habit of using flags of their own, these were rendered illegal by a decree of 1540, and as early as 1475 all ships were ordered "to carry the arms and standards of the Duke," and again, in 1487, "to carry the banners and pennons of the admiral, in addition to any other local or special flags."¹ It is certain, therefore, that from these dates to the outbreak of the War of Independence the Dutch ships carried the Burgundian flag,—the red raguled saltire on a white field; but from the very first discontent the Gueux adopted the colors of the House of Orange,—orange, white, and blue,—which was at first to be worn promiscuously or haphazard, though very shortly, to the cry of '*Oranje boven!*'—'*Up with the orange!*' They were arranged in horizontal bars, with the orange uppermost; but the number and order of the bars continued a matter of fancy until 1599, when the flag was definitely fixed as orange, white, and blue, in three horizontal stripes, although even then, and for a hundred years afterwards, this was not unfrequently doubled, and contained six stripes, but in the same order; and in the jacks on the bowsprit, or rather at the head of the spritsail-topmast (jack staff), the three colors in no certain order radiated from the centre. When standing into Gibraltar Bay to annihilate the Spaniards, on the 25th of April, 1607, Heemskirk wore an orange scarf, and in his hat a large orange plume. Fournier, writing in 1643, speaks of the Dutch flag as red, white, and blue; so that possibly the change was natural, from the similarity of colors, and had then well begun. But De Jonge, speaking from much official information, and from old records and contemporary pictures, considers that the change did not

¹J. C. de Jonge: "Over den Oorsprong der Nederlandsche Vlag." In *Rey*, vol. II. p. 512.

begin till 1653, and then very gradually effected between that date and 1665; and that the battles of the first war with England were fought under the orange, and that in the second war the colors were as now, —red, white, and blue; as, indeed, they have continued ever since. During a few years consequent on the French Revolution, the flags of ships of war were distinguished by a white canton charged with a figure of Liberty, armed with pike in hand and lion at feet. This flag was worn by the Dutch ships at Camperdown. In 1806, after a dangerous mutiny, it was considered expedient to restore the old flag; but by some omission the ships of the Texel and Zuyder Zee wore the old flag, whilst the ships of the Zealand squadron wore the new, with Liberty in the canton,—a curious irregularity, which continued until July 17, 1810, when Holland and her flag were suppressed and absorbed into the French Empire.

On the 18th of February, 1653, Van Tromp wore the lion flag at the stern, the orange, white, and blue at the main; De Ruyter, the lion at the stern, the tricolor at the fore, and a white flag at the main; Evertzen, a blue flag at the main, the national colors at the mizzen, and the States arms at the stern.¹

STANDARD AND FLAG OF PORTUGAL.—On the 25th of July, 1139, Affonso Henriques, Count of Portugal, with thirteen thousand soldiers,



Old East India Flag
of Portugal.

including a band of English and French knights, on their way to the second crusade defeated a Moorish army, commanded by five kings, and consisting, according to the lowest estimate, of two hundred thousand men. The night before the battle, as the Count was meditating in his tent on the vast superiority of the enemy's numbers, a hermit entered, and commanded him in God's name to go forth in the morning when he heard the bells toll for mass, and to turn towards the east. He did as told, and within a halo of clouds beheld the image of our crucified Lord, who promised him not only victory but a crown, and a succession of sixteen generations to inherit his sceptre.²

Another version of this legend is that Affonso was much encouraged by opening his Bible at the defeat of the Midianites by Gideon, and that a hermit visited him and promised him a sign of victory.

¹ J. K. Laughton's *Heraldry of the Sea*, 1879, pp. 20, 22.

² Camoen's *Poems*.

Accordingly at daybreak, as the matin bell sounded, there was a luminous cross seen in the sky, such as had been seen by Constantine; and an assurance given him that he should be a king, and that his children to the sixteenth generation should reign in Portugal. His army did in fact salute him king before the battle; and he rode forward on a white horse, followed by enthusiastic troops, who won a most brilliant victory, and Portugal became a kingdom.¹

In commemoration of this victory, Affonso Henriques changed his arms, which he had received from his father, viz. *argent*, a cross *azure*, and substituted for them the present arms of Portugal; viz., five shields disposed crosswise on a white shield, in memory of the Lord's five wounds, each shield charged with five bezants, in commemoration of the five Moorish kings who were slain in the Camp d'Ourique.

This tradition was never questioned until Herculano, giving an account of the battle, endeavored to show the legend was unheard of in the twelfth century, and that the battle was of inferior importance. On the other side, Pereira de Figuerado, in an earlier treatise, disposes, by anticipation, of most of the later historian's arguments.²

This formed the flag of the early discoverers,—the flag that slowly pushed its route down the coast of Africa, and led the way around the Cape of Good Hope to the East Indies. With it, Vasco de Gama also carried the armillary sphere given him specially by King Dom Manoel; and this flag, with the sphere, in gold or red, was long known as the flag of Portugal in the Indies. The present flag, adopted in 1815, is a modification of the old and glorious flag of Prince Henry the Navigator.

The present *royal standard* of Portugal is a red banner, charged with the royal arms and crown in its centre. The arms are *argent*, five escutcheons, each charged with as many plates in saltire, arranged in a cross *azure*; the whole in a border *gu*, upon which are seven castles *or*; the outer shield having an *or* border.

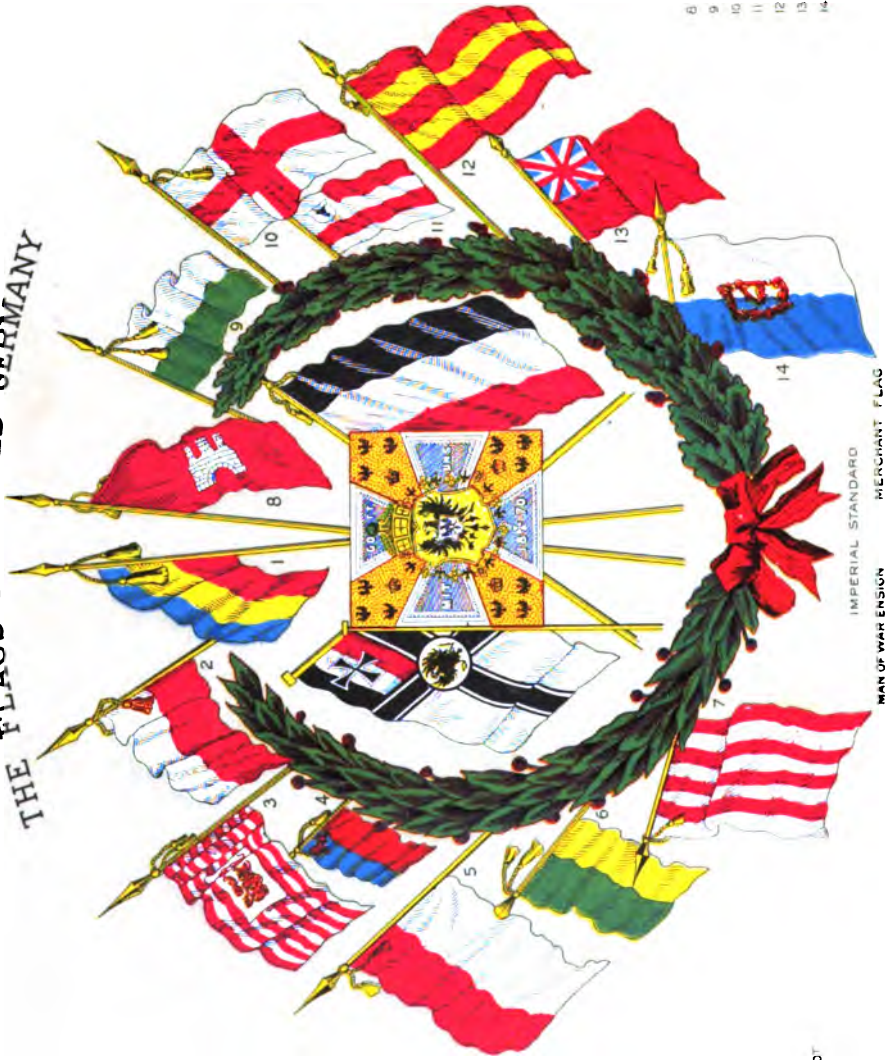
The *man-of-war* and *merchant ensigns* are half *in pale*, blue and white, vertical, the blue next the staff, with the same emblazoned shield as the royal standard, surmounted by a crown, the shield half in the blue and half in the white stripe. A clear and handsome flag.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY.—The *national flag* of Sweden is blue with a yellow cross, and that of Norway is red with a blue cross, having

¹ Charlotte M. Yonge's *Christians and Moors of Spain*.

² *Handbook for Travellers in Portugal*. London, 1856.

THE FLAGS OF UNITED GERMANY



STATES.

- 1 MEKLENBURG
- 2 LUEBECK
- 3 BREMEN
- 4 NASSAU
- 5 HESSE CASSELL
- 6 HESSE DARMSTADT
- 7 WUERTEMBERG

STATES

- 8 HAMBURG
- 9 SAXONY
- 10 OLDENBURG
- 11 FRANKFURT
- 12 BADEN
- 13 HANOVER
- 14 BAVARIA

IMPERIAL STANDARD

WAR OF WAR ENSIGN

MERCHANT FLAG

a white fimbriation. These two flags are combined to form a united ensign, after the manner of the Union Jack of Great Britain, and the united flag is cantoned in the national ensigns. The *man-of-war flag* is swallow-tailed, and that of *merchantmen* square. The *admiral's flags* are the same as the man-of-war flag, only smaller. *Commodore's pennants* are triangular.

The *royal standard* is charged with the royal arms, crown, and supporters.

The prominent part Sweden once played in European history has been brought home by the discovery in the war office at Stockholm of a work prepared by Charles XI., to commemorate her triumphs. This is an illustrated manuscript in twenty volumes, containing upwards of two hundred pages of drawings, with copies of numerous flags and standards captured by the Swedish armies in battle or siege down to the year 1697. Olof Hofman received six hundred and forty rix dollars for its execution. A great part of the original trophies actually exist in the Ritterholm Church, which does duty as the metropolitan cathedral on great occasions. The king ordered an investigation to be made of the vast stores of such relics laid up there, reported to number six thousand, but which were found not to exceed four thousand. Of these, the most remarkable are to be restored, in the same manner that similar neglected relics have been restored in Germany and Switzerland.

The Swedish flag seems to be merely the Danish, with the colors altered, in 1523, when Sweden won her independence. The Norway flag is clearly the Danish flag, with a blue cross superimposed; for, though it is described as blue fimbriated with white, the authorized border is too wide. The Swedish-Norwegian union, in the canton, was devised in 1817, when the two countries were united under one king.

THE STANDARD AND FLAGS OF GERMANY.—The most recent flag added to the family of European nations is the black, red, and gold flag of the North German Empire, which is said to have originated in the time of Barbarossa. When that emperor was crowned, A.D. 1152, ruler of Germany, in the Frankfort Cathedral, the way from the Dom to the Romer Palace, where the festivities were held, was laid with a carpet representing the colors black, red, and gold. After the coronation, this carpet was given to the people, and every one tried to cut off a piece, which was carried by them about the city as a flag. In the year 1184, at the Reichstag at Mayence, these were recognized

as the true German colors, and were retained until Napoleon put an end to the empire in 1806. Since that time, the Burschenschaften have kept the old colors in memory. In the revolutionary year, 1848, the German colors were once again brought to light by the National Assembly at Frankfort. There was considerable discussion as to which color had the precedence. 'Freilgrath' said: "Powder is black, blood is red, and golden flickers the flame, *that* is the old imperial standard." Frederic Wilhelm II., however, was the author of the motto bearing the meaning of the German standard,—

"From night, through blood, to light."

This flag supersedes and covers not alone the black eagle flag and the standard of Prussia, but the flags of all the lesser states and principalities and free towns which are united under the new German Confederation, viz.: 1, Hamburg; 2, Bremen; 3, Mecklenburg; 4, Saxony; 5, Hanover; 6, Brunswick; 7, Oldenburg; 8, Lubec; 9, Hesse Cassel; 10, Frankfort; 11, Baden; 12, Bavaria; 13, Nassau; 14, Hesse Darmstadt; and 15, Wurtemberg.

The *imperial standard* of Germany is orange, charged in each of its four quarters with three black eagles and an imperial crown. The arms of a Maltese cross, silver and black, extend across the entire field of the flag, bearing on its arms the motto, "*Gott mit uns, 1870*,"—*Gott* in the upper arm, *mit* on the left hand, *uns* on the right hand, and 1870 on the lower arm. The centre of the cross bears a golden shield blazoned with the black eagle and the imperial arms.

The *man-of-war flag* is white, with a black eagle in the centre of a circle, from which are extended the arms of a black cross, bordered first with a narrow white and then a narrow black stripe. In the upper canton next the staff formed by the cross there is a black Maltese cross, edged with white, set in the centre of three horizontal stripes,—black, white, red.

The *merchant flag* is composed of three horizontal stripes or bars, of equal width,—black, white, red,—the black uppermost. The *pilot flag* is bordered with a broad band of white.

The Emperor William, in 1873, ordered all the Prussian regiments to state in detail the history of their regimental colors, and to send in carefully prepared drawings and paintings of them, designing a history of all the Prussian colors should be compiled under his own supervision.

FRENCH SYMBOLS, STANDARDS, AND FLAGS.

THE STANDARDS OF THE FRANKS AND GAULS.—ANCIENT AND MODERN
FRENCH STANDARDS, BANNERS, AND FLAGS.

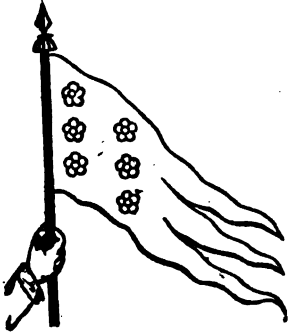
THE STANDARDS OF THE FRANKS AND GAULS.—The emblems of the barbarian hordes which, rushing upon the Roman Colossus, overrun and subdued Gaul, and established themselves in place of the aboriginal inhabitants, are so numerous and diverse, it is impossible to determine with precision the ensigns of each. To the Franks are ascribed the half-moon, toads, serpents, and the lion; the last is supposed to be the parent of the seventeen Belgic lions. According to many authorities, the Sicambri bore a bull's head; the Suevi, a bear; the Alani, a cat; the Saxons, a horse; the Cimbri and most of the Celts, a bull. The military ensign of the Goths was a cock.¹

The old Swiss cantons of Uri and Valais, the purest popular government known, have existed for more than a thousand years. Every spring, the little army of Uri, bearing a banner of 'the bull's head,' marches to a green meadow among the mountains; all the men of lawful age following on foot, the magistrates on horseback, and the chief magistrate wearing a sword. Reaching the meadow, the people gather around the chief ruler; there is a brief pause of silent prayer; and then and there, in the general assembly of the people, the magistrates resign their trusts, the chief magistrate delivers up the sword of his office, leaves the chair, and takes his place with the other citizens. If he has served them well, they bid him take the chair again; for there is no rule that he may not be re-elected.²

FRENCH STANDARDS, BANNERS, AND FLAGS.—To the reign of Louis XIV., the banner of the King of France was blazoned with his own device; thus, Charles IX. had 'pillars;' Henry II., 'a half-moon;' Henry III., 'three crowns;' Henry IV., 'a Hercules club;' Philip Augustus chose 'a lion;' Louis VIII., 'a boar;' St. Louis, 'a dragon;' Philip the Bold, 'an eagle;' Charles the Fair, 'a leopard;' John, 'swans;' Charles V., 'greyhounds and a dolphin;' Charles VII. and VIII., the 'winged stag;' Louis XII., the gentlest of sovereigns, 'a porcupine;' Francis I., 'the salamander.' Our illustration of a consecrated banner, presented to Charlemagne by the Pope, is from a mosaic in the Triclinium of San Giovanni de Laterano, built under

¹ United Service Journal.² G. W. Curtis's Lecture, October, 1872.

Charlemagne by Pope Leo, which has been partially destroyed, and is ill restored. The full mosaic represents St. Peter presenting Leo III. with the insignia of the popedom, and giving the standard of war to Charlemagne, who is represented as kneeling.¹



Banner presented to Charlemagne by the Pope.

For many centuries it was customary to choose for a military standard the colors of the saint in whose intercession the most confidence was placed. Often being charged with the custody of some relic of the saint, its sanctity was increased.

The ancient kings of France carried St. Martin's blue hood or cap for their standard for six hundred years. The legend of St. Martin is that he divided his cloak with a naked beggar whom he found perishing with cold at the gate of Amiens.

This cloak, miraculously preserved, long formed one of the holiest and most valued relics of France; when war was declared, it was carried before the French monarchs as a sacred banner, and never failed to assure certain victory. The oratory in which this cloak or cape—in French, *chape*—was preserved, acquired the name '*chappelle*,' and the person intrusted with its care was termed *chapelain*; and thus, according to Collin de Plancy, our English words 'chapel' and 'chaplain' are derived. The canons of St. Martin, of Tours, and St. Gratian had a lawsuit for sixty years about a sleeve of this coat, each claiming it as their property. The Count Laroche-focault put an end to the proceedings by sacrilegiously committing the contested relic to the flames.² St. Martin, the son of heathen parents, was born in Hungary, A.D. 316. He was elected Bishop of Tours, 374, and died A.D. 397 or 400. He was the first saint to whom the Roman Church offered public veneration. St. Martin's standard was the richest of all the flags borne by the ancient kings of France. It was made of taffeta, and painted with the image of the saint, and was laid upon his tomb for one or more days to prepare it for use.

The counts of Anjou, as grand seneschals of France, were the first flag-bearers of the ensign of St. Martin. Beneton de Peyrins says the cape of St. Martin was kept at Argenteuil, and was carried in a casket which enclosed it; but that the banner of St. Martin was of the form of other banners, resembled the ancient labarum, and was carried by a chosen warrior, and not by a priest.

¹ Deodorus's Christian Iconography.

² Chambers's Book of Days.

St. Martin's standard was succeeded by the famous Auriflamme, or Oriflamme, of St. Denis, which in turn gave place to the 'Cornette Blanche.' This sacred banner of Clovis, fabled to have been brought



Representations of the Banner of St. Denis: No. 1, the oldest, is from a window in the Cathedral of Chartres; No. 2, the latest, is from a Manuscript of Froissart, No. 2944, in the National Library (the original which it represents was carried at the defeat of Arterelde at Rosebecque); No. 3, Drawing from the Library of the Celestins, preserved by Montfaucon.

by an angel to St. Denis, was originally the banner of the Abbey of St. Denis, suspended over the tomb of that saint, and was presented by the lord protector of the convent whenever it became necessary to take up arms for the preservation of its rights and possessions. It was made of red silk, with flames of gold worked in gold thread upon the silk, and

was fixed on a golden spear, in the form of a banner. Its end was cut into five points, each adorned with a tassel of green silk.

Guillaume Guiart, who wrote in 1306, describes it as "a banner made of silk stronger than guimp of flaring cendal, and that simply without any figure upon it;" and adds, that he had recently seen it. Later, it was powdered with golden flakes of fire, as represented in the 'Indice Armorial' of Louvain Geliot, 1635, where it is thus described:—

"L'Oriflamme estoit faite de sendal,
Cest a dire de taffetas ou tissu de soys rouge,
Aucunefois semée de flames d'or d'ou elle
Prenoit de nom de oriflamme."¹

The *Oriflamme* was red,—for all the banners of the churches dedicated to martyrs were red,—and fringed with green, the one color



The Oriflamme.

indicating suffering, the other hope. The illustration, representing Henry of Metz receiving the Oriflamme from the hands of St. Denis, is from a painted window in the church of Notre Dame de Chartres. Another account² says the color of the Oriflamme was purple, azure, and gold; the two colors producing orange were separated in the Oriflamme, but united in its name. The Oriflamme borne at Agincourt was an oblong red flag, split into five points. Sometimes it bore upon it a saltire wavy, from the centre of which golden rays diverged.³

¹ Herald and Genealogist, vol. iii. 1866.

² Fairholt's Dictionary of Terms of Art.

³ Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas.

The Oriflamme was intrusted by the community of St. Denis to the kings of France, who ranked themselves as vassals of the abbey, as counts of the Vexin.

When the kings of France were threatened with doubtful wars, and obliged to have recourse to the oriflamme, they paid their first devotion in the church of Notre Dame of Paris, then repaired to St. Denis, where, having been solemnly received, they descended, without hood or girdle, with the oriflamme, to the vaults under which rested the relics of the saint, and placed the sacred banner on the altar. In 1382, the remains of St. Louis were placed beside those of St. Denis. The abbot celebrated Mass, and, to heighten the devotion of the king and his standard-bearer the Count du Vexin, admonished him of the request of St. Denis. While the Count was on his knees, bareheaded, and without a girdle, between the king and the abbot, the king received the Oriflamme from the abbot, blessed by his prayers, and delivered it over to the custody of the Count du Vexin.

After the earldom of Du Vexin was joined to the crown, under Louis le Gros, any noble whom the king wished to honor was made its standard-bearer, who kept it unfurled. Sometimes the king placed it around his neck, awaiting the encounter of battle, and when it was unfurled, attached it to the end of a lance. The chosen standard-bearer, before receiving it, confessed, partook of the eucharist, and solemnly vowed to guard it faithfully with his life. The war ended, the Oriflamme was carried back to St. Denis by the king himself.

Louis le Gros was the first king who took the Oriflamme to battle, A.D. 1124,¹ and it appeared for the last time at Agincourt, A.D. 1415,² others say at Monterey, A.D. 1465.

At Bouvines, in 1214, the blue royal flag was carried at the head of the French knighthood, while the red oriflamme was the standard of the commoners.

The Oriflamme was borne against the Flemings in the battle of Rosbecq, 1382, in which Philip van Arteveldt was slain. Says Froissart: "It was a most excellent banner, and had been sent from heaven with great mystery. It is a sort of gonfanon, and is of much comfort in the day of battle to those who see it. Proof was made of its virtues at this time; for all the morning there was so thick a fog that with difficulty could they see each other, but the moment the knight had displayed it, and raised his lance in the air, the fog instantly disappeared." (See illustration of it, p. 105.)

¹ Henault.

² Du Tillet.

In an inventory of the treasury of the church of St. Denis, taken in 1534, the Oriflamme is described as “a standard of very thick silk, divided in the middle like a gonfanon, very frail, fastened around a stick covered with gilded copper, and a long pointed spear at the end.”

This banner of St. Denis was said to have been destroyed when the tombs of the kings of France in the abbey were desecrated and despoiled, at the time of the first French revolution; but a writer in 1867 asserts that it “is still suspended from an eminence at the eastern extremity of the venerable abbey church of St. Denis, beyond the high altar.” The monks of old were in the habit of assuring the people that this banner was brought to the abbey by an angel, at the time of the conversion to Christianity of old King Clovis; and tradition assigns an age of thirteen hundred and eighty years to this silken remnant of monastic superstition and imposition.

The *cornette blanche*, a plain white banner, emblematic of the purity of the Virgin Mary, succeeded the oriflamme in the fifteenth century.

The fleur-de-lis, with which it was subsequently powdered, are supposed to represent the flower of the lily, and may be a rebus signifying the flower of Louis. Mr. Planche says that *Clovis* is the Frankish form of the modern *Louis*, the C being dropped, as in Clothaire, which is now written Lothaire, and Clovis may have assumed the fleur-de-lis as his rebus, from his favorite clove-pink or gilly-flower.



The Bourbon Royal Standard.

Ancient heralds tell us that the Franks had a custom, at the proclamation of their king, to elevate him upon a shield or target, and place in his hand a reed or flag in blossom, instead of a sceptre; and from thence “the kings of the first and second race in France are represented with sceptres in their hands, like the flag with its flower, and which flowers became the armorial figures of France.”

Respecting this device there are many legendary tales:—that a banner, embroidered with golden fleur-de-lis, came down from heaven; that St. Denis personally bestowed the lily as an heraldic device upon the royal family of France; that a banner semée of fleur-de-lis was brought by an angel to King Clovis after his baptism; and that such a banner was delivered by an angel to Charlemagne. Such are some

of the tales accounting for the origin of the fleur-de-lis as the device of the French royal family, from the time of Clovis to Charles X.¹

The fleur-de-lis was first borne on a royal seal by Louis VII., A.D. 1137-80. Edward III. was the first English monarch who quartered the French fleurs-de-lis on the Great Seal of that kingdom, A.D. 1340, and they were not removed from the English shield until 1801.²

Under Philip Augustus, the French banner was white, and *semée-de-lis*, that is, strewn with golden lilies; but from the time of Charles VI., A.D. 1380, it invariably consisted of three golden fleurs-de-lis on a blue field, with a white cross in the middle.³

It is singular that the old English name for the iris, or fleur-de-lis, is 'flag.' Does the flower derive its name from the standard, or vice versa? The lily is an old device, and forms one of the most frequent decorations of Solomon's Temple, the Hebrew word 'susa' or 'susiana' being the same. The word 'shushan' stands for six, 'the perfect number,' in Hebrew. Two interlaced fleurs-de-lis make the lily, each having three prominent leaves, or both together, the perfect number. The name of 'susa' and its changes are derived from the Hebrew for a lily.

At the coronation of Charles VII. at Rheims, the Oriflamme was the only royal banner. The white flag was the personal banner of Jeanne d'Arc.

A French national flag is a modern idea. Under the feudal system, every lord had his own personal coat of arms.

Sieur de Aubigny, marshal of France, one of the most experienced commanders in the service of Charles VIII. and Louis XII., as a relative of James IV., bore the red lion of Scotland on a field *argent*, which he caused to be 'semée of buckles,' signifying that he was the means of holding united the kings of Scotland and France against England, with the motto, "*Distantia jungit*,"—"It unites the distant."

Charles III., seventh Duke of Bourbon, the celebrated constable, had displayed near his tomb at Gaeta his great standard of yellow silk embroidered with flying stags and naked flaming swords, with the word '*esperance*,' in several places; meaning, he hoped to revenge himself by fire and sword upon his enemies.

The banner of Robert de la Mark, the Great Boar of Ardennes, had a figure of St. Margaret with a dragon at her feet.⁴

¹ Newton's Heraldry.

² Fairholt's Dictionary; Recherches sur l'Origine du Blason et en particulier sur la Fleur-de-lis, par M. Adalbert de Beaumont, avec xxii Planches gravées. Paris, 1853.

³ Fairholt's Dictionary.

⁴ Mrs. Bury Palliser's Historic Devices, Badges, and War Cries. London, 1870.

A French military author, who served and wrote in the time of Charles XIV., intending to express the importance of preserving the colors to the last, observed that, on a defeat taking place, the flag should serve the ensign as a shroud; and instances have occurred of a standard-bearer, who, when mortally wounded, tore the flag from its staff, and died with it wrapped around his body. Such a circumstance is related of Don Sebastian, king of Portugal, at the battle of Alcaza, and of a young officer named Chatelier, at the taking of Taillebourg, during the wars of the Huguenots. It also had a parallel during our civil war.

After the establishment of a permanent militia, every regiment carried the color of its colonel; and down to 1789 many of them had preserved their own particular banners. The white being the royal color, however, superseded them all, from the fact that, when Louis XIV. suppressed the functions of colonel-generals, whose distinctive sign¹ was a white standard, such a standard was retained as an emblem of command; hence it became a sign of the regal power, and displaced all others. The royal flag was, in reality, the national flag of the eighteenth century.

As late as 1543, there is a royal order for "all ships in the service of the king to carry the banners or ensigns of the admiral of France."² Annebault, who was admiral of France from 1543 to 1552, commanded the fleet which invaded the Channel in 1545, and his arms, gules a cross vair, were probably worn by French ships. It is probable that with these were worn the blue flag with the white cross, and others, provincial and local. There is, notwithstanding all that has been written, no trace of the white flag as a national ensign before the time of Henry IV., though it is undoubtedly true a white flag was borne by Joan of Arc, with a picture of the crucifixion. The Catholic army wore first red, then green, the color of Lorraine, and after the murder of the Duke and Cardinal of Guise, black, until the death of Henry III., when they resumed the green. But the Protestants, from 1562, wore white, as an emblem of their superior purity, which they continued when Henry III. joined them, when it became royal. The principal standard of the League, captured at Ivry, 1590, was black charged with a crucifix, and the device, "*Auspice Christo;*" but it had green tassels. The royal flag was blue, with golden lilies, though white was the party color. Everybody knows that the king—

"Bound a snow-white plume upon his gallant crest;"

¹ Dependens.

² De Bouillé, *Les Drapeaux Française*, p. 221. 1875.

and also that he cautioned his followers,—

“And if my standard-bearer fall, as fall full well he may,
For never saw I promise yet of such a bloody fray,
Press where ye see my white plume shine amidst the ranks of war,
And be your Oriflamme to-day the helmet of Navarre.”

The wars of the League and the battle of Ivry were not naval, but they mark the introduction of the white flag, which became from that time royal and national, and supplanted the provincial and town flags, though the old blue flag continued to be worn by merchant ships.

M. d'Infreville, Intendant of Toulon, in 1665 wrote: “The Saint Philippe is so richly gilt, that, to be in keeping with such splendor, she ought to have a new flag of crimson damask, bearing the arms of France, and powdered with fleurs-de-lis, and crowned L L's in embroidery. The old one, which was made at Paris for the Archbishop of Bordeaux, twenty-eight years ago, at a cost of 12,000 livres, is torn away to half its size, and is quite a rag.”¹

In 1669, an order was given reducing the chaos of flags to something like regularity. On the 6th of November of that year, it was decreed that “the ensigns at the stern are to be blue, powdered with yellow fleur-de-lis, with a large white cross in the middle, without distinction of peace or war, voyage or battle. Merchant ships may wear the same ensign as our ships of war, with the escutcheon of their province or town in one of the corners. The pavesades are to be blue, powdered with yellow fleur-de-lis, bordered with two broad white bands.”

On the 3d of December, by a new order, “the ensigns of the stern are to be in all cases white.” Merchant ships the same, with the escutcheon as before.²

Thus, under the white flag the French squadron served in the allied fleet in 1672-73, and all the naval battles for more than a century. All through the eighteenth century the three squadrons of the French line of battle were distinguished,—the centre by a white flag at the main, the van by a blue and white flag horizontally divided at the fore, and the rear by a blue flag at the mizzen. Occasionally these three flags were worn at the main, subordinate officers wearing their flags at the appropriate mast; there being also a particular instruction which provided, “If the commanders of divisions are not general

¹ Abraham du Quesne et la Marine de son Temps, par A. Jal, tom. i. p. 350.

² Du Quesne, par A. Jal, tom. i. p. 588.

officers, they may carry for distinction a swallow-tailed flag of the color of the squadron, longer and narrower than a flag of command, but shorter and broader than a pennant.”¹

After the battle off Ushant, M. d’Orvilliers reported that the flag of the blue division worn on that occasion caused mistake and confusion, in consequence of two out of the three British admirals wearing blue flags and ensigns. It was therefore modified by the reintroduction of the old white cross, which was worn during all the subsequent events of that war, and especially in the West Indies against Rodney.²

In the navy, both blue and red were originally hoisted, then blue alone. Louis XVI. reserved the white flag for his ships of war, allowing merchant vessels to employ it, coupled with some distinctive badge. In the eighteenth century, merchant vessels wore the white flag, and also a blue flag with a white cross. The galleys flew a red flag.³

The flag of the French admiral, the Duc de Penthièvre, was the red flag of the galleys *semée* of fleur-de-lis, with a blue shield in the centre of its field, surmounted by a ducal crown, and blazoned with three golden fleurs-de-lis,—two and one,—the shield supported by two crossed anchors.⁴

With the revolution, the spirit of change seized on the flag as on every thing else. The National Assembly, Oct. 24, 1790, decreed that the tricolor should be adopted by the navy, thus:—

“The flag on the bowsprit (jack) shall be composed of three equal bands placed vertically; that next the staff shall be red, the middle white, and the third blue.

“The flag at the stern shall carry in its upper quarter the jack above described; this shall be exactly one-fourth of the flag, and shall be surrounded by a narrow band, the half of which shall be red and the other blue; the rest of the flag shall be white. This shall be the same for men-of-war and for merchant ships.

“The flags of command shall carry in their upper quarters the three vertical bands,—red, white, blue; but the rest of the flag shall be, as heretofore [a curious mistake], red, white, and blue; the National Assembly having no desire to change in any way those dispositions which have been made to distinguish the three squadrons of the fleet.”

¹ *Tactique Navale*, par Le Vicomte Moroques, p. 107.

² Rey, *Histoire du Drapeau*, tom. II. p. 578.

³ M. Desjardins, *Recherches sur les Drapeaux Français*. Paris, 1874.

⁴ *La Croix's Middle Ages*.

On the 15th of February, 1794, the convention abolished this flag, as savoring of royal tendencies, and decreed:—

“The flag prescribed by the National Assembly is abolished.

“The national flag shall be formed of the three national colors in equal bands, placed vertically,—the hoist being blue, the centre white, and the fly red.”

Such has been the French tricolor ever since, and the French national flag, except during the reign of Louis XVIII. and Charles X., when the white Bourbon flag and standard were resumed. In the picture by Louthembourg, in the Painted Hall at Greenwich, the French ships in Lord Howe's action of the 1st of June, 1794, are represented as wearing the ensign suppressed on the 15th of February preceding,—either a mistake of the artist, or it may be that the fleet sailed from Brest before new flags could be made for it, and therefore fought under that flag.

In 1814, on the return of the king, and again in 1815, as we have said, the tricolor was replaced by the white flag, which continued until the abdication of Charles X., in 1830, when the tricolor was restored. In 1848, March 5, the Provincial Government, on the flight of Louis Philippe, ordered the colors to be blue, red, and white,—the blue at the staff and white at the fly; but two days later, the opposition to it was so strong that the order was cancelled.¹ There is no flag on the ocean so easily distinguished or more beautiful than the French tricolor.

The golden eagle of Napoleon, on an azure field, surrounded by a swarm of golden bees, succeeded the white standard and golden fleur-de-lis, which for so many centuries were identified with the heraldry and standards of France.² The first and second republics had no standard. One of the principal standards borne by the insurgents, June 20, 1792, was a pair of black breeches, with the inscription, “*Tremblez, tyrans! voici les sans-culottes.*” The standard and arms of the second empire were the same as those of the first.

The *flag of Elba*, presented by Napoleon to the National Guard of Elba, 1814, and used by him on his return to France the following year, is on exhibition in the collection of Madame Tussaud & Sons, London. It is composed of tricolored silk, and the whole of the ornaments are elaborately embroidered in silver. The reverse side has exactly the same ornaments, with the inscription, ‘Champs de

¹ The notes respecting the French naval flags have been compiled principally from Laughton's *Heraldry of the Sea*, 1879.

² Boutell's *Heraldry, Historical and Popular*.

Mai,' where it was presented by the Emperor to his guards, before they marched for Waterloo, when it was taken by the Prussians, and sold by them to an English gentleman, who brought it to England.¹

Pietro Alessandro Garda, the man who, when Napoleon returned from Elba, hoisted the tricolored flag on the Tuileries while the palace was still occupied by the Royal Guards, died at Turin, Jan. 11, 1880. He was, after the return from Elba, attached to Napoleon's staff, and fought at Waterloo. Since then he has been director of an English mining company in Peru, a volunteer with his friend Garibaldi, and a gentleman of leisure, living quietly in his own chateau.

The standard of the first regiment of the old Imperial Guard, which Napoleon embraced at Fontainebleau in 1814, on taking leave of the army, was preserved by General Petit, and presented to King Louis Philippe. It is deposited at the Invalides with the sword of Austerlitz, presented by General Bertrand. The colors are much faded by time and service, and are inscribed, "*Garde impériale l'Empereur Napoleon au premier régiment de Grenadiers à pied, vialle Garde;*" on the reverse side is, "*Marengo, Austerlitz, Jena, Eylau, Friedland, Wagram, Moskwa, Vienne, Berlin, Madrid, Moscow.*"

The French tricolor is supposed to be a union of the blue banner of St. Martin, the red banner of St. Denis, and the 'cornette blanche,' there being evidence that those colors have been regarded as the national emblem for centuries. Yet the choice of the tricolor as the emblem of liberty at the time of the Revolution was purely accidental. Blue and red, the ancient colors of the city of Paris, were at first assumed, and the citizens mounted guard in a blue and red cockade; but the National Guard, which was not unfriendly to the throne, admitted the white of the Bourbon standard, and thus reproduced the tricolor as the standard of the French nation.

A correspondent² of London 'Notes and Queries,' which has several communications on the origin of the French tricolor, says: "In 1789, after the defection of the French guards, it was determined to raise a city guard of forty thousand men, each district to contribute a battalion of eight hundred men. The name of the guard was the 'Parisian Militia;' their colors the blue and red of the city, mixed with the white of their friends. This Parisian militia became the

¹ Madame Tussaud's Catalogue.

² Andrew Steinmetz, vol. vi., 2d series, p. 164.

National Guard, and their colors the tricolor, from the union or fraternization." Another correspondent says: "In or about 1356, during the captivity of John of France in the Tower of London, and the regency of the Dauphin Charles, the states-general of Paris effected great changes in the mode of government. Paris became, in fact, republic, and the municipality governed the estates, and, in truth, all France. At this time it was decided that the city of Paris should have colors of its own, and under the authority of Etienne Marcel a flag was selected, half blue and half red, with an agrafe of silver, and the motto, '*A bonne fin.*' Shortly after, when Etienne Marcel was murdered with sixty of his followers, the colors of the city were suppressed, and remained in obscurity until 1789. Upon the accession of Charles V., he erected the Bastille St. Antoine on the very spot where Etienne Marcel had been slain, as a monument of defiance on the part of the crown against the capital, which remained for centuries a state prison, and symbol of despotism. By a singular coincidence, the Bastille was destroyed on the anniversary of the day upon which the ancient colors of Paris—the colors of Etienne Marcel—became victorious over royalty. On that day, July 14, 1789, Lafayette restored the colors of the city to the people, adding thereto the royal emblem, white, and thus composed that tricolor which, according to Lafayette's prophetic words, '*Devait faire le tour du monde.*'

"At first, the French revolutionists adopted a green cockade, which was quickly discarded, when it was remembered that it was the livery of the Counts d'Artois, the most detested of the royal family. On the night of the 11th of July, after the dismissal of Necker, at the first meeting of the populace in the Palais Royal, they were harangued by Camille Desmoulins, who told them 'there was no resource but to fly to arms, and take a cockade by which to recognize each other.' He was rapturously applauded, and, snatching a popular leaf from the garden of the Palais Royal, he held it up before the excited crowd, and exclaimed, 'What colors will you have? Cry out! choose! Will you have green, the color of hope? or the blue of Cincinnatus, the color of liberty, of America, and of democracy?' The people cried, 'The green, the color of hope!'¹

Still another correspondent of 'Notes and Queries' says, "The tradition in France concerning the adoption of the tricolor is that it was originally the field of the arms of the Orleans family, which was made up in fact of the red of the ancient oriflamme, which was *gules*, semée of lys, *or*; of the arms of Valois, *azure*. semée in like manner;

¹H. F. H.

and of Bourbon, *argent*, semée of the same. As the Orleans claimed descent from all three branches, they took for the field of their escutcheon their three tinctures, and blazoned them, 'tierce in pale *azure*, *argent*, and *gules*, semée of fleur-de-lis *or*.' The tradition is, when Philip of Orleans threw himself into the arms of the republicans, and called himself *L'Egalité*, he caused the fleur-de-lis to be erased from the escutcheons which were stuck up in the Palais Royal. The field being left, it was identified with his name, and by degrees became the republican flag."¹

The tricolor did not at once replace other emblematic signs. Only a few of the ninety battalions of the Parisian militia which took part in the fête of the Confederation combined the three colors, and not one of them was designed according to the present fashion. The famous flag of the Twelfth Brigade, which General Bonaparte led across the bridge of Arcole, was not a tricolor, and the flag of the Fifth Half Brigade, carried by Augereau, had republican ornaments on a white ground.

The *imperial standard* of Napoleon I. was the tricolor, semée of golden bees, and charged with the eagle of the empire upon the central division of the white field.

In the guard-chamber of Windsor Castle, England, suspended over the marble busts of the Dukes of Marlborough and Wellington, hang two little French flags of peculiar significance. The one a white flag of the Bourbons, spotted with fleur-de-lis; the other, the tricolor. These flags are presented annually, by the Dukes of Marlborough and Wellington, to the reigning sovereign of Great Britain on the anniversaries of the battles of Blenheim and Waterloo, and are the tenure of service by which the noble dukes hold the estates of Blenheim and Stratfieldsaye, settled on them by Parliament. The banner rendered by the Duke of Marlborough was formerly suspended in Queen Anne's closet at Windsor, where she first received intelligence of the victory of Blenheim.²

When King William IV. was on his death-bed, and awoke on June 18, he remembered it was the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, and expressed a pathetic wish to live over that day, even if he were never to see another sunset. Calling for the flag which the Duke of Wellington always sent him on that anniversary, he laid his hand upon the eagle which adorned it, and said he felt revived by the touch.

¹ A. A.

² Guide to Windsor.

The flags and standards taken in battle, which were removed from the Hotel des Invalides on the approach of the Prussian army in 1870, and placed in safety at Brest, were in 1871 restored to their old places about the tomb of Napoleon I., or in the chapel. Their number is but small, for in 1814 the governor of Les Invalides ordered the whole collection to be burnt, to save it from the enemy. At that time, the chapel alone contained sixteen hundred of these trophies of the triumphs of Napoleon I.¹

On the night of the 30th of March, 1814, all the banners which hung under the dome of the Invalides were taken down, and formed into a pile in the court-yard; the banners with their lances, surmounted by Russian, Prussian, and Austrian eagles. Upon them were thrown other trophies, such as the sword and regal insignia of Frederick the Great. The ashes of this pile were swept up and thrown into the Seine. The next day, after the entry of the allies, a Russian officer came to seek the banners, and General Darmaud showed him where they had been, and told him they had been burnt the night previous.² It has been said that the ashes of these trophies were thrown into a cask of wine, and that the veterans drank the mixture to the health of the Emperor; and that the sword of Frederick the Great was concealed in the cupola of the Invalides, and is now in the possession of a private gentleman.

In 1829, an American ship entering the port of Havre with a tricolored flag at her masthead was ordered to take it down. The three colors were not to be displayed in a French port, even as a signal flag.³

In 1830, the United States government was officially notified "that the tricolored flag has been ordered to be hoisted on all French ships of war as well as commerce;" and in a circular letter dated "Navy Department, Oct. 22, 1830," United States navy officers were ordered "to recognize the same as the flag of the French nation, and respect it accordingly." From that time to the present (1880)—through the reign of Louis Philippe, King of the French, the second republic, the second empire, and now the third republic—the tricolor has continued to be the national ensign of France.

The eagles introduced into the French armies as regimental standards by Napoleon the Great, and which were revived by Napoleon III., were wrought from pure gold, and had an intrinsic value of about two thousand dollars. The ribbon attached to them was of silk, five

¹ London Times and New York Tribune, July, 1871.

² Independence Belge, 1872.

³ Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post, August, 1829.

inches broad, three feet long, and richly embroidered. During the war of 1870, it was a prize much coveted by the soldiers of King William's army, who, it is claimed, captured nearly two hundred of them in the successive disastrous defeats of the French.



A French Eagle.

After that war, the regiments contented themselves with provisional flags. On the 2d of June, 1871, the war minister ordered the standards then in use to be handed over to the artillery, which was to destroy the silk of the old flags, and send the eagles and gold fringe to the domain office. In exchange, small flags without inscriptions were served out provisionally. In 1876, the army owned only a few Napoleonic eagles, with the 'N' cut out, and some common woollen flags.

In that year, by a decree of President McMahon, all of the infantry and cavalry regiments received white, blue, and red silk standards, in the centre of which, surrounded by a cornette of laurel and oak leaves, was embroidered the once celebrated 'R. F.' (Republique Française). The streamers bore the name of the regiment, division, and army corps, and number, also the device, "*Honneur et patrie*."



Head of a French Standard, 1878.

In June, 1878, the minister of war ordered for the colors of the infantry, and standards of the cavalry and artillery of the French army, a blue staff, surmounted by a small rectangular block, like the pedestal for the Roman eagle, bearing on one face the number and designation of the regiment, and on the other the letters 'R. F.' In place of the imperial eagle a gilt laurel wreath surmounts this, traversed by a golden dart. The flag is of silk, with a fringe of gold. The colors were presented in September, 1878, at a great national festival, to the troops composing the garrison of Paris, and to delegates from the territorial forces.

THE ROYAL ARMS OF ENGLAND

1066 to 1880.

A.D. 1066 to 1154



A.D. 1154 to 1248



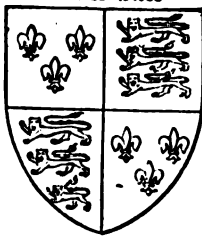
A.D. 1248 to 1405



RICHARD II.



A.D. 1405 to 1463



STUARTS



WILLIAM III.



WILLIAM III & MARY



A.D. 1707 to 1714



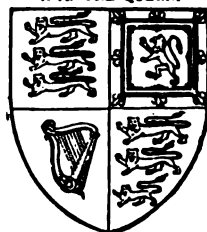
A.D. 1714 to 1801



A.D. 1801 to 1837



H. M. THE QUEEN.



BRITISH SYMBOLS, STANDARDS, AND FLAGS.

THE STANDARDS AND BANNERS OF ANCIENT BRITAIN, ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, AND GREAT BRITAIN, FROM THE ROMAN CONQUEST, AND UNDER THE SAXONS, DANES, AND NORMANS, TO THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

— Julius Cæsar, having, B.C. 55, conquered the southeast of Britain, sent to the Roman senate the standards of seven British kings. From Latin records, traditions, and ancient pictures it is ascertained that the allied petty kings fought under ensigns exhibiting the figures of animals abounding in their provinces. The ram, ewe, hind, and grouse, which abounded in the southeast of the island, were the typical signs on the standards of that region. The stag, goat, cormorant, and the golden eagle of the mountains of Cambria, represented the southwest. The wolf, beaver, and black eagle were the characteristics of the northeastern provinces. The wild boar, bear, vulture, and raven were the symbolic tokens of the woody countries of the northwest. These badges were represented on targets and quivers, made of osier twigs covered with white leather, and were hoisted as ensigns. Such were the primitive standards of the ancient Britons.

Cacibelan, King of Colchester, B.C. 54, being vanquished by Cæsar, became tributary to Rome, and presented Cæsar with a brigantine, or royal coat of arms, ornamented with pearls of the country, which was sent to Rome and consecrated to Venus. That war-dress, imitated from the Oriental coat of mail, with scales, exhibited shells and fishes, a brigantine, a boat, and a beaver, emblems of the Brigantes, who also depicted a bear on their targets. The British pennons, banners, and flags of this time were of woollen cloth or white leather. Emblems were also engraven on iron arms and wooden weapons, as clubs and staves. These last have been the type of a staff or mace bearing the royal arms, which is still carried by British peace-officers.



Arms of London, A.D. 44.

A Roman prefect governed London, A.D. 44, assisted by a prætor or judge. These magistrates had over their tribunal or judgment-seat a Phrygian cap, bearing the monogram, S. P. Q. R.; the staff which supported the cap was blue, the color of the Roman people and army, and purple, representing the Roman senate and nobility; these colors were disposed like two twisted ribbons. By putting on the 'liberty cap,' the

perfect was empowered to free any slave. The 'sword of mercy' and club of Hercules also figured in the armorial bearings of the city under the Roman prefects.

The Emperor Trajan, waging war in Gurgistan, A.D. 98 to 117, captured a standard exhibiting a dragon struck down by a horseman. He adopted it as his ensign, and had it hoisted in all the provinces of his empire. The Georgian chevalier trampling on the dragon was hence borne on the ensign and on the breastplates of the Roman officers, and waved on citadels and towns all over Britain. The Emperor Valentinian III., A.D. 426-440, having recalled his legions from the south of Britain to resist an invasion of barbarians, the Saxons raided upon the southern coasts, and the forlorn Britains armed in self-defence, and hoisted the standard of Trajan, which they consecrated to Albion, the first patronal god of the isle. Thence Albion was depicted as a chevalier on a white horse, trampling on the dragon; and many cities adopted that badge as an emblem for their fortified gates.

The Hibernian or Irish harp was adopted by Constance Chlorus on his return from the conquest of Hibernia, A.D. 301.

The evacuation of the Romans was followed by the invasion of the Anglo-Saxons and Jutlanders, A.D. 449, under Hengist, whose brother Horsa was killed on the field of battle. Horsa had adopted for his ensign the war-horse of Odin, the northern god of war; and Hengist set up the ambling horse of Odin as his standard over a newly conquered city, which received the name of Canterbury, and became the capital of the kingdom of Kent, of which Hengist was the first king. The horse rampant, an attitude known as the 'canter,' or 'Canterbury gallop,' has been ever since the ensign of the county of Kent.

The city of Glastonbury, A.D. 408-510, bore the standard of the Roman dragon, of a red color, allusive to Tor, the god of fire.¹

In the Anglo-Saxon poem of 'Boewulf,' supposed to have been written in the tenth century, we read, "Then to Beowulf he gave golden banner." St. Oswald, who fell fighting in defence of Christianity against Penda, Lincolnshire, was buried at Bardney Abbey, A.D. 642, gorgeously enshrined, with a banner of gold and purple, paly or, bendy, suspended over his remains. The Picts regarded with reverence the banner called *Brechannoch*, from its association with St. Columb, their spiritual father. The keeper of this sacred relic had lands assigned him for its custody.

¹ Brunet's Regal Armorie.

Ossian mentions the standard of the kings and chiefs of clans, and says that the king's was blue, studded with gold, and having on it a white horse. The Anglo-Saxon ensign was very grand: it had on it a white horse, as the Danish was distinguished by a raven. William the Conqueror sent Harold's standard, captured at the battle of Hastings, which bore the device of a dragon, to the Pope. His own standard was sumptuously embroidered with gold and precious stones, in the form of a man fighting. When he sailed for England, the white banner, consecrated by Pope Alexander II. expressly for the occasion, was hoisted at the masthead of the ship on which he was embarked. The device assigned Arthur; the mythic king of Britain in the sixth century, is *azure*,—three crowns proper,—and over this the motto, '*Trois en un.*' King Arthur's shield forms the centre of the star of the Bath.

Arthgal, the first Earl of Warwick, is said to have been one of the knights of the Round Table. 'Arth,' or 'Narth,' signifies a bear, and one of his descendants is said to have slain a giant who encountered him, with a tree torn up by the roots; hence the cognizance of the 'bear and ragged staff,' which is at least as old as the fifteenth century. The House of Orleans and Dukes of Burgundy bore the same device.

A particular account of the standards of the successive rulers of Britain may be found in Sir Winston Churchill's curious work, '*Divi Britannici*,' also in Brunet's '*Regal Armorie of Great Britain.*'

The origin of the standard of the three saxes or swords of Essex, A.D. 530, is thus explained: The Roman Empire was invaded



The Three Saxes or Swords
of Essex.

in the second century by a tribe of Goths wearing a crooked sabre called 'saex,' from which the tribe derived the name of 'Saxons.' These Saxons conquered that part of Germany washed by the Elbe, which they named 'Saxony.' Then, uniting with the Jutes and Angles, they became powerful pirates or sea-kings, and conquered three cantons

in Britain, which they erected into kingdoms, named 'South-Sax,' 'East-Sax,' and 'West-Sax,'—that is to say, the Saxons of the south, east, and west,—whose contractions are Sussex, Essex, and Wessex. The chiefs or kings of these cantons having formed an alliance, hoisted a standard bearing three saxes or swords as an emblem of their triple union and common origin. The three swords of the Saxon standard

were damascened with Gothic hieroglyphics, and their type has been preserved in the armorial bearings of Essex.

Edilfrid, A.D. 592-616, a Saxon king of Bernicia, in the north of Northumberland, had a standard called the 'tufa,' which exhibited a bear, a Roman emblem of the polestar and the ancient ensign of Warwick, the capital of Bernicia. The bear was also the device on the streamer of Bangor, in Wales.¹

The Anglo-Saxons established eight kingdoms in Britain, but Edwin, the successor of Edilfrid, united the kingdoms of Bernicia and Decia, by the name of the kingdom of Northumberland, and assumed the title of Bretwalda, or ruler of Britain, as presiding at the Witenagemote, or parliament of the heptarchy. The standard of the Bretwalda was a bear, which was stamped on a coin that had currency all over Britain.¹ He was the first Christian king of Northumberland, and, falling in battle, A.D. Oct. 12, 633, was canonized, and became St. Edwin. Not only in war was his standards (*rexilla*) borne before him, but in peace he was preceded by his 'signifier,' and also when he walked the streets had a standard borne before him which the Romans called 'tufa,' and the Angles, 'turef,' being a tuft of feathers affixed to a spear.²

A great battle was fought, A.D. 742, at Burford, in Oxfordshire, when the golden dragon, the standard of Wessex, was victorious over Ethelbald, the King of Mercia.

Egbert (A.D. 827-837), King of Wessex, who dissolved the heptarchy and temporarily united the seven kingdoms in one, assumed the title of 'King of the Anglo-Saxons,' and spread the red dragon of Wessex as the national standard throughout his whole dominion. This reputed standard of King Arthur, as dear to the Anglo-Saxons as to the Britons, became the standard of Winchester, the capital of Egbert's kingdom.

Among the Saxon kings of England there were two who were reputed saints: Edmund the Martyr, A.D. 975, and Edward the Confessor, A.D. 1042; and these, with St. George, are the three patron saints of England. The banners of the saints accompanied the English army, and waved over the fields where the Edwards and Henrys fought.

St. Edmund's banner is considered to have been *azure*, three crowns *or*, two and one, the same as the badge assigned Arthur; but, from the description by Lydgate, two banners were appropriated to him, of which drawings are given in that writer's work,—one of them that mentioned above.

¹ Brunet's Regal Armorie.

² Stevenson's Notes.

“Over he [the king], seyde *Lady Hevene Queene*,
Myn own baner, with here shall be.”

“This other standard, feeld stable off colour yude,
In which off Gold been notable crownys thre,
The first tokne in cronycle men may fynde
Graunted to hym for Royal dignyte,
And the second for virgynyte;
For martirdam, the thrydde in his suffryng
To these annexyd feyth, hope, and charyte,
In tokne he was martyr mayde and kyng.
These thre crownys Kyng Edmund bar certeyn,
Whan he was sent be grace off Goddis hond
At Geynesburnh for to slen Kyng Sweyn.”

“By which myracle men may understond
Delyvered was from trybut all thys lond
Mawgre Danys in full notable wyse;
For the hooly martyr dissolvdy hath that bond,
Set this Region ageyn in his franchise.”

“These thre crownys history aly t' aplye. *Applicacio*
By pronostyk nobally sovereyne
To sixte Herry in fygur signefye
How he is born to worthy crownys tweyne,
Off France and England, lynealy t' atteyne
In this lyff heer, afterward in hevене
The thrydde crowne to receyve in certeyne
For his merits above the sterry swene.”

The other represented Eve in the Garden of Eden, and the serpent tempting her.

“The feeld powdered with many hevently sterre
And halff cressantis off gold ful bright and cleer;
And when that evere he journeyde nyh or ferre,
Ny in the feeld, with hym was this baner.”

“This hooly standard hath power and vertu
To stanche fyres and stoppe flawmys rede
By myracle, and who that kan take heede
God grantyd it hym for a prerogatyff.”

“This vertuous baner shal kepen and conserve
This lond from enmyes dante ther cruel pryde
Off syxte Herry, the noblesse to preserve
It shall be borne in werrys by his ayde.”¹

¹ Retrospective Review, 2d series, vol. 1.

The banners of St. Edmund or St. Edward do not occur in any of the illuminations of the chronicles or other manuscripts in the British Museum; and the only proof of their being used so late as the reign of Henry V., other than the allusion to the banner of St. Edmund, by Lydgate, who wrote in the reigns of Henry V. and VI., are the statements of contemporary chroniclers. Le Fèvre, Seigneur de St. Henry, in his account of the battle of Agincourt, informs us that Henry had five banners; viz., the banner of the Trinity, the banner of St. George, the banner of St. Edward, and the banner of his own arms. This list enumerates but four, the fifth was probably one of the banners of St. Edmund. The banner of the Trinity, we infer from a painting of the arms of the Trinity in Canterbury Cathedral, was "*Gules an orle and pale, argent*, inscribed with the Trinity in Unity." Lydgate says the fifth banner alluded to by St. Remy was that of the Virgin Mary. After enumerating the banners of St. George, the Trinity, and St. Edward, he adds: "The device on the banner of St. Edward the Confessor was, without doubt, the cross and martlets, as they are carved in stone in Westminster Abbey, where he is buried, and which Richard II. impaled with his own, as may be seen by the banner of that king on the monumental brass of Sir Simon de Felkrig, his standard-bearer, at Felkrig, in Norfolk."¹ Arms were invented for Edward the Confessor in the time of Edward I. The Anglo-Norman heralds were probably guided in their choice by a coin of that monarch, upon the reverse of which appears a plain cross with four birds, one in each angle. The arms as then blazoned are *azure*, a cross flory, between five martlets *or*, and formed the standard of St. Edward as usually displayed by the English monarchs down to the fifteenth century.²

The Danes, A.D. 1000, under the command of Sweyn, conquered England, and unfurled their standard of the raven. A black raven was exhibited on the royal shield and banner on a silver ground.

Canute, King of England and Denmark, having conquered Norway, hoisted the Norwegian lion,—a golden lion rampant, with a battle-axe, represented on an azure shield, strewn with red hearts, and bearing the three crowns of England, Denmark, and Norway.

Edward the Confessor, on his accession, A.D. 1040, changed the royal seal bearing a black raven to a white falcon. The king kept a tame falcon, which was represented on his sceptre, and has since been converted into a dove.

¹ Boutell's Heraldry.

² Retrospective Review, 2d series, vol. 1.

The ensign of Rolla, the first Duke of Normandy, bore a leopard, the emblem of the Northmen. When Maine was annexed to Normandy, a second leopard was added to the Norman standard, and unfurled at Mans, the capital of Maine. William the Conqueror, in 1066, introduced the two leopards as the royal standard of Britain; his personal standard represented a man fighting. The dragon, the standard of the West Saxons, was Harold's standard at Hastings; a winged dragon on a pole is constantly represented near his person on the Bayeux tapestry. And Richard I. (Cœur de Lion), in 1190, seeing that no Western nation had adopted the legend and name of St. George and the dragon, selected it as the type of his intended exploits, and on his return from the crusade, 1223, instituted the festival of St. George. Henry III., 1264, at the battle of Lewes, and Edward I., in Wales, fought under the dragon. It was borne in the battle between Canute and Edmund Ironsides, 1016. Edward III., also, at the battle of Cressy, 1346, had a standard "with a dragon of red silk, adorned and beaten with very fair lilies of gold." And Henry VII.'s standard at Bosworth, 1485, was a red dragon upon a green and white silk.

The banners of the sovereigns of England, from the Conquest up to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, bore their family devices, when the last brilliant relics of the feudal system, the joust, the tournament, and all their paraphernalia, fell into disuse.

The standard of William Rufus, 1087, bore a young eagle gazing at the sun, with the motto, "*Perfero*,"—"I endure it."

Pope Urban II., in 1096, proclaimed the first crusade, and gave as a war-cry, "*Dieu le veut*,"—"God wills it." In that holy war, the noble crusaders, wearing cuirasses and iron masks, which concealed their features, adopted various ensigns for recognizance on the field of battle. These standards, bannerolls, and streamers exhibited suggestive figures and rebuses for rallying the troops; and these mottoes or war-cries from that time became surnames, and, with the devices, were exhibited on the crests of helmets and on various parts of the armor. Until this century, the Oriental armorial bearings adopted by the nations of Western Europe were only worn by kings, princes, dukes, and marquises, or displayed upon the fortified gates of cities. On the return of the first crusaders they were introduced and propagated among the nobility, clergy, and gentry, who called them family arms. Thus originated the modern system of heraldry.

Stephen of Blois, grandson of William the Conqueror by his daughter Adel, 1135-1154, adopted for his banner the sagittary, an emblem of hunting, and the ensign of the city of Blois, whence he derived his title of Count of Blois.

Henry II., 1154-1189, surnamed 'The Plantagenet,' succeeded Stephen, and adopted the green broom, or *Plante Genet* ("*Il portoit ung G-enett entre deux Plantes de Geneste*"), for his device. The sur-



Eleanor of Guyenne.

name came from his father, Geoffrey, Count of Anjou, who, having committed a crime, punished himself by flagellation with birches of green broom, and wore a branch of it on his helmet in sign of his humility and penance. Henry II. married Eleanor of Guyenne, who brought him the duchy of that name. The arms of Bordeaux, its capital, having a bolden lion, that charge was marshalled with the two leopards on the escutcheon of England. From the conquest of Ireland by Henry II., 1172, up to Henry VIII., the kings of England styled themselves 'viceroys of Ireland.'

Richard I., 1189-1199, bore several devices on his shields and banners; viz., a star, probably of Bethlehem, issuing from the horns of a crescent, in token of his victories over the Turks; a mailed hand holding a shivered lance, with the motto, "*Labor vivis convenit*;" a sun *or*, and two anchors,—motto, "*Christo duce*."¹ Engaging in the third crusade, he carried a white Latin cross on his banner. The Christian nations of Europe, following that crusader, carried either Grecian, Armenian, or Latin crosses on their banners; viz., France, a red cross; Flanders, a green cross; Germany, a black cross; Italy, a yellow cross. On assuming the title of 'King of Jerusalem,' Richard hoisted the banner of the lion of that holy city,—the dormant lion of Judah, the badge of David and Solomon, kings of Jerusalem from the tribe of Judah. Thenceforth Richard obtained the surname of 'Cœur de Lion,' either for his lion, or his great achievements against the infidels. On the second seal of this king is the first representation of the three lions or leopards, which from that time have continued on the royal arms and banners of England.

In 1838, the tomb of Richard was discovered in Rouen cathedral. The recumbent effigy of the king has a dormant lion at his feet. The armorists of later centuries, ignorant of the Norman leopards, represented Richard with three lions passant.

John and Henry III., 1199-1272, bore the star and crescent, and John was the first to add *Dominus Hibernia* to the royal titles. When

¹ Boutell's Heraldry, and Historical Badges and Devices.

Isabella, the sister of Henry III., married Frederic II., Emperor of Germany, the Emperor sent Henry a live leopard in token of the British armorial bearings, which were still the two leopards of William the Conqueror. Henry III. then altered the standard of his father John by adding a third leopard, as a device of his imperial



Margaret, Daughter of Henry III., in her Wedding Garments, 1252.

alliance. When, later, Henry was beaten at Guyenne and fled to England, the French made rebuses, in which the weak monarch was represented as a retreating leopard. When Henry the Third's daughter Margaret was married to Alexander, of Scotland, in 1252, her robe was embroidered with three leopards on the front and three on the back.¹

A mandate of Henry III. to Edward Fitzode, in 1244, directed him to cause a dragon to be made in the fashion of a standard, of red silk, sparkling all over with gold, the tongue of which should be made to resemble flaming fire, and appear to be continually moving, and the eyes of sapphires or other suitable stones, and to place it in the church of St. Peter, at Westminster, against the king's coming there; and the king, being informed of the cost, it should be defrayed.² This standard is mentioned in Dart's 'History of Westminster Abbey.'

That this standard was sometimes sent forth to battle may be presumed, as it is stated that at the battle of Lewes, 1264, a dragon standard was borne before King Henry III.; and at a much earlier battle, between Edmund Ironside and Canute, it is stated, "*Requis locus erat inter Draconem et standarum.*"³

Edward I., 1272-1307, was the first English monarch who assumed a rose for his device, a golden rose, stalked proper or *vert*. When Eleanor, the wife of Edward I., followed him to the last crusade, Edward hoisted the three leopards of his father, Henry III., whilst

¹ Brunet, Boutell, Harlean MS., &c. I have a photograph of Isabella II., of Spain, in which her dress is covered with castles and lions.

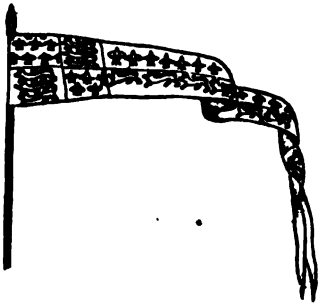
² *Excerpta Historica*; or, Illustrations of English History. London, 1833.

³ *Retrospective Review*.

Eleanor unfurled the banner of the lion in repose,—an emblem of Leon, in Spain, which was her birthplace.

The chronicler of Caerlaverock describes the royal banner of Edward I. after this characteristic manner: "On his banner were three leopards, courant, of fine gold, set on red; fierce were they, haughty and cruel, thus placed to signify that, like them, the king is dreadful to his enemies. For his bite is slight to none that inflame his anger; and yet, towards such as seek his friendship or submit to his power, his kindness is soon rekindled."¹

The royal banners of England, from the time of Edward, have borne the same blazonry as the royal shield. Edward III. placed on his



Standard of Edward III., 1327.

standards his quartered shield at their head, and powdered them with fleur-de-lis and lions. Drawings of many of these banners and standards are preserved in Herald's College. The English sovereigns, in addition to the banner of their royal arms, used banners and standards charged with their badges. The royal banner of arms charged their insignia upon the entire field without accessories, until the time of the Stuarts, when the arms were sometimes associated with other devices, or the flag bore the entire royal achievement charged upon the centre of its field. Examples of royal standards thus emblazoned appear in the pictures at Hampton Court, representing the embarkation of Charles II., in 1660, and of William III., in 1688. Of late years the royal standard is a square flag, blazoned with the arms of the United Kingdom over the whole field.

Edward III., 1327-1377, bore silver clouds proper, with descending rays; also a blue boar, with his tusks and his 'clies' and his members of gold. He was the first monarch that used the English vernacular dialect in a motto. His standard, as given by Sir Charles Barker, is the lion of England in a field semée of rising suns and crowns; motto, "*Dieu et mon droit.*"

He first quartered the fleur-de-lis of France, 1337, with the three leopards of England, and for the first time the lion passant gardant bearing a crown as a crest, as it is continued on the royal standard and arms. His standard erected at Cressy was of red silk embroidered with lilies of gold. When Edward III. did homage to Philip VI.,

¹ Siege of Caerlaverock.

of France, at Amiens, 1329, for the dukedom of Guyenne, he wore a robe of crimson velvet, with three leopards embroidered in gold and silver. The King of France wore a blue robe. When Edward assumed the title of 'King of France,' he wore a robe and mantle of blue, and created a pursuivant or herald, called '*manteau bleu*,' or blue mantle.

It is a matter of familiar history that Edward III., on laying claim to the French crown, quartered the French lilies with the English lions; and that, from some affectation which we may wonder at but cannot interpret, he placed the lilies in the first, or honorable, quarter. That the lions were heraldically put in the secondary place is certain. Macaulay has elegantly interpreted the position thus:—

“ Look how the lion of the sea lifts up his ancient crown,
And underneath his deadly paw treads the gay lilies down.
So stalked he when he turned to flight, on that famed Picard field,
Bohemia's plume, Genoa's bow, and Cæsar's eagle shield;
So glared he when, at Agincourt, in wrath he turned to bay,
And crushed and torn beneath his claws the princely hunters lay.”

Edward the Black Prince bore for his device “a sunne arysing out of the cloudes, betokening that, although his noble courage and princely valour had hitherto been hid and obscured from the world, now he was arysing to glory and honor in France.”

The cherished and popular belief is that the crest and motto of the Prince of Wales was won by the Black Prince at Cressy.

“ There lay the trophy of our chivalry
Plumed of his ostrich feathers, which the Prince
Took as the ensign of his victory,
Which he did after weare, and ever since
The Prince of Wales doth that achievement beare,
Which Edward first did win by conquest there.”¹

“ From the Bohemian crown the plume he wears,
Which after for his credit he did preserve
To his father's use, with this fit word, '*I serve*.' ”²

But this tradition is not supported by history, for the crest of the blind King of Bohemia was not a plume of ostrich feathers, but the wings of a vulture expanded. On the other hand, an ostrich feather *argent*, its pen *gules*, was one of the badges of Edward III., and was, with slight difference, adopted by the Black Prince, and by all his sons and their descendants. The Black Prince used sometimes three feathers, sometimes one *argent*. His brother, John of Gaunt,

¹ Alleyn.

² Ben Jonson.

three or one ermine, the stems *or*, on a sable ground. A single feather was worn by his brother, Thomas of Gloucester, and by their



Crest of the Black Prince.

nephews, Edward, Duke of York, and Richard, Duke of Cambridge. It is more than likely that Edward I. adopted this crest at the battle of Poitiers, joining to the family badge the old English word, *Ic den* (Theyn), *I serve*, in accord with the words of the Apostle, "the heir, while he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant."

The feathers are placed separately upon the tomb of the Black Prince, in Canterbury Cathedral. This feather badge was also used by Richard II. and by Henry IV. before and after he came to the throne; by his brother Humphrey, the good Duke of Gloucester, and all the members of the Beaufort branch. Henry VI. bore two feathers in saltire. Three or one was adopted as a cognizance by his son, Prince Edward, and was worn by Warwick at the battle of Barnet.¹

In 1344, during the reign of Edward III., the order of the Garter was instituted, but was not fully organized, nor were its knight companions chosen, until 1350. The companions were twenty-five, the sovereign making the twenty-sixth, with authority to nominate the others. At first, the queen and the wives of the knights shared the honors of the fraternity, and were called '*Dame de la Fraternité de St. George*,' wearing robes and hoods adorned with the garter. Charles I. attempted to revive this usage, but was unsuccessful. The original number of knights remained unchanged until 1786. In that year a statute was passed fixing the number at twenty-six, exclusive of the princes of the royal family or illustrious foreigners on whom the order might be conferred. The Prince of Wales, having been a knight of the original institution, is reckoned among the twenty-six companions. From time to time special statutes have admitted foreign sovereigns. Extra knights have also been admitted by statute. The meetings are held on St. George's day (April 23),² in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, where installations take place, and the banners of the knights are suspended.

The motto adopted for this order, "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*," Edward III. placed upon a scroll at the top of his standard, and it

¹ Boutell's Heraldry; Hist. Badges and Devices; Ellis's Heraldry; The Retrospective Review; Brunet's Regal Armorie.

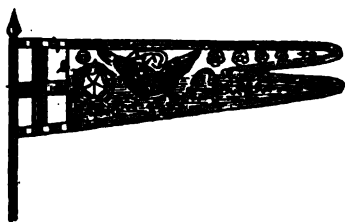
² The 23d of April is otherwise noted as the anniversaries of the birth of Shakspeare and of his death.

has since remained upon the scroll of the British shield, as well as on the garter of the sovereign and of the knights of the order.

Richard II., son of Edward the Black Prince, 1377-1399, adopted a white hind, couchant on a mount, under a tree proper, the banner of his mother, Joan, surnamed the Fair Maid of Kent, which appertained to her arms previous to her marriage.

After the suppression of the insurrection led by Wat Tyler, King Richard changed the hind into a white hart, gorged with a royal crown around his neck, ornamented with the fleur-de-lis of France, and a loose golden chain. On the marriage of Richard with Anne of Luxemburg, all the royal plate of England was engraved with this device. In 1396, on his second marriage, with Isabella of France, he adopted a lion and a hart as supporters of the royal shield, and he is the first monarch whose supporters are authenticated,—a golden lion gardant stood on the right hand, a silver hart *affronté*, on the left of the shield, with horns and hoofs *or*, bearing a crown around its neck, and a golden chain hanging down. The three leopards were also then changed into three lions *leopardé*, or spotted. Richard's standard was a hart with two suns. He also used as supporters to his own arms two angels blowing trumpets.

Henry IV., of Bolingbroke and Lancaster, 1399-1413, introduced the red rose of Edmund of Lancaster, whose daughter was his mother,



Standard of Henry IV. of Bolingbroke and Lancaster.

and which became ever after the badge of the Lancastrians, as opposed to the white rose of York. The red rose of Lancaster was blessed by the Primate of England when he anointed Henry IV. with the holy oil from the sacred ampulla. He also had for cognizances the antelope and the silver swans of the De Bohuns. The stand-

ard of Henry IV. of England had a swan and a large rose, the field semée of foxtails, stocks of trees, and red roses, per fesse *argent* and *azure*, the livery colors of the Lancastrians having at the head the red cross of St. George on a white field.

Henry V., 1413-1422, had for devices an antelope *or*, armed, crowned, spotted, and horned with gold, a red rose, and a silver swan. His supporters were a lion and an antelope,—an antelope *argent* being substituted for the white hart, as a companion to the lion of Aquetain. His standard, exhibiting the antelope gorged with a crown and a golden chain pendant, was carried at the battle of Agincourt, in 1415.

When Henry V. entered the lists against Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, his caparisons were embroidered with the antelope and swan; Henry's antelope appeared also at his interview with King Charles at Melun.

"The king of England had a large tente of blue velvet and green, richly embroidered with two devices: the one was an antelope drawing in a horse mill; the other was an antelope sitting on a high stage with a branch of olife in his mouth, and the tente was replenished and decked with this poysie:"

"After busie labour commith victorious reste."

He also used, at times, a beacon or cresset, a fleur-de-lis crowned, and a fox's tail. When Henry V. made his entry into Rouen, a page carried behind him, in guise of a banner, a fox's tail attached; and when presented to Katherine he wore in his helmet a fox's tail ornamented with precious stones. After the victory of Agincourt he assumed the motto, "*Non nobis domine.*"¹

After his marriage with Katherine, daughter of Charles VI., of France, Henry V. assumed the title of 'King of France,' and hoisted the French standard,—a blue flag in imitation of the Oriflamme, strewed with fleur-de-lis of gold, bearing in the middle a cross of scarlet cloth.

In later times, the Oriflamme of England was stripped of its golden fleur-de-lis, but the blue flag with a red Latin cross was preserved as the flag of the British nation.²

The accession of Henry V. was remarkable for the revival of the Knights of the Bath, when the knights attending the king at the Tower of London bathed themselves in the Thames with great solemnity, and were afterwards arrayed in a white garment, as an emblem of their revived innocence.

Henry VI., 1422-1461, was anointed and crowned at Paris when only nine years old. His badges, devices, and supporters were the same as his predecessor's. On his banner were antelopes and roses. He was the first sovereign to use the motto, "*Dieu et mon Droit.*" He also had for his devices a panther passant gardant *argent*, spotted with many colors, with vapor issuing from his mouth and ears, and two feathers in saltires, the sinister *argent* surmounted by the dexter *or*.

According to historic traditions, the *white and red Roses* of York and Lancaster—"the fatal colors of our striving houses"—were first

¹ Harlean MSS.

² Brunet.

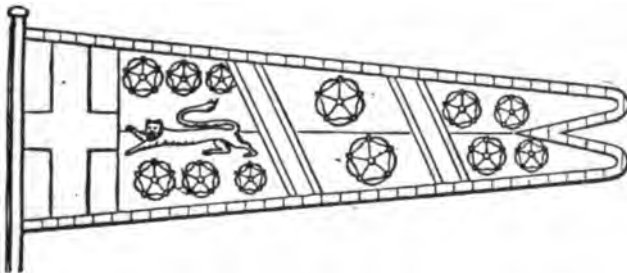
chosen during the momentous dispute about 1450, between Somerset and the Earl of Warwick, in the Temple garden, when Somerset, to collect the suffrage of the bystanders, plucked a red rose, and Warwick a white rose, and each called upon every man present to declare his party by taking a rose of the color chosen by him whose cause he favored. This was the prologue to the great national tragedy which ended in the extinction of the royal line and name of Plantagenet.

“ This brawl to-day,
Grown to this faction in the Temple garden,
Shall send, between the red rose and the white,
A thousand souls to death and deathly night.”

King Henry VI., Part I. Act ii. sc. 4.

But the roses were only renewed. Both Edward I. and his brother Edmund of Lancaster wore the red rose, which was taken by John of Gaunt on his marriage with Blanche, the heiress of Lancaster. When John of Gaunt adopted the red rose, his younger brother, Edmund Langley, Duke of York, assumed the white (derived from the Castle of Clifford), which he transmitted to his descendants, the House of York. Mr. Planche inclines to derive the rose originally from Eleanor of Provence, queen of Henry III.

Edward IV., 1461-1483, adopted for his badge a white lion and a white rose, supported by a lion and a bull. The sun in splendor and



Standard of Edward the Fourth.

sable bull was another of his devices. He also placed the white rose *en soleil* on his standard in commemoration of his victory at the battle of Mortimer's Cross, 1471, when, before the battle, it is said, the sun appeared to Edward, then Earl of March, "like three suns, and suddenly it joyned altogether in one; for which cause some imagine that he gave the sun in its full brightness for his badge or cognizance."

“EDWARD. — Dazzle mine eyes, or do I see three suns?

RICHARD. — Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun;
Not separated with the racking clouds,
But sever'd in a pale clear-shining sky.
See, see! they join, embrace, and seem to kiss,
As if they vow'd some league inviolable:
Now are they but one lamp, one light, one sun!
In this the heaven figures some event.

EDWARD. — 'Tis wondrous strange; the like yet never heard of.
I think it cites us, brother, to the field;
That we, the sons of brave Plantagenet,
Each one already blazing by our meeds,
Should, notwithstanding, join our lights together,
And overshine the earth, as this the world.
Whate'er it bodes, henceforward will I bear
Upon my target three fair shining suns.”

Henry VI., Part III. Act ii. sc. 1.

The honor of bearing Edward IV.'s standard at the battle of Towton devolved upon Ralph Vestyn den, afterwards first yeoman of the chamber, who had, for his services at the battle, an annuity of ten pounds granted to him, “yerey, unto the tyme he be rewarded by us of an office.” Edward's standard at that battle was “the bull *sable*, corned and trooped *or*.” It was used by him on other occasions, and others of the House of York, being the cognizance or device of the Clares (Earls of Gloucester), from whom the House of York was descended.

In 1378, Edmund, Earl of Cambridge, fourth son of Edward III., on being created Duke of York by his nephew, Richard II., assumed the badge of a fetter-lock, shut, bearing a falcon within it, emblematic of the succession to the crown, which was locked up from all hope to him. Edward IV., of the race of York, unlocked this golden fetter-lock, and in 1474 gave this badge, unlocked and open, to his second son, Richard, Duke of York, implying the hope of succession open to his posterity. There is a description of three standards of Edward IV. in ‘*Excerpta Historica*,’ taken from a manuscript in the College of Arms, marked as compiled between the years 1510 and 1525.

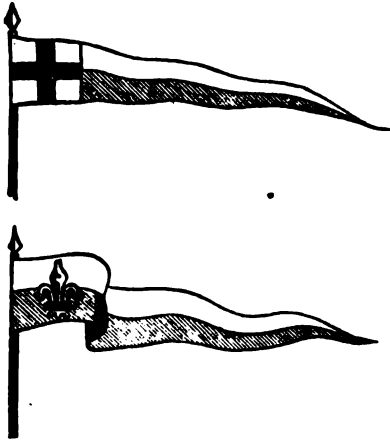
Richard III., 1483-1485, had for his standard at the battle of Bosworth a dun cow. Having a blue boar in his coat of arms when he was Duke of Gloucester, he introduced it as a supporter of the royal shield, but changed it into a white one. This boar *argent*, with the bristles and hoofs *or*, was placed on the left side, opposite the lion *gardant*. The other charges of his escutcheon, when king, were the three leopards, the fleur-de-lis, and the white rose, *rayonnée* of the House of York.

Henry VII., 1485-1509. Richard III. having been killed at Bosworth, in the fourteenth battle between the two roses, Henry Tudor, of the Lancastrian race, the conqueror, was proclaimed king, by the name of Henry VII. He married his cousin Elizabeth, of York, the daughter of Edward IV., and by this union the two rival parties became reconciled and the roses united. In the marriage procession, each partisan of the Lancastrian house gave his hand to a lady of the York party, holding a bouquet of two roses, red and white, entwined. Henry VII. introduced into his arms a branch of hawthorn, allusive to the battle of Bosworth, where the crown of Richard III. was found on a hawthorn bush. On the birth of Prince Henry, subsequently Henry VIII., the armorists composed a rose of two colors (the leaves alternately red and white), as an emblematical offspring of the marriage. Horticulturists also forced nature into an act of loyalty, and produced the party-colored flower known to the present day as the rose of York and Lancaster.

Hutton says, Henry VII., after the battle of Bosworth, offered at St. Paul's three standards. The first, and chief, bore the figure of St. George; the second, a red dragon on white and green sarcenet; and the third, a dun cow upon yellow tartan,—and erected them in the church; also, that Henry VII.'s standard at Bosworth was a red dragon upon green and white silk,—the red dragon of Cadwallader, "Red dragon, dreadful." Henry claimed an uninterrupted descent from Arthur, Uther, and Caradoc, the aboriginal princes of Britain. His grandfather, Owen Tudor, bore a dragon for his device, in proof of his descent from Cadwallader, the last British prince and first king of Wales, A.D. 678. The dragon being Henry's, it is reasonable to consider the other two were Richard's standards. Henry VII. also carried for his badge a portcullis, and the red and white roses combined, emblematic of the union of the rival houses.

Henry VIII., 1509-1547, and Edward VI., 1547-1553, used the same cognizances. The former sometimes displayed a greyhound courant and collared, and at others, after the siege of Boulogne, a white swan, the arms of that city. Mary, 1553-1558, before her accession, adopted the red and white roses, but added a pomegranate, to show her descent from Spain. On assuming the sceptre, she took "winged time drawing truth out of a pit," with this motto, "*Veritas temporis filia.*" The eagle and lion were her supporters. The badges of 'good' Queen Bess were the white and red roses, the fleur-de-lis, and Irish harp, all ensigned by the royal crown, to which James I., 1603, added the Scotch thistle. Elizabeth had for her supporters a lion and a

dragon, and James I., 1603-1625, took for his the lion and unicorn, which have continued the supporters of the royal arms ever since. At



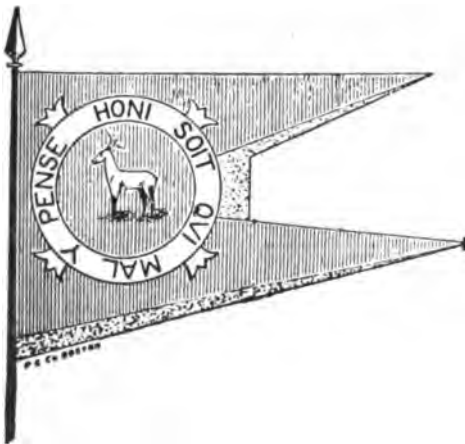
Standards of Henry VIII.
From the picture of his embarkation at
Dover Castle for the Field of Cloth
of Gold, 1520.

the Field of the Cloth of Gold, 1520, the front of the tent of Henry VIII. was adorned with the gigantic figure of an English archer, bearing this motto, in Latin, "*He prevails whom I favor,*" suggestive of the purpose of the interview. It was called the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold' on account of the numerous tents being ornamented with armorial bearings and banners of cloth of gold. Our illustration of Henry VIII.'s standard at the siege of Boulogne, 1544, is from a coarse painting preserved at Cowdry, in Sussex, the seat of Lord Viscount

Montague. The city of Boulogne having been restored to France in 1550, the swan was erased from the British arms; but the badge has

continued a popular sign in England. Henry VIII. was the first English monarch who took the title of 'King of Ireland,' 1509.

The following interesting description of royal standards is from a manuscript, A.D. 1590, in the College of Heralds:—



Standard of Henry VIII. at the Siege of
Boulogne, 1544.

EDWARD III.—The cross of St. George. Per fess *azure* and *gules*. A lion of England imperially crowned, in chief a coronet of crosses,

paté, and fleurs-de-lis, between two clouds irradiated proper; and in base a cloud between two coronets,—DIEU ET MON. In chief a coronet, and in base an irradiated cloud,—DROYT. Quarterly, 1 and 4 an irradiated cloud, 2 and 3 a coronet.

RICHARD II.—The cross of St. George, *argent* and *vert*; a hart lodged *argent*, attired, unguled, ducally gorged and chained *or*, between four suns in splendor,—DIEU ET MON. Two suns in splendor,—DROYT. Four suns in splendor.

HENRY V.—The cross of St. George, *argent* and *azure*. A swan with wings displayed *argent*, beaked *gules*, membered *sable*, ducally gorged and chained *or*; between three stumps of trees, one in dexter chief, and two in base of the last,—DIEU ET MON. Two stumps of trees in pale *or*,—DROYT. Five stumps of trees, three in chief and two in base.

Another of HENRY V.—The cross of St. George, *argent* and *azure*; an heraldic antelope at gage *argent*, maned, tufted, ducally gorged, and chained *or*; chain reflexed over the back, between four roses *gules*,—DIEU ET MON. Two roses in pale *gules*,—DROYT. Five roses in saltire *gules*.

EDWARD IV. (see illustration ¹).—The cross of St. George. Per fess *azure* and *gules*; a lion of England imperially crowned, between three roses *gules* in chief, and as many *argent* in base, barbed, seeded, and irradiated *or*,—DIEU ET MON. In chief a rose *gules*, and in base another *argent*,—DROYT. In chief two roses *gules*, and in base as many *argent*.

HENRY VII.—The cross of St. George, *argent* and *vert*; a dragon *gules*, between two roses of the last in chief, and three in base *argent*,—DIEU ET MON. A rose *gules* in chief, and another *argent* in base,—DROIT. In chief three roses *gules*, and in base two *argent*. On another standard of Henry VII. appears a greyhound courant *argent*, collared *gules*; the whole being semée of Tudor roses, portcullis, and fleurs-de-lis *or*.²

MARY STUART, 1559-1587, the only child of James V., of Scotland, and Mary de Guise, claimed the crown of England in right of her grandmother, Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry VII., of England, and wife of James IV., of Scotland. Assuming the title of Queen of England, France, and Scotland, she marshalled the arms of the three kingdoms, and exhibited it on her banners, furniture, equipage, and liveries.

JAMES I., son of Mary Stuart, 1603, on his accession to the throne of England, discontinued the Norman leopards, considering them a badge of slavery under the Norman race, and substituting three golden lions passant gardant on the British shield and banner, and introduced the royal unicorn of Scotland, "*argent*, gorged with a golden coronet

¹ *Ante*, p. 133.

² See also 'Excerpta Historica' for a description of the standards borne in the field by peers and knights in the reign of Henry VIII., from a manuscript in the College of Arms, I. 2, compiled between the years 1510-1525.

bearing fleurs-de-lis and crosses patées, to which was appended a loose golden chain," as a companion to the English lion, supporting the shield of Great Britain. The standard of the unicorn, introduced to Britain by the Anglo-Saxons, had been brought into Scotland by the English driven from England by William the Conqueror. The red lion rampant of Scotland was also marshalled by James I. on the left quarter of the British shield.

The COMMONWEALTH, 1648-1658.—After the execution of Charles I., the royal arms were defaced, the standard altered, and the ancient mottoes superseded by a maxim setting forth the supremacy of the people. The national seal, six inches in diameter, represented the House of Commons sitting, with the speaker in the chair, encircled by this legend, "The first year of freedom, by God's blessing, restored, 1648." On the reverse was a map of England and Ireland, the sea studded with ships. The flag of England bore the British cross, also that of Ireland, and the national harp of that country.

Oliver Cromwell, being proclaimed Lord Protector of the Republic, 1653, had his family arms marshalled with those of the national government; viz., a lion rampant on a shield, supported on the right side by a crowned lion, and on the left by a gryphon, with a crowned lion statant for a crest. His motto was "*Pax queritur Bello.*" After his victory over the Scotch and English royalists at Worcester, having annexed Scotland as a conquered province to England, he added the cross of St. Andrew to the badges of the republic. After the death of Cromwell and the resignation of his son Richard, the Commonwealth added as supporters to the republican shield two angels,—the 'conductor' angel of Britannia, and the 'guardian' angel of the land,—holding a laurel crown over the shield, and bearing in the other hand a palm branch and a branch of laurel.¹

The *flag of the Commonwealth* was *azure*; in fess a double shield, that is, two shields conjoined, like those on the front of the public acts of the Commonwealth *or*, the first being *argent*; a cross *gules* for England, the other being *azure*; the harp *or*, stringed *argent*; these within a label or scroll, like a horseshoe, but forming three folds *argent*, in Roman letters *sable*, "FLOREAT—RES: PVBLICA;" without this two branches of laurel, stalked and slipped *or*, leaved *vert*, and placed in like form as the scroll, fringed *or* and *azure*.² The standards displayed at the funeral of the Protector afford a curious example of republican armory.³

¹ Brunet's *Regal Armorie*.

² See *Prestwick's Respublica*.

³ See illustration, *ante*, p. 17.

The *great banner of the States*, called 'the Union,' as displayed at the funeral of Oliver Cromwell, was parted per pale *gules* and *azure*, having in the dexter chief points the Roman letter 'O,' and in the sinister chief point the Roman letter 'P,' in gold,—that is, for 'Oliver, Protector;' between these letters, in middle chief, an imperial crown of gold proper, beautified with lilies, roses, and crosses pattée; under the above, a royal mantle of estate displayed, being ermine and gold, with tassels of gold, and thereon two shields of the arms of the Commonwealth,—one for England, the other for Scotland; viz., first shield *argent*, a cross *gules*, for St. George of England; second, *azure*, a saltire cross *argent*, for St. Andrew of Scotland; beneath the mantle, or in base, a scroll of silver, and thereon, in Roman letters of gold, the motto: "PAX QVAERITVR BELLO."

The *great banner of the States or Commonwealth*, displayed at the same funeral, was quarterly, the four banners of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales; viz., first and fourth, *argent*, a cross *gules*, for England and Wales; second, *azure*, a saltire *argent*, for Scotland; and third, *azure*, a harp *or*, stringed *argent*, for Ireland. Over all, in fess, in an escutcheon of pretence *sable*, a lion rampant *argent*, for the name and family of Cromwell.¹

The *admiral's flag*, during the Commonwealth, was the cross and harp. Off Portland, on the 1st of February, 1653, Blake, on board the *Triumph*, carried the cross and harp at the main; Monk, who was admiral of the white division, at the fore; and Penn, who commanded the blue division, at the mizzen.

The *Covenanter's banner*, of Scotland, was first unfurled in 1638, and was displayed at the battle of Drumclog, 1679, and at Bothwell bridge the same year. This old emblem is cherished with peculiar reverence by the Scotch people. One of these banners is preserved by the Antiquarian Society of Edinburgh, and another is shown at the Mareschal's College, at Aberdeen. It is of white silk, with the motto, "*Spe expecto*," in red letters, and underneath, in English, "*For Religion, King, and Kingdom*." The banner is much torn, but otherwise in good preservation.

"The limbs that fought, the hearts that swelled, are crumbled into dust,
But that frail silken flag, for which and under which they fought,
Survives, a tattered, senseless thing, to meet the curious eye,
And wake a momentary dream of hopes and days gone by."²

¹ Prestwick's *Respublica*. See also illustration, *ante*, p. 17.

² *New Monthly Magazine*.

At the tercentennial celebration of Presbyterianism, in Philadelphia, Nov. 20, 1872, at the rear of the pulpit of the Seventh Presbyterian Church was displayed the American flag crossed with the Covenanters' flag of blue silk, with a red cross of St. Andrew, and the motto, "*Covenantants, Religion, King, and Kingdom.*"¹

The Covenanters' blue banner has been suggested as the possible origin of the blue field in the union of our stars and stripes.

The *Blue Blanket*.—This ancient standard, the banner of the Edinburgh craftsmen, and probably the origin of the blue banner of the Covenanters, is still held in great honor and reverence by the burghers of Edinburgh. It was presented to the trades of Edinburgh by James III., of Scotland, in 1483, "as a perpetual remembrance of their loyalty, and having power to display the same in defence of their king, country, and their own rights." It was borne by the craftsmen at the battle of Flodden, 1513, and displayed for the purpose of assembling the incorporated trades to protect Queen Mary, after her surrender to the confederated states at Carberry Hill. It was brought out on the occasion of the rescue of James VI. from a rabble that assailed him in the old Tolbooth. Pennycruek's history of it, published in 1722, was reprinted, with plates, in 1826. A handsome carved oak case, in which to preserve it, was, in 1869 or 1870, presented to the convener of the incorporated trades of Edinburgh.²

William III.'s standard, hoisted on board the frigate Brill, Oct. 16, 1688, when about to embark for England, displayed the arms of Nassau quartered with those of England. The motto, embroidered in letters three feet long, was happily chosen. The House of Orange had long used the elliptical device, "I will maintain." The ellipsis was now filled with words of high import,—"*The liberties of England and the Protestant religion.*"³ He landed at Torbay from the ship bearing this flag, Sunday, Nov. 4, 1688, auspiciously the anniversary both of his birth and his marriage.

The battle of Caton Moor, or Northallerton, fought Aug. 22, 1138, is called the 'battle of the standard,' because the English barons rallied around a sacred stand, constructed of a ship's mast, fixed on a four-wheeled vehicle, bearing the banners of St. Peter of York, St. John of Beverly, and St. Wilfrid of Ripon, and surmounted by a pyx containing a consecrated host. This standard was brought forth by the Archbishop of York when the English were hotly pressed by the invaders headed by King David.

¹ The Philadelphia Press. ² Notes and Queries, 4th series, vol. vi., October, 1870.

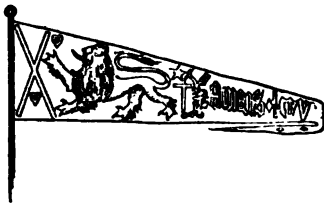
³ Macaulay's England.

A particular and minute account of the banner or standard of St. Cuthbert of Durham, made in 1346, has been preserved in a little volume entitled ‘The Antient Rites and Monuments of the Monastical and Cathedral Church of Durham, 1672.’ It contained a relic of the saint, which was thought to endow it with peculiar sanctity and power. This banner, a yard broad and five quarters deep, was of red velvet, embroidered and wrought with flowers of green silk and gold, the nether part of it indented in five parts and fringed with red silk and gold. “In the midst of the banner cloth was the corporax cloth, with which St. Cuthbert in his lifetime had been used to cover the chalice when he said mass. This corporax cloth was covered over with white velvet, half a yard square every way, having a red cross of red velvet on both sides over the same holy relique, most cunningly and artificially compiled and framed, being finely fringed about the skirts and edges with fringe of red silk and gold, and three little silver bells fastened to the skirts of said banner cloth like unto sacring bells.” The bearer of this banner had faith it was never carried or shown in any battle, but, by the especial grace of God Almighty and the mediation of holy St. Cuthbert, it brought home the victory.

After the Reformation, St. Cuthbert’s banner fell into the hands of Whittingham, who was made the Dean of Durham, and his wife, a Frenchwoman, is reported to have burned it.¹

In the Middle Ages, the English standard was not a square flag, like the modern standard, which is rightly a banner, but was elongated, like the guydon and pennon, but much larger, becoming narrow and rounded at the end, which was slit, unless the standard belonged to a prince of the blood royal.

The size of the standard was regulated by the rank of the person whose arms or device it bore.² The English standards were generally divided into three portions, one containing the arms of the nobleman, next his cognizance or badge, and then his crest; these were divided by bands, on which was inscribed his war-cry or motto, the whole being fringed with his livery or family colors.



The Douglas Standard, 1382.

The standard of the Douglas and the gauntlets of Percy, relics of the fight of Otterburne, Aug. 15, 1388, are still preserved in Scotland. The story of the battle represents Douglas as

¹ Penny Cyclopaedia.

² See *ante*, p. 24.

having, in a personal encounter with Percy in front of Newcastle, taken from him his spear and hanging flag, saying he would carry it home with him, and plant it on his castle of Dalkeith.¹

The battle was an effort of Percy to recover this valued standard, which, however, found its way to Scotland, notwithstanding the death of its captor. One of the two natural sons of Douglas founded the family of Douglas, of Cavers, in Roxburghshire, the last male descendant of which, James Douglas, died in 1878; and in their hands these relics of Otterburne have been preserved nearly five hundred years. It is found, however, that history has misrepresented the matter. The Otterburne flag proves not to be a spear pennon, but a standard thirteen feet long (two yards longer than the regulated size of an emperor's standard), bearing the Douglas arms; it evidently was Douglas's own banner, which his sons would, of course, be most anxious to preserve and carry home. Here is a standard laid up in store at Cavers, more than a hundred years before America was discovered!¹

Charles I., in his issue with the Parliament, having decided to make a solemn appeal to the sword, issued a proclamation requiring all his subjects who could bear arms to meet him at Nottingham on the 23d of August, 1641, when he designed to raise his royal standard, the first and only time of such a rally since the barons raised the standard at Northallerton, A.D. 1138. At the appointed time, a numerous company, mounted and on foot, came from the surrounding country, rather to indulge their curiosity with respect to the mode of conducting an ancient ceremony never before witnessed in the memory of any living man, than to offer loyal assistance to their sovereign.

On the hill, three troops of horse and a corps of six hundred foot were drawn up to guard the standard. As the herald was about to begin, King Charles desired to see the proclamation; and, calling for pen and ink, placed the paper on his knee as he sat in the saddle, and made several alterations with his own hand, returning it to the herald, who then read it, but, on coming to the passages the king had corrected, with some embarrassment. Immediately after the reading, the trumpets sounded, the standard was advanced, and the spectators threw up their hats, shouting "God save the king!" The standard raised was a large blood-red streamer bearing the royal arms quartered, with a hand pointing to the crown which stood above, and inscribed with the motto, "*Give Cæsar his due.*" Farther on towards the point were represented at intervals the rose, the fleur-de-lis, and the harp, each surmounted by a royal crown.

¹ Chambers's Book of Days.

It was with difficulty the standard could be fixed in its place, the ground being solid rock, and no instruments to pierce it having been provided. Scarcely had this object been accomplished by digging into the firm stone with the daggers and halbert points of the soldiers, when a fierce gust of wind, sweeping with a wild moan across the face of the hill, laid prostrate the emblem of sovereignty. This accident was regarded as a presage of evil, and a general melancholy overspread the assembly. No further attempt was made that day, and the standard was borne back into the castle in silence. The next day and the day following, the ceremony was repeated, with less gloomy auspices, the king attending on each occasion.¹

THE ROYAL STANDARD OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—The origin of the emblazonments on that gorgeous banner may be thus briefly sketched.² The lions passant gardant *or*, on a red field, were the arms of Normandy, and two of them were introduced by William Rufus; the third was added by Henry II. for the duchy of Aquitaine, in right of his wife. Edward III. quartered with the lions the fleur-de-lis powdered on a blue field, of which five were entire, and borne in the first and fourth quarters. This he did on claiming the sovereignty of France, in right of his mother, Isabel, sister and heiress of Charles



Arms of Henry V.,
of England.

the Fair; the royal standard, composed thus of the arms of France and England combined, continued until the reign of Henry V., when the French king having reduced the number of fleurs-de-lis to three, Henry did the same. They so appear on the standard carried by the Great Harry, in the time of Henry VIII., and on a royal standard at the main of a ship of war (supposed the Ark Royal of Raleigh) of the time of Elizabeth, as represented on the tapestry of the old House of Lords, which was destroyed by the fire. On a staff abaft, this ship had a plain square flag of St. George, white, with a red cross. On the union of England and Scotland, through the accession of James I., the standard was changed, the first and fourth quarters bearing each the arms described, the second introducing the lion of Scotland, and the third quarter the harp of Ireland.

William III. placed an escutcheon of pretence upon the royal standard for Nassau, which was removed by Queen Anne; and

¹ Cattermole's Great Civil War.

² The royal banners of England have always borne the same blazonry as the royal shield, for which see engraving of royal arms, from the Conquest to Queen Victoria, p. 118.

the standard then stood, the first and fourth quarterings the lions of England and Scotland, the second quarter the fleur-de-lis, and the third quarter the harp. George I. again changed it, and during his reign the arms of Brunswick, of Lunenburg, of ancient Saxony, and the crown of Charlemagne, formed the fourth quarter, the other quarters remaining as in the reign of Queen Anne. On the legislative union with Ireland, in 1801, the fleurs-de-lis of France were removed.

The royal standard of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was established, and first hoisted on the Tower of London, and on Bedford Tower, Dublin, and displayed by the Foot Guards, Jan. 1, 1801.¹ When the new standard was first hoisted on board the Royal William, at Spithead, after the Union, it was considered ominous, by the sailors of the fleet, that a gale of wind blew it from the masthead and it was lost.² It is a gorgeous banner, and when flashing its golden splendor in the bright beams of the sun presents a beautiful appearance. The emblazonry represents the arms for the time being of the nation, as impressed on the coins and borne upon the great seal and seals of office.

The royal standard is never hoisted except on occasion of the first ceremony. It is never displayed on shipboard except when the sovereign or some member of the royal family is actually present,³ or on

¹ Haydn's Book of Dates.

² British Naval Chronicle.

³ The only occasion on which the Royal Standard has been displayed within the United States of America since 1776 was when the Prince of Wales embarked at Portland, Maine, Oct. 15, 1860, to return to England after his tour through the United States and Canada.

"The Prince's last act on American soil was to take leave of the Mayor of Portland. He then stepped hurriedly down the carpeted steps where he embarked to his barge, which had a silken union jack flying at the stern. The moment he stepped on board, a sailor at the bow unrolled a small royal standard of silk attached to a staff, and placed it at the bow of the boat. As soon as it was in place the whole British squadron, mustering eight or ten ships, honored it with a royal salute of twenty-one guns. The yards of the ships were at the same time manned, and when the Prince stepped on the deck of the *Hero*, his own ship, the Royal Standard was run up at her main, and again saluted by the whole fleet, which immediately after weighed and put to sea, the *Hero* leading. As they passed Fort Preble, the American ensign was run up at the fore, and saluted by the whole fleet, with twenty-one guns from each ship, which was returned by the guns of the fort."—*Goold's History of the Portland Rifle Corps.*

A Royal Standard was captured at York, now Toronto, the capital of Upper Canada, when that place was taken by a land and naval force under General Pike and Commodore Isaac Chauncey, on the 27th of April, 1813, and is preserved in the gunnery-room of the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. This is probably the only instance of the royal standard of the United Kingdom having come into the possession of an enemy. The following is Commodore Chauncey's official account of its capture:—

the Sovereign's birthdays, when the commander-in-chief of a fleet hoists it at the main. In garrisons at such times it always supersedes the jack, or common garrison flag.

As established in 1801, it was heraldically described as "quarterly, first and fourth, *gules* three lions passant gardant in pale *or*, for England; second, *or*, a lion rampant *gules* within a double tressure flory counter flory of the last for Scotland; third, *azure*, a harp *or*, stringed *argent*, for Ireland. On an escutcheon of pretence, ensigned with the electoral bonnet; and divided per pale and per chevron, enarched with three compartments, the arms of his Majesty's dominions in Germany; viz., two lions passant gardant in pale *or*, for Brunswick; second, *or*, semée of hearts proper, a lion rampant *azure*, for Brunswick; third, *gules*, a horse courant *argent*, for Saxony. In the centre, on an escutcheon *gules*, the crown of Charlemagne proper, being the badge of the office of arch-treasurer to the holy Roman Empire."¹

The white horse on a red field was the armorial bearing of ancient Saxony or Westphalia, and has for centuries been borne by the illustrious House of Brunswick. The banner of Wittekend bore a black horse, which, on his conversion to Christianity by Charlemagne, was altered to a white one, as the emblem of the pure faith he had embraced. In 1700, a medal was struck at Hanover to commemorate the accession to the electorate of George Lewis, Duke of Hanover, afterwards George I. This medal bears on one side the head of the Elector, and on the reverse the white horse. On the accession of George I., the white horse was introduced as a royal badge in the standards and colors of certain regiments of cavalry and infantry.

By the peace signed at Amiens, 1802, the French fleurs-de-lis were required to be erased from the British shield, though they had already been dropped. From 1337, the King of England had styled himself 'King of France.' George III. was the first who relinquished that title.

At the death of William IV., 1837, when Queen Victoria came to the throne, under the Salic law, she relinquished the kingdom of Hanover (since incorporated with the empire of Germany) to her uncle, the Duke of Cumberland, and the escutcheon of pretence, with its

"SIR, — I have the honor to present to you, by the hands of Lieutenant Dudley, the British standard taken at York on the 27th of April last, accompanied by the mace, over which hung a human scalp. These articles were taken from the Parliament House by one of my officers and presented to me. The scalp I caused to be presented to General Dearborn, who, I believe, still has it in his possession."

¹ Naval Chronicle, vol. v.

electoral bonnet, blue lion, and white horse, was removed from the royal arms and standard, leaving simply the quarterings for the three realms of the United Kingdom,—England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Sir Walter Scott, alluding to the royal banner of Scotland, says that upon it—

“The ruddy lion ramps in gold.”

The Scottish lion being rampant *gules* on a field *or*, as displayed on the standard of the United Kingdom.

The origin of the tressure flory of Scotland, which surrounds the lion rampant, is believed to be this: Achaius, sixty-fifth King of Scotland, being a peaceable and godly ruler, made a league, about A.D. 792, with Charlemagne, Emperor of the Romans and King of France; and in token thereof the tressure of lilies was given by him to Achaius, to be borne on the arms of Scotland, as a memorial to posterity of an alliance offensive and defensive between the two kingdoms, and as a pledge of brotherly love, to signify that the French arms or lilies should defend and guard the lion of Scotland. About the same time, he adorned the crown of Scotland with four lilies and four crosses; the first, emblems of peace and unity, the latter, symbols of their faith in Christ, and of the inviolable fidelity of the kingdom of Scotland.¹

The harp and trefoil of Ireland.—Queen Elizabeth was the first sovereign to assume the Irish harp and shamrock. The harp was an attributive ensign of the goddess Hibernia, the patroness of Ireland. The Irish monarchs being styled ‘bards,’ their standard bore a harp. The harp of Bryan Boiroiske, King of Ireland, killed by the Danes in 1039, was preserved at Dublin until 1782.

The shamrock, or trefoil, a druidical symbol, was held in great veneration by the Hibernians. Monkish historians of Ireland record this legend: About 440, St. Patrick preached the gospel in a field to the pagan peasantry of Ireland, but could not persuade them of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, until, picking up a plant of the trefoil, held sacred among them, he showed, by the union of three leaves on one stem, evidence of three bodies united in one person. Having persuaded them by this natural example of the reality of a hitherto incomprehensible mystery, he converted multitudes, who adopted the shamrock in token of their belief. The Irish armorial bearings subsequently disappeared from the British shield, but were restored in 1801, when Ireland was united (?) to England. The harp first appears on the Irish pieces of Henry VIII. The groat of Elizabeth has

¹ Prestwick's *Respublica*.

three harps. Henry VIII. is said to have given his daughter three harps for her perfecting in music.

The Thistle of Scotland.—The origin of the thistle as the emblem of Scotland is said to be this: About the year 1010, in the reign of Malcolm I., the Danes invaded Scotland, and landed at Buchan-ness, intending to storm Stain's Castle, a fortress of some importance. Midnight was the time selected for the attack, and, as their presence was unknown and unlooked for, they expected to succeed, without much trouble, in gaining possession of the castle. The Danes advanced slowly and silently, and, to prevent the possibility of their footsteps being heard, they took off their shoes. They reached the place, and they had only to swim the moat and place their scaling-ladders, and the castle was theirs, when, in another moment, a cry from the invaders themselves wakened the inmates to a sense of their danger; the guards flew to their posts, the soldiers mounted, armed, and pursued the Danes. This sudden change had arisen from a simple cause. It appeared that the moat, instead of being filled with water, was dried up and overgrown with thistles, which, piercing the unprotected feet of the Danes, caused them to forget their cautious silence, and to utter the cry which had alarmed the sleeping inmates of the castle. Thus was the thistle the means of preserving Scotland, and was thenceforth adopted as her national emblem. Burns thus alludes to it:—

“The rough burr-thistle spreading wide
Among the bearded bere,
I turned my weeder-clips aside,
And spared the symbol dear.”

Anciently, in France, there was an order of knighthood dedicated to our Lady of the Thistle. It was revived by Charles VII., of France, and James II., of Scotland, when they united against England about 1440. James II., of Scotland, had the thistle painted on a sacred banner of St. Andrew, and hence it became a national standard for Scotland. In 1687, James VII. of Scotland and II. of England entwined the thistle of Scotland with the roses of England. The jewel of the Knights of the Thistle bore the image of St. Andrew and his cross, and the motto was, “*Nemo me impune lacessit*,”—“No one injures me with impunity.”

The crosses of St. Andrew and St. Patrick.—The origin of the crosses of St. Andrew and St. Patrick have been thus stated: In 1248, the Christian allies besieged the walls of Seville, employing

divers war-machines, among which was the saltire or scaling-ladder, by aid of which they surmounted the walls. This victory having been gained on St. Andrew's day by the assistance of the saltire, that badge was adopted by the conquerors, and a *Te Deum* was sung in all the churches in honor of St. Andrew. In the mean time, Seville having been converted to Christianity, the archbishop, who succeeded the mufti, transferred the saltire to the banner of St. Andrew, to whose miraculous assistance the clergy ascribed the taking of the strong golden tower of the city. Long rejoicing for the miraculous victory led to the legend that St. Andrew had been crucified on a saltire, which they hence named the 'cross of St. Andrew.' Crucifixion on a saltire never having been adopted by any nation, its use in the martyrdom of St. Andrew must be considered a monkish legend. St. Patrick, the apostle of Ireland, is alleged to have died on such a cross. Hence the representation of these crosses on the union jack of the United Kingdom.¹

Another version is that the cross of St. Andrew as the national insignia of Scotland is derived from a miraculous occurrence, when Achaius, king of the Scots, and Hungus, king of the Picts, joined their forces to oppose the invasion of Athelstane, the Saxon king of England. The Scottish leaders, having addressed themselves to God and their patron saint, there appeared in the blue firmament of heaven the figure of the white cross on which St. Andrew had suffered. Presuming from this heavenly vision that their prayers were favorably received, the soldiers fought with enthusiastic courage, and defeated the invaders, who left their king, Athelstane, dead upon the field of battle in East Lothian, A.D. 940; and ever since the white saltire upon an azure field has been carried by the Scottish nation.²

St. George, of Cappadocia, who furnishes the red Latin cross for the union, according to Mr. Emerson, was not a very reputable character, but a low parasite, who obtained a contract to supply the army with bacon. He was a rogue and an informer, became rich, and then had to run for his life. He saved his money, embraced Arminianism, was made Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt, and in 361 was dragged to prison. He was finally taken out and lynched, as he deserved to be. This bishop is the St. George of England and Russia,—a very different character from the Georgian chevalier and dragon-destroyer of the Trajan standard.³

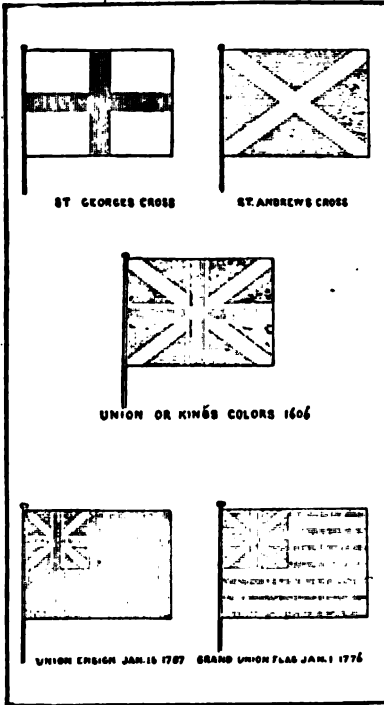
¹ Brunet's Regal Armorie.

² Newton's Display of Heraldry.

³ Cardinal Newman, created in 1879, took his title from the Church of St. Giorgio de Nelabro, the only one in Rome dedicated to the patron saint of England. This

A very curious history of the origin and formation of the union jack, written by Sir Harris Nicolas, is in Braley's 'Graphic Illustrator.'

THE UNION JACK OR FLAG OF GREAT BRITAIN.—The combination of the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew produced the first union jack, which was declared in 1606, by King James I., the national ensign of Great Britain, happily symbolizing the union of England and Scotland, in its union of the crosses of the two realms. In 1801, in consequence of the legislative union with Ireland, a second union ensign was established. The new device combined the three crosses of St. George, St. Andrew, and St. Patrick. The blazonry of this jack is borne by the Duke of Wellington upon a shield of pretence over his paternal arms, as an "augmentation of honor" significant and expressive. The Duke of Marlborough's arms bear in like manner the cross of St. George upon a canton, in commemoration of the services of his ancestor.



When or why the name 'jack'

was given to this flag is conjectural: in old records it is almost universally styled the 'UNION FLAG.' Some have thought as the upper part of a troopers' armor was so named, the name was transferred during the time of the Crusades to the St. George's cross on a white field, which the soldiers of the cross wore over their armor before and behind. Others think the new flag received this name in honor of James I., it being the abbreviation of his signature, *Jac*. The name is mentioned in 1673, in the English treaty with the Dutch, which obliges "all Dutch ships or squadrons of war meeting those of Great

church contains, under the high altar, the head of St. George and his red silk banner, which are exhibited on the day after Ash Wednesday and on St. George's Day, the only days the church is open to the public. Two minutes' walk distant is the Church of S. Maria-in-Cosmedin, under which is preserved a piece of St. Patrick's skull, exhibited on that saint's day.

Britain, carrying the king's flag, called 'the jack,' within certain seas and bounds to strike their topsail and lower their flag with like ceremony and respect as heretofore by Dutch ships to those of the King of England or his ancestors."



A Union Device of 1800.

At the time of the union, devices representing it were popular. Our engraving is a fac-simile of one of these.

The royal ordinance establishing the first 'union jack' is as follows:—

"Whereas some differences hath arisen between our subjects of South and North Britain, travelling by sea, about the bearing of their flags; for the avoiding of all such contentions hereafter, we have, with the advice of our council, ordered from henceforth all our subjects of this Isle and Kingdom of Great Britain, and the members thereof, shall bear in the maintop the red cross, commonly called St. George's cross, and the white cross, commonly called St. Andrew's cross, joined together, according to a form made by our heralds, and sent by us to our admiral, to be published to our said subjects; and in the foretop our subjects of South Britain (England) shall wear the red cross only, as they were wont; and our subjects of North Britain (Scotland) in the foretop the white cross only, as they were accustomed: wherefore, we will and command all our subjects to be conformable and obedient to this our order, and that from henceforth they do not use or bear their flags in any other sort, as they will answer to the contrary at their peril.

"Given at our Palace this 12th day of April, 4th Iacques, A.D. 1606."¹

There are instances in which this union flag is represented with the St. George's cross spread across the entire head, and the St. Andrew's cross the entire fly. No drawing is extant "of the form made by the heralds," sent to the admiral to be published, but the paintings of Vandevelde and others show on the bowsprits of vessels of war the flag known as the 'union jack,' presumptive proof that such was the union devised by the heralds. In a drawing of the Duke of York's yacht visiting the fleet in the Medway, painted by Vandevelde and preserved in the British Museum, all the ensigns have a red cross in a canton; but every bowsprit is furnished with a union jack, and two of the largest ships carry it aloft,—one, the Breda, at the

¹ United Service Journal.

main and another at the mizzen. There is also an admiral's ship with the white at the main.

In a paper dated Friday, Jan. 14, 1652, "By the commissioners for ordering and managing y^e affairs of the Admiralty and Navy," ordering what flag shall be worn by flag-officers, it is ordered, "all the shippes to wear jacks as formerly."

The king's proclamation, Jan. 1, 1801, establishing and ordering the present red ensign, known as the 'meteor flag of old England,'



St. Andrew. St. George. St. Patrick.

which the lively imagination of poets has transformed into the omnipotent banner which "for a thousand years has braved the battle and the breeze," to be worn by all the merchant ships of the kingdom, instead of the ensign before that time usually worn by them, says, "To the end that none of our subjects may presume on board their ships to wear our flags, jacks, and pendants which, according to ancient usage, have been appointed as a distinction to our ships, or any flags, jacks, or pendants

in shape or mixture of colors so far resembling ours as not to be easily distinguished therefrom, we do, with the advice of our privy council, hereby strictly charge and command all of our subjects whatsoever that they do not presume to wear on any of their ships or vessels our jack, commonly called the 'union jack,' nor any pendants, nor any such colors as are usually borne by our ships, without particular warrant for their so doing from us, or our high admiral of Great Britain, or the commissioners for executing the office of high admiral for the time being; and we do hereby also further command all our loving subjects, that, without such warrant as aforesaid, they presume not to wear on board their ships or vessels any flags, jacks, pendants, or colors made in imitation of or resembling ours, or any kind of pendants whatsoever, or any other ensign than the ensign described on the side or margin hereof," &c. The proclamation then excepts from this order certain vessels temporarily employed by the government, which are to "wear a 'red jack' with a union jack described in a canton at the upper corner thereof, next the staff." All merchant ships displaying the union jack, &c., were to have their colors seized, and the masters and commanders and other persons so offending were to be duly punished. This union flag or jack was worn, and continues to be worn, on the bowsprit of all ships of war.

It is also worn by the admiral of the fleet at the main of his flag-ship, and is the garrison color hoisted over all the forts belonging to her Majesty's dominions. It is heraldically described thus: The crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, on fields *argent* and *azure*, the crosses saltire of St. Andrew and St. Patrick quarterly, per saltire counter charged *argent* and *gules*, the latter fimbriated of the second, surmounted by the cross of St. George, *gules* fimbriated as the saltire."¹

It does not appear why the red saltire is called St. Patrick's cross, in defiance of all Church tradition. St. Patrick never had a cross, and to give him one is simply an Irish bull. The saltire, so far as it belongs to any saint, is St. Andrew's. It has been suggested that the red saltire, bordered with white, really represents the Fitz Gerald arms, "*argent*, a saltire *gules*."

In 1823, it was royally ordained no merchant ship or vessel should carry the union jack, unless it was bordered on all sides with white, equal in breadth to one-fifth of the breadth of the jack exclusive of the border. The penalty for using the royal union jack on board a merchant vessel is £500.

An idea was long entertained in England that the admiral's red flag had been taken from the main masthead of the admiral's ship, and that the Dutch obtained that trophy in one of the battles between Blake and Van Tromp,—a mistaken notion, for the red flag never has been surrendered. The last admiral who wore it, before it was restored to the navy by the creation of a batch of admirals and rear and vice admirals of the red after the battle of Trafalgar, Oct. 21, 1805, was Sir George Rooke, as admiral of the fleet, when commander of the combined forces of England and Holland in the Mediterranean in 1703. Upon the union of England with Scotland, 1606, the red flag was discontinued, and the union jack superseded a red flag at the main, as the distinguishing flag of the admiral of the fleet.²

Up to 1864, the royal navy wore ensigns of the three colors, red, white, or blue, according to the rank of the officer commanding. In that year, the white ensign was alone reserved for the royal navy, and the blue and red ensigns were given up to the use of the naval reserve and merchant marine. At the same time, the several grades of admirals of the red and blue were merged under the white ensign, with a St. George's red cross on a white field for their distinguishing flags, the union being continued in all the ensigns.³

¹ British Naval Chronicle, vol. v. pp. 64, 65.

² British Naval Chronicle, 1806, also 1816.

³ In the first edition of this work the full circular order from the admiralty, dated Aug. 4, 1864, was given.

The military flags of Great Britain in use may be grouped in the two divisions,—‘cavalry banners’ styled ‘standards,’ and ‘infantry colors.’ The standards of the cavalry are small in size; their color is determined by that of the regimental facings; they are charged with the cipher, number, heraldic insignia, and honors, such as ‘Waterloo,’ ‘Alma,’ &c., of each regiment. The standards of the household cavalry are crimson, richly embroidered with the royal insignia of England.

Every infantry regiment or battalion of the line has its “pair of colors.” One is the queen’s color, a union jack charged with some one or more of the regimental devices; the other is the regimental color, and its field is of the same tincture as the facings, and bears the cipher, number, device, motto, and honors of the corps. At first, each infantry regiment had one color only; afterwards, there were three to each regiment. In the reign of Queen Anne, the colors were reduced to their present number,—a ‘pair.’ The colors of the Foot Guards reverse the arrangement of those of the line. Their queen’s color is crimson, either with or without a cantoned jack, but always charged with the royal cipher and crown, and the regimental devices. The regimental color of the Guards is the union jack. The Guards also have small company colors.

The royal artillery and rifles of the line have no colors. The volunteer regiments have been left to determine for themselves whether they shall carry colors, and also the character of the colors they may decide to adopt. What may be termed the volunteer banner is worthy of the force. It has the figures of an archer of the olden time, and a rifleman of to-day, with the motto, “Defence, not defiance.”¹

In 1873, the colors of the native army in India were assimilated to those of the British army, and the devices, &c., of the colors of all the native regiments were ordered to be registered at the College of Arms.

The standard of a regiment is a telegraph in the centre of the battle to speak the changes of the day to the wings. “Defend the colors! form upon the colors!” is the first cry and first thought of a soldier. This standard contains the honor of the band, and the brave press round its bearer. An instance of the attachment shown by English troops to their standards occurred after the battle of Corunna. It was night. The regimental color of the Fiftieth was missing; a cry arose that it had been lost; the soldiers were furious; Sir Henry Fane, with a loud and angry voice, called out, “No, no! the Fiftieth cannot have lost their colors!” They were not lost. Two ensigns—

¹ Boutell’s Heraldry.

Stewart, a Scotchman, and Moore, an Irishman—had been slain as they bore the banners charging through the village of El Vina. Two color-sergeants, seizing the prostrate colors, continued the charge, and carried them through the battle. When the fight was done, an officer received one of these standards from the sergeant. It was dark, and he forgot both their use and their honor, and had gone to the rear, intending to embark with them, though the regiment was still in position. The stray color was found, and the soldiers pacified; but this officer never could remove the feeling which his well-meaning but ill-judged caution had produced against him. This shows the sentiments entertained by British troops for their colors, pervading all ranks, from the general to the drummer. Sir Henry Fane's words rendered him a favorite with the Fiftieth Regiment ever after.

A British color-sergeant, shot down and overrun by the enemy, once seized in his mouth a corner of the flag, and his teeth locked upon it in the rigidity of death. The enemy cut it away, leaving a bit between his fixed teeth. The standard was retaken, and ever since the flag of the regiment is made with that little piece carefully cut out, in memory of the sergeant who was buried with the fragment in his mouth.

In the Military Hospital at Chelsea is preserved a large number of military trophies, among them the following American flags:—

1. An American national color of Second Regiment of the line, taken by General Brock on the frontier.
2. An American flag, taken probably in the Revolutionary War.
3. An American flag, the same as the above.
4. A regimental color of the Fourth American Regiment, 1812-14.
5. An American flag taken by the Eighty-fifth Regiment on the left bank of the Mississippi.
6. An American flag, taken in the first war, probably at Boston.
7. An American regimental flag of the Second Regiment.¹

The American ensign of the Canadian rebel steamer *Caroline* is preserved in the Museum of the Royal Military and Naval Institute, Scotland Yard, London.

Immediately before the battle of Trafalgar, Nelson exhibited the ever memorable signal, "*England expects every man will do his duty.*" The illustration is from an original drawing in the Royal Service Institution, and shows how great a number and variety of flags was used. Each set of flags had to be arranged according to its number in the signal-book, and run up to the masthead, until answered and

¹ London Paper, 1836.

understood by each ship. Then another set was run up, and so on until the signal was completed. Each set represented a word, except the last word, 'duty,' which, strange to say, was not represented by



any number in the signal-book, and had to be spelled out. This tedious method of signaling is to some extent still used by the navy and merchant ships of all nations. Sir Harris Nicolas deemed it worth while to ascertain as precisely as he could the circumstances under which those

"England-expects-every-man-will-do-his-d-u-t-y."

words were uttered. There are three accounts of the matter,—one by Mr. James, in his 'Naval History;' one by Captain Blackwood, who commanded the Euryalus at the battle of Trafalgar; and one by Captain Pasco, who was Nelson's flag-lieutenant in the victory. Sir Harris Nicolas accepts Pasco's version, because that officer himself signalled the words. "His lordship came to me on the poop," says Pasco, "and, after ordering certain signals to be made, said, 'Mr. Pasco, I wish to say to the fleet, "England confides every man will do his duty!"' and he added, 'You must be quick, for I have one more to make, which is for close action.' I replied, 'If your lordship will permit me to substitute "expects" for "confides," the signal will soon be completed, because the word "expects" is in the vocabulary, whereas the word "confides" must be spelled?' His lordship replied, in haste, and with seeming satisfaction, 'That will do, Pasco; make it directly!' When it had been answered by a few ships in the van, he ordered me to make the signal for close action." Captain Blackwood says the correction suggested by the signal-officer was from "Nelson expects" to "England expects;" but Captain Pasco's is accepted as being more probable.

The flag which floated over the Nelson column in Trafalgar Square in 1844 was part of the ensign which thirty-eight years before waved over the hero on the memorable day of his last great achievement and death.

A gentleman residing at Sacramento, Cal., has in his possession a banner of green with a golden harp in the centre, which is the identical banner carried by the rebels of 1798 in Ireland, and most notably at the siege of Drogheda. It was brought to the United States by his father, James Gildea. The flag is thirty feet long by ten wide, and has been well preserved.

At Cyprus, in 1878, when Sir Garnet Wolseley took possession, the British flag was solemnly censed, blessed, and hoisted by Greek priests, the guards presenting arms.

NOTE.—Campbell, the poet of Hope, wrote, some time previous to our civil war, the following lines, which, however, since slavery has been abolished, at the expense of a bloody and costly war, have now no significance:—

“United States! your banner wears
Two emblems,—one, of fame;
Alas! the other that it bears
Reminds us of your shame.
Your standard's constellation types
White freedom by its stars;
But what's the meaning of your stripes,—
They mean your negro's scars.”

In reply to this bitter epistle, the Hon. George Lunt, of Massachusetts, wrote:—

“England! whence came each glowing hue
That tints your flag of meteor light,—
The streaming red, the deeper blue,
Crossed with the moonbeams pearly white?
The blood and bruise—the blue and red—
Let Asia's *groaning millions speak*;
The white, it tells of color fled
From *starving Erin's pallid cheek!*”

A fair retort, as true to-day as it was a quarter of a century ago. In acknowledgment of this pungent reply, Mr. Campbell forwarded a splendid copy of his works, with a complimentary letter, to Mr. Lunt.

“The cry that comes across the sea
From your low cabins reaches me.
Like a Banshee's wild, despairing wail,
Brought on the surging northern gale,
Connemara!

“Men stagger as they try to stand
Upon your famine-stricken land,
And women lying down to die,
Bare icy breasts, because their babies cry:
Connemara!”¹

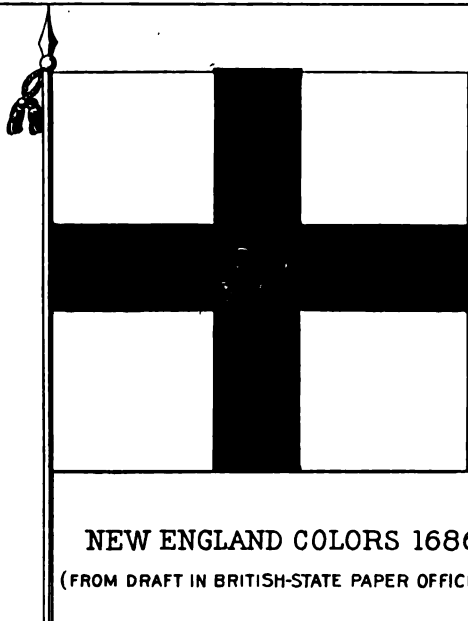
¹ F. C., in Providence Journal, 1880.

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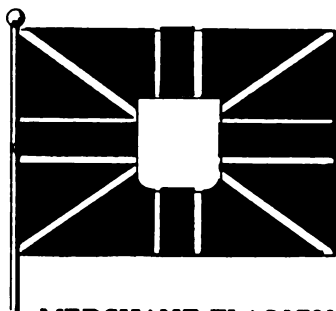
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NEW ENGLAND COLORS 1686 - 1776.



NEW ENGLAND COLORS 1686
(FROM DRAFT IN BRITISH-STATE PAPER OFFICE)



MERCHANT FLAG 1701



NEW ENGLAND FLAG 1737



FLAG OF THE SCHOONER ROYAL SAVAGE
JULY 1776

PART II.

A.D. 860-1777.

**THE EARLY DISCOVERIES OF AMERICA, AND THE FIRST
BANNERS PLANTED ON ITS SHORES,**

A.D. 860-1634.

COLONIAL AND PROVINCIAL FLAGS,

1634-1766.

**FLAGS OF THE PRE-REVOLUTIONARY AND REVOLUTION-
ARY PERIOD, PRECEDING THE STARS AND STRIPES,**

1766-1776.

**THE GRAND UNION OR CONTINENTAL FLAG OF THE
UNITED COLONIES,**

1776-1777.

very pleasant, he concluded to spend the winter there, and formed a settlement, which was called Leifsbudir (Leif's block-house or dwelling). It is, with a degree of probability, supposed this settlement was on the coast of Rhode Island, in Narragansett Bay, perhaps not far from Newport. Leif and his men made several exploring expeditions to the interior. On one of these a German named Tyrker, who had long resided with Leif's father in Iceland and Greenland, lost his way, and was missing. Leif, with some of his men, went in search of him, and had not gone far when they saw him coming out from a wood, holding something in his hands, coming towards them, very much excited, and speaking in German. At last he told them, in Norse, "I found vines and grapes," showing what he held in his hands. Leif, an Icelander and Greenlander, probably had never seen fresh grapes, and asked, "Is that true, my friend?" and then Tyrker said that he well knew they were real grapes, having been born and educated in a country in which there were plenty of vines. The Northmen collected their boat full of grapes, and from this circumstance Leif gave this new southern country the name of *Vinland*. During the winter, Leif observed that the climate of *Vinland* was so mild that cattle could be kept out-doors unsheltered, and that throughout the year the days and nights were much more equal in length than in Greenland. On the shortest day in *Vinland* the sun was above the horizon from 7.30 A.M. to 4.30 P.M. This astronomical observation confirms the generally adopted view that their settlement was in the southern part of New England. Filling their vessel with wood, they returned to Greenland in the spring.¹

Leif's brother, Thorwald, being of opinion the new country had not been explored sufficiently, borrowed Leif's ship, and, aided by his advice and direction, commenced another voyage to this country in 1002. Sailing on the track of his predecessors, he arrived at Leifsbudir, in *Vinland*, and spent the winter in fishing and cutting wood. In the spring he sent out his long-boat to the southward on a voyage of discovery, and she did not return until the fall of the year.

These events took place about the time of the massacre of the Danes in England, and the revengeful invasion of the English coast by

¹ Mr. Williamson, in his article on the Northmen in Maine, contends that the island to the eastward of the main was Monhegan, while the river issuing from lakes, &c., is well represented by the Kennebec, which joins the ocean near that island. De Monts, who visited Acadie in 1607, speaks of grapes in several places, and they were in such plenty on the Isle of Orleans, in lat. 47°, that it was called the Island of Bacchus.

Sweyne, whose sister Gunhilda, with her husband and son, had been put to death in the presence and by command of Edric Streone, one of the Anglo-Saxon chieftains. He ravaged Devonshire, Dorsetshire, and Wiltshire, as also other parts, and burnt several towns, until



Etheldred was glad to purchase a two years' respite at a cost of £36,000, equivalent to the worth of 720,000 acres of land at that time. He was also compelled to feed his invaders.¹

The Danish ships with which Sweyne made his descent upon the English coast in 1004 have been described with minuteness by con-

¹ Southey's Naval History.

temporary chroniclers, and afford us an idea of the vessels in which Leif and his brother Thorwald sailed along the American coast.

"Each vessel," says Sir N. Harris Nicolas,¹ citing contemporaneous chronicles, "had a high deck and bore a distinctive emblem indicating its commander, similar, probably, in object, to the banners of later chieftains. The prows of the ships were ornamented with figures of lions, bulls, dolphins, and of men, made of copper gilt, and at the mastsheads of others were vanes shaped like birds with expanded wings, showing whence the wind blew. Their sides were painted with various colors, and the shields of the soldiers, of polished steel, were placed in rows around the gunwales. Sweyne's own ship was the Great Dragon, built in the form of the animal whose name it bore; its head forming the prow, and its tail the stern. The mysterious Scandinavian standard of white silk, having in its centre a raven, with extended wings and beak open, the supposed insurer of victory, which had been embroidered by three of Sweyne's sisters in one night, amidst charms and magical incantations, was on board his ship, but it was not displayed until he landed in England."

The next year, 1004, Thorwald undertook another voyage, and had a battle with the aborigines, it is conjectured near the harbor of Plymouth. Of course the victory was with the Europeans. After the victory, Thorwald asked his men whether any had been wounded. Upon their denying this, he said, "I am: I have an arrow under my arm which will be my death-blow!" Advising them to depart as soon as possible, he requested them to bury him on a hilly promontory overgrown with wood, which he had previously selected as his abode, saying: "I was a prophet, for now I shall dwell there for ever. There you shall bury me, and plant two crosses, one at my head and one at my feet, and call the place 'Krossaness,'—the cape of the crosses—for all time coming." Thorwald upon this died, and his men did as he had ordered them. Thorwald was the ancestor of Thorwaldsen the sculptor, and in an unpublished poem Edward Everett expressed a hope that the artist would commemorate in undying stone the discoverers to Europe of North America.

"Thorwald shall live for aye
In Thorwaldsen."

But, alas! the sculptor died with the hope unfulfilled.²

Thorwald's men returned to the settlement at Leifsbudir, and spent with them the following winter. But in the spring of 1005,

¹ History of the Royal Navy, vol. 1.

² Boston Daily Advertiser, July 17, 1872.

having collected a cargo of wood, furs, and dried grapes, they sailed to Greenland. The results of Thorwald's expedition were, that he and his men stayed on the coast of New England nearly two years, principally occupied in explorations. They sailed along the south coast of New England towards and perhaps beyond New York. They recognized and described more minutely the important headlands of Cape Cod, and gave it the name of 'Kiarlarness,'—Keel Cape,—because there they experienced bad weather and broke their keel, a piece of which, after repairing their ship, they stuck up on the reef. They intended an expedition along the coast toward the north, which was turned back, near the harbor of Boston, by the death of Thorwald.

The next voyager was Thorstein, Eric's third son, who resolved to proceed to Vinland in his brother's ship, with twenty-five able and strong men, to obtain his brother's body. His wife, Gudrida, a woman of energy and prudence, accompanied him. They got no farther than Greenland, when a sickness broke out. Thorstein and others died, and Gudrida returned with the ship to Eric's fiord on the southern coast of Greenland. In the following summer, 1006, two ships arrived at Eric's fiord from Iceland. Thorfinn, a wealthy and powerful man of illustrious lineage, who commanded one of them, fell in love with Gudrida, the widow of Thorstein, and married her. Thorfinn, urged by his wife and others, resolved to undertake a voyage to the south, and in the summer of 1007 prepared three ships, their united companies amounting in all to one hundred and sixty men, and, with the intention of colonizing in the new and beautiful land, took all kinds of live-stock along. They sailed in the spring of 1008, and were the first European navigators that made a coasting voyage along the coast of Maine, keeping in sight of the land until they came to Cape Cod, which, from its long sandy beaches and downs, they named *Furderstrandr*,—beaches of wonderful length. Their settlement was formed near Leifsbudir, on the other side of the water, at a place which pleased Thorfinn better, and which was called Thorfin's-budir. It stood near a small recess or bay called by them 'hop' or 'corner.' On the low grounds around this hop they found fields of wheat growing wild, and on the rising ground plenty of vines. Here Gudrida, the wife of Thorfinn, gave birth to a son, who received the name of Snorre, who must be considered the first American child born on the continent, of European parents. On a subsequent attempt to explore the coast of Maine, Thorhall, one of Thorfinn's men, was driven over to the coast of Ireland. After a while, discontent

and dissensions broke out among the settlers, and Thorfinn, with his wife Gudrida, and his American son Snorre, then three years of age, left the country together, and with a good southerly wind returned to Greenland. It is probable a party of his men remained behind, and continued the settlement of Vinland. Thorfinn never returned, but afterwards went to Norway, and from thence, in 1014, to Iceland, where he bought an estate, and resided for the remainder of his life with his wife and son. After his death and the marriage of Snorre, his widow Gudrida made a pilgrimage to Rome, where she was received with distinction. Afterwards she returned to her son's estate in Iceland, where Snorre had built a church, and where, after all her adventures, she long lived as a religious recluse.¹

In 1121, the voyage to Vinland of a bishop of Greenland, named Eric, is mentioned in 'Icelandic Annals.' Eric was appointed bishop of Greenland, but performed no duties after his consecration, and eventually resigned that See in order to undertake the mission to Vinland. The fact that such a high ecclesiastical functionary should go to Vinland appears good proof that, since Thorfinn's time, Northmen settlers or traders had tarried there. Of the results of his expedition we have no particular information. After this voyage, we hear no more of Vinland for more than one hundred years, nor of countries southwest of Greenland. Then, in 1285, two Icelandic clergymen, Adalbrand and Thorwald Helgason, visited, on the west of Iceland, "a new land;" and in 1288, Eric, king of Denmark, sent out a ship commanded by Rolfe, to pay a visit to this new land, supposed to have been Newfoundland. In 1290, Rolfe travelled through Iceland, and called out men for a voyage to the new land.

Another hundred years after this event, the 'Icelandic Annals' has the following remarkable though short report: "In the year 1347, a vessel having a crew of seventeen men sailed from Iceland to Markland." From the middle of the fourteenth century down to the discovery of America by Columbus, Cabot, and others, we learn no

¹ The Dighton Rock, six and a half miles from Taunton, Mass., on the east side of Taunton River, a boulder of fine gray rock, twelve feet long and five feet high, has an inscription in the middle (surrounded by rude Indian hieroglyphics of a later date) which is supposed to be the work of the Northmen, and to relate that Thorfinn Karlsefne established himself there with one hundred and fifty-one men. A copy of the inscription was shown to a Mohawk chief, who said it represented a triumph of Indians over a wild beast. Mr. Schoolcraft showed a copy to an Algonquin, who gave a similar interpretation, but the central figures he rejected as having no connection with the rest. That two distinct parties were concerned in making the inscription is clear from the testimony of the Indians. See *Antiquitates Americanae*, pp. 365-371. There has been recently a proposition to remove this rock to Copenhagen.

more of Scandinavian undertakings in this direction. The heroic age of the Northmen, and their power and spirit of enterprise, had long passed by,¹ though there is evidence tending to show that communication was never suspended.

These early voyagers left no traces of their presence on the continent, unless it shall be conceded that the round tower or mill at Newport, about the origin of which history and tradition are alike silent, was built by them: it stood there when the English people first visited Rhode Island, and the Narragansett Indians had no traditions of its origin.² Many have supposed that the skeleton in armor dug up near Fall River was a relic of a Northman killed by the natives in the battle with Karlsefne. Longfellow has immortalized this legend in his verse.

Information of these voyages existed in Europe. But the discovery was chiefly remembered in traditionary tales of the exploits of these vikings; and these new lands were often considered a part of the European continent, connected along the ice-bound regions of the north. When Columbus conceived the grand idea of reaching Asia by sailing westward, no account of these Scandinavian voyages was current in Europe.³

It is certain that the junks and boats of the Asiatic nations driven by storms from the islands and coasts of Asia, drifting along on the kuro-sima, or black current, which skirts the coast of Japan and is lost in Behring's Straits, and which answers in the Pacific to the Gulf Stream of the Atlantic, were thrown upon the Pacific coast of America, and that their shipwrecked crews and passengers found their way into the interior of the continent. It also seems probable that other Asiatics found their way by the Aleutian Isles and Behring's Straits from the projecting capes of Asia to our Pacific shores. Some refer the origin of the Indian tribes of America to the Phœnicians, others perceive evidences of their Egyptian or Hindoo parentage, and others claim they are the lost tribes of Israel "who took counsel to go forth into a far country where never mankind dwelt."

¹ An account of the Scandinavian voyagers is to be found in the Collections of the Maine Historical Society, containing a History of the Discovery of Maine, by J. G. Kohl, published in 1869, which, De Costa says, is a mass of errors, and that he wrote his 'Northmen in Maine' to show we have no evidence that the Northmen visited Maine. He says, "they may have done so, but we do not know it." His American editors are responsible for some of the errors.

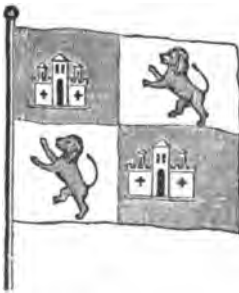
² For an account of the Old Mill, see 'The "Old Mill" at Newport, a New Study of an Old Puzzle,' by R. G. Hatfield, illustrated in Scribner's Monthly, vol. viii, March, 1879, pp. 632-642.

³ Columbus visited Iceland in the spring of 1477, fifteen years before his first voyage. A few years after his voyage to Iceland we find him urging his theory of reaching Asia by sailing to the west.

Within almost every State and Territory, remains of human skill and labor have been found, which seem to attest the existence here of a civilized people before the ancestors of the present Indian tribes became masters of the continent. Some of these appear to give evidence of intercourse between the people of the Old World and those of America centuries, perhaps, before the birth of Christ, and at periods soon afterwards.¹ Remains of fortifications, similar in form to those of ancient European nations, have been discovered,—fire-places of regular structure, weapons and utensils of copper, and walls of forts and cities. There are accounts of a Roman coin found in Missouri; a Persian coin in Ohio; a bit of silver in Genesee, N. Y., with the year of our Lord 600 engraved on it, &c. Near Montevideo, South America, a tomb is said to have been found in which were two ancient swords, a helmet, and shield, with Greek inscriptions showing they were made in the time of Alexander the Great, 330 years before Christ. A few years since, an earthenware vessel containing Roman copper coins, bearing the names of Maximinus, Dioclesian, and Constantine, were dug up near the site of Old Panama on the Isthmus. The interesting question is, how these coins of the third and fourth centuries A.D. came there, though the probable explanation is that they were the collection of a virtuoso who buried them for safety when the city was sacked by the buccaneers.² Recently a stone, said to be covered with Tyrian inscriptions, has been found on the Upper Amazon, which Dom Pedro II. has caused to be deposited in the imperial museum at Rio de Janeiro.

The flags, banners, or standards which these peoples planted upon the shores of America in token of occupancy and sovereignty must ever remain conjectural. Nothing concerning them has come down to us.

Beyond doubt, the first European banners displayed upon the shores of the New World, of which there is any authentic account, were those unfurled by Columbus, when he landed upon the small outlying island of St. Salvador, Oct. 12, 1492, which, fortunately, have been described by his son: "Columbus, dressed in scarlet, first stepped on shore from the little boat which bore him from his vessels, bearing the royal standard of Spain emblazoned with the arms of Castile and Leon [a turretted and embattled castle *or*, on a field *gules* for Castile, quarterly on a field *argent*, a



The Standard of Spain, 1492.

¹ Lossing's History of the United States.

² Panama Echo.

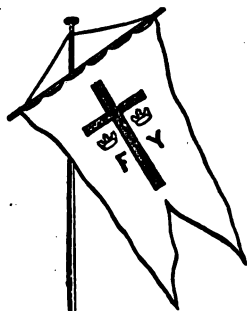
lion rampant *gules* for Leon] in his own hand, followed by the Pinzons in their own boats, each bearing the banner of the expedition; viz., a white flag with a green cross, having on each side the letters F and Y, surmounted by golden crowns."¹



The Caravel in which Columbus discovered America.

From a drawing attributed to him in the *Epistola Christoforo Columbi*.

In 1497, Vespucci, on his first voyage, discovered the mainland at Yucatan. In 1498, Columbus discovered the continent, and planted the Spanish banners at the mouth of the Orinoco, supposing it to be an island on the coast of Asia. He lived and died in ignorance of the real grandeur of his discoveries, while Americus Vespuccius, a Florentine, who explored the eastern coast of South America north of the Orinoco, a year later, 1499, made the first formal announcement to the world of the great discovery, in 1507, and thus gave a name to the new continent of the west.² At the court of England, "there was great talk of the undertaking of Columbus, which was affirmed to be a thing more divine than human, and his fame and report increased in the hearts of some of the king's subjects a great flame of desire to attempt something alike notable." Thus inspired, King Henry VII., of England, March 5, 1496, issued a patent to John Cabot and his three sons, Lewis, Sebastian, and Sancius, to sail early in May, 1497, with five ships, "under the royal banners and ensigns, to all parts, countries, and seas, of the east, of the west, and of the north, and to seek out and discover whatsoever isles, countries, regions, and



Expeditionary Banner of Columbus.

provinces in what part of the world soever they might be, which before this time had been unknown to Christians." The king gave them further license, "to set up the royal banners and ensigns in the countries, places, or mainland newly found by them," and to conquer, occupy, and possess them as his vassals and lieutenants.³

¹ Narrative of Don Fernando; Irving's *Life of Columbus*.

² Vespuccius did not himself give name. See Major, in *Archeologia*, vol. xl., on Map of Leonardo da Vinci. See notes to De Costa's article on the Lenox Globe, *Magazine of American History*, 1879.

³ See patent in Latin in Hakluyt's *Dion's Voyages*. London, 1860. *Fœdera*, xii. 1472.

The patentees having to arm and furnish their vessels, to buy victuals, and to provide all things necessary at their own cost, were not able to avail themselves of the royal permission until more than a year after it was issued, and did not sail from Bristol until May, 1497. It is asserted that the expedition comprised four vessels, but we only know with certainty that the admiral's ship was called the *Matthew*, that she was the first English vessel that touched our American shores, and the only one that returned in safety to Bristol. Relative to the course which the Cabots followed on this voyage, we have no definite information. Formerly it was supposed that they made their landfall near a cape of the island of Newfoundland, but a more careful examination of the known facts has induced Baron Humboldt and recent writers to believe that what they called 'Prima Vista,' June 24, 1497, must be found in Labrador, in 56° or 58° north latitude.

It is stated that they sailed along the coast about three hundred leagues to the south. The short time they were absent from England—about ninety days—renders this doubtful. They could hardly have performed so long a coasting voyage unless in the line of their return route to the northward and eastward.

The *Matthew* arrived at Bristol early in August, for there is an entry in the privy-purse accounts of Henry VII., dated "Aug. 10, 1497," in which the king says, "that he has given a reward of ten pounds to hym that found the new isle;"¹ and Lorenzo Pasqualigo, under date "London, Aug. 23, 1497," announces to his brothers in Venice the return of John Cabot from his voyage of discovery, and that he had found at a distance of seven hundred leagues in the west a firm land, along which he had coasted for the space of three hundred leagues, not having met a living person at the points where he had landed, but still having observed there some traces of inhabitants,—trees notched, and nets for catching game. On his return, he had seen on his right hand two islands, where however he had not wished to go on shore, on account of the failure of his provisions; he had returned to Bristol after a voyage of three months, having left in the lands which he had discovered a grand cross, with the banner of England and that of St. Mark of Venice.

If this be true, then, under King Henry's patent and orders "to set up his royal banners and ensigns in the countries, &c., newly found," it is probable that the English standards and ensigns, with the Venetian banner of St. Mark, were the first ever planted by any European nation upon the shores of North America since those of the Northmen, and

¹ *Excerpta Historica*, p. 113.

that they were set up a year earlier than Columbus raised the castles and lions of Castile and Leon at the mouth of the Orinoco. Indeed Pasqualigo, in the letter already quoted, says, "The discoverer of these places planted on his newfoundland a large cross, with one flag of England and one of St. Mark, by reason of his being a Venetian, so that our banner has floated very far afield."

The Cabots believed they had discovered portions of Asia, and so proclaimed it. But the more extensive discoveries of a second voyage corrected this view, and revealed nothing but a wild and barbarous coast, stretching through 30 degrees of latitude, and forming an impassable barrier to the rich possessions of China which they hoped to reach. Doctor Asher, a German writer, in his work on Hudson, published in London by the Hakluyt Society in 1860, observes, "The displeasure of Cabot involves the scientific discovery of a new world. He was the first to recognize that a new and unknown continent was lying, as one vast barrier, between Western Europe and Eastern Asia."

The voyages of these enterprising mariners along the entire Atlantic coast of the present United States, and along the whole extent of a great continent, in which at this time the English race and language prevail and flourish, has always been considered as the true beginning, the foundation and corner-stone, of all the English claims and possessions in the northern half of America.

English flags were the first which were planted along these shores, and Englishmen were the first of modern Europeans who with their own eyes surveyed the border of that great assemblage of countries in which they were destined to become so prominent; and were also the first to put their feet upon it. The history of each one of the chain of States stretching along the western shores of the Atlantic begins with Sebastian Cabot and his expedition of 1498.¹

On the map of the eastern coast of North America by Juan de la Cosa, in the year 1500, the discoveries of the Cabots are marked by English standards, while the Spanish possessions of Cuba and other West India Islands are similarly marked with Spanish, and the Azores with the Portuguese, standards.

Verrazano saw the coast in 1524, but the expedition commanded by John Rut, in 1527, after Cabot, was the second expedition which sailed along the entire east coast of the United States, as far south as Caro-

¹ M. D'Avezac, in a letter to Dr. Woods, dated "Paris, Dec. 15, 1868," advocates John Cabot's discovery of North America in 1404, and that he kept his discovery secret, to escape the exclusive pretensions of Spain and Portugal, until he had obtained the letters-patent from Henry VII., signed March 5, 1496, and returned from his voyage in August, 1496. See Maine Hist. Coll., vol. 1., new series.

Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds in the name of Queen Elizabeth. They remained a few weeks exploring and trafficking, and returned to England with two Indians, named Manteo and Wanchese. The glowing accounts of the newly discovered country filled Raleigh's heart with joy. The Queen declared the event one of the most glorious of her reign, and in memorial of her unmarried state, she gave the name of 'Virginia' to the enchanting region.

April 19, 1585, Raleigh despatched a fleet of seven vessels under the command of Sir Richard Grenville, with a governor and colonists,



Raleigh's Ship, 1585.

for the purpose of making a permanent settlement of the inviting land. A series of disasters followed, and, induced by misfortunes and fear, the emigrants abandoned their settlement on Roanoke Island, and were all conveyed to England by Sir Francis Drake, June, 1586. Raleigh, undismayed by the result of his first attempt, despatched a band of agriculturists and artisans with their families, April 26, 1587, to found an industrial state in Virginia.

This attempt at colonization, like the others, proved a failure, and a century after the discoveries of Columbus and Cabot there was no European settlement upon the North American continent.

Twelve years after the failure of Raleigh's colonization efforts, Bartholomew Gosnold sailed in a small bark directly across the Atlantic for the American coast, and after a voyage of seven weeks discovered the continent, May 14, 1602, near Penobscot. Sailing southward, he landed upon a sandy point which he called 'Cape Cod,' and afterwards discovered Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and the group of islands known as Elizabeth's Islands, which he named in honor of his sovereign. Upon an islet in a tiny lake he built a fort and storehouse, but, owing to dissensions and the want of supplies, he returned to England in June, and was prosecuted by Raleigh upon his return.

In 1605, Captain George Weymouth entered the Sagadahock, and took formal possession of the country in the name of King James; and the same year De Monts, a wealthy French Huguenot, organized a French settlement at Port Royal (now Annapolis), and called the territory around it 'Acadia.' In 1606, the Plymouth Company obtained their charter, and soon after despatched an agent to examine North Virginia. In 1607, Jamestown was founded, and in 1607, Popham,

with one hundred emigrants, landed at the mouth of the Kennebec, where they erected a stockade, a storehouse, and a few huts. All but forty-five returned to England in the vessels, those who remained named the settlement 'St. George.' A terrible winter ensued. Lacking courage to brave the perils of the wilderness, the emigrants abandoned the settlement, and returned to England in the spring of 1608.¹

From the foregoing it will be seen that every attempt of Englishmen during the reign of Queen Elizabeth to colonize the new world proved abortive, and it was not until the accession of her successor, James I., and union of the kingdoms of England and Scotland, that her flag was permanently planted upon its shores.

COLONIAL AND PROVINCIAL FLAGS.

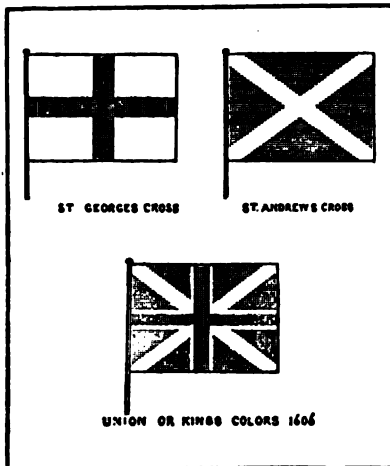
1634-1766

The flags used by the American colonies prior to their separation from the mother country would naturally be those of England, though such does not appear to have been invariably the case. Several flags, differing more or less from the standards and ensigns of that kingdom, seem to have been at times in use.

The ancient national flag of England, the cross of St. George, a white banner with a red cross, was the universal badge of the English soldiery as early as the fourteenth century, and was worn by them over their armor, and blazoned on their shields. Why St. George was constituted the patron saint of England has been and continues to be a puzzle to antiquarians, but "St. George for England," or "Merrie England," was a usual war-cry, and his banner above all others was the national banner of Englishmen. Whatever

¹The English claimed dominion over a belt of territory extending from Cape Fear, in North Carolina, to Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and indefinitely westward. This was divided into two districts. One extended from the vicinity of New York City northward to the present southern boundary of Canada, including the whole of New England, and westward of it, and was called 'North Virginia.' This territory was granted to a company of "knights, gentlemen, and merchants" in the west of England, called the 'Plymouth Company.' The other district extended from the mouth of the Potomac southward to Cape Fear, and was called 'South Virginia.' It was granted to a company of "noblemen, gentlemen, and merchants," chiefly residents of London, called the 'London Company.' The intermediate domain of almost two hundred miles was a dividing line, so broad that disputes about territory could not occur, as neither company was allowed to make settlements more than fifty miles beyond its own boundary.—*Lossing's History of the United States.*

other banners were carried, it was always foremost in the field.¹ Adopted as the national standard and ensign, it continued such until



A.D. 1606, when King James I., by his royal proclamation,² united with it the cross of St. Andrew, a diagonal white cross on a blue ground (which had been the flag and badge of the Scots from the time of the Crusades), as a distinguishing flag, for all his subjects travelling by sea.

This union, in 1606, of the crosses of the two kingdoms, which had been united by the accession of James in 1603, was called the 'king's colors.' They were required to be displayed

from the main-tops of all British vessels,—those of South Britain (England), however, were to carry the St. George's cross, and those of North Britain (Scotland), the St. Andrew's cross, in their fore-tops, to designate which section of the United Kingdom they hailed from; the union flag taking precedence in the main-top and at the after-part of the vessel.³

Rushworth says⁴ that "the union flag, that is, the St. George's and St. Andrew's crosses joined together, was still to be reserved as an ornament proper to the king's own ships, and ships in his immediate service and pay, and none other. English ships were to bear the red cross, Scotch the white."

The first grant of the crown of England under which effectual settlements were made in North America was dated April 10, 1606, the very year the crosses of the two kingdoms were united by royal proclamation. By this charter all the country in America between latitude 34° and 45° north, was called VIRGINIA. Two companies were constituted, one called the 'London Company,' the other the 'Plymouth Company.' To the first named was assigned all that portion of this vast territory lying between the parallels of 34° and 41° north latitude,

¹ Miss Strickland, in her 'Queens of England,' says: "Henry II. married Eleanor of Aquitaine, and through her, the ancestress of the royal line, may be traced armorial bearings and a war-cry whose origin has perplexed the readers of English history. The patron saint of England, St. George, was adopted from the Dukes of Aquitaine, as the Duke of Aquitaine's war-cry was 'St. George for the puissant duke.' His crest was a leopard, and his descendants in England bore leopards on their shields till after the time of Edward I."

² See *ante*.

³ See *ante*, p. 149.

⁴ Rushworth, 1634, vol. II. p. 247.

under the name of 'South Virginia;' to the latter, all lying to the north of 41°, called 'North Virginia.' Such was the vague extent of the old dominion of Virginia.¹

After the execution of Charles I., the new council of states, on the 22d of February, 1648-49, passed a resolution, "that the ships at sea in the service of the states shall bear the red cross in a white flag. That the engraving upon the sterns of the ships shall be the arms of England and Ireland in two escutcheons, as is used in the seals." Soon after we read of vessels sailing under the Long Parliament flag, which bore on a blue field the yellow Irish harp, with the St. George's cross next the staff in a white canton. Under the Protectorate we find a blue flag in use, bearing in the field the two shields of England and Ireland; viz., *argent*, a cross *gules* and *azure*,



Long Parliament Flag.

a harp *or*. These were joined together in a horseshoe shape, and surrounded by a white label of three folds, the motto in black letters, "*Floreat Res. Publica*," and outside, two golden branches of laurel, leaved green. A flag of this period, preserved as late as 1803 in one of the storehouses of Chatham Dockyard, bore the same shields slightly separated on a red field, and surrounded by branches of palm and laurel.²

On the fleet which restored Charles II. to the throne of his father, the royal cipher took the place of the state's arms, and the harp was removed from the Long Parliament flag, which they also bore, as having been instrumental in the restoration of that body during the previous year. Soon after this, under James, Duke of York, who had been appointed the lord high admiral of England, Ireland, Wales, and of the dominions of New England, Jamaica, and Virginia, in America, we find the flags of the navy to have been the royal standard; the lord high admiral's flag, then, as now, a foul anchor *or*, on a red field; the union jack or flag; and the English red ensign, cantoned with the St. George's cross on a white field.

During the civil war, the colors and ensigns were principally red for the royalist, orange for the parliamentarians, and blue for the Scotch,—and all cantoned with a red St. George's cross on a white field.

The complete union of the kingdoms was not accomplished until 1707, a hundred years after this union of crosses in the king's colors,

¹ See note, *ante*, p. 175.

² See p. 17. Ensigns, standards, &c., at the funeral of Cromwell.

when under Queen Anne, the kingdom of Great Britain, including England, Wales, and Scotland, was established by treaty, and the first union parliament assembled.

The act of Parliament which ratified this union of the kingdoms, Jan. 16, 1707, ordained "that the ensigns armorial of our kingdom of Great Britain" shall be "the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew conjoined (the same as heretofore described as the king's colors), to be used on all flags, banners, standards, and ensigns both at sea and land," "and the ensigns described in the margent hereof (the crosses or king's colors conjoined in the upper corner of a crimson banner, since known as the 'meteor flag of England'), to be worn on board all ships or vessels belonging to any of our subjects whatsoever." These flags were familiarly known as union flags, from their typifying the union of England and Scotland, and were commonly used by the American colonies in connection with other devices, until their rupture with the mother country. Thus early the idea of a union flag became familiar to them.

As the king's colors had been authoritatively prescribed for subjects travelling by sea only, it is probable the St. George's cross continued to be very generally used by the English subjects of Great Britain on land until the act of 1707, for the Parliament of the Commonwealth under Cromwell adopted the old standard.

Ireland was conquered in 1691, but was not incorporated into the kingdom until Jan. 1, 1801, long after our revolution, and then the cross of St. Patrick, a red diagonal saltire, was fimbriated on the white cross of St. Andrew and conjoined to the other two, and thus and then the union jack of the United Kingdom assumed its present form. The present ensign of Great Britain was never worn by any of the American colonies.¹

The garrison flag of Great Britain is the union jack or flag prescribed Jan. 1, 1801.

One of the British flags surrendered at Yorktown, and presented to Washington by Congress, was the same as the king's colors, established by James I., excepting that in the centre of the cross there is a white square with a crown above the garter. The garter is inscribed with the usual motto, "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*," and encloses a full-blown rose. This flag is now in the museum at Alexandria, Va. It

¹The proclamation declaring what ensigns, colors, &c., are to be borne by the subjects of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland may be found in full in the British Naval Chronicle, vol. v. 1801.

is made of heavy twilled silk, and is six feet long and five feet four inches wide.¹

The red cross of St. George was, without doubt, hoisted over the *Mayflower* when she disembarked our Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth in 1620, as it was the common sea-ensign of English ships of that period. Belonging to South Britain, she may also have displayed the king's colors from her main-top, and a St. George's cross at the fore, as required by the king's proclamation of 1606.

We learn from the records of Massachusetts that the red cross of St. George was in use in that colony in 1634, if not earlier.

In November of that year, complaint was entered "that the ensigns at Salem had been defaced by Mr. Endicott's cutting out one part of the red cross. Roger Williams is accused of having agitated the matter, and therefore accountable for the trouble it occasioned. The case was examined as a high-handed proceeding which might be construed into one of rebellion to England, on the complaint of Mr. Richard Browne, ruling elder of the church at Watertown, and others, before the Court of Assistants. The court issued an attachment against Ensign Richard Davenport, then the ensign-bearer at Salem, whose colors had been mutilated, to appear at the next court, which was not held until a year after his flag was so mutilated. It was then shown that the mutilation complained of was done, not from disloyalty to the flag, but from an entire conscientious conviction that it was idolatrous to allow it to remain, and that having been given to the King of England by the Pope, it was a relic of anti-Christ. Endicott was judged to be guilty of a great offence, inasmuch as he had 'with rash indiscretion, and by his sole authority, committed an act giving occasion to the court of England to think ill of them,' for which he was deemed worthy of admonition, and should be disabled from bearing any public office for one year."²

The provincial authorities were, however, doubtful of the lawful use of a cross in the ensign, and, had there been no fear of a royal governor, little would have been heard about this mutilation of the colors at Salem; for, December 19, all the ministers except Mr. Ward of Ipswich, were assembled at Boston, by request of the governor, to consider, among other things, "whether it was lawful to carry a cross in the banners." The opinion of the meeting on that subject being divided, the matter was deferred to another meeting, in March, at which Mr. Endicott was called upon to answer. This meeting was able to agree no better than the previous one; and the record continues, "Because

¹ Lossing has an engraving of it in his *Field-Book of the American Revolution*.

² *Massachusetts Records*.

the court could not agree about the thing, whether the ensigns should be laid by in that regard that many refused to follow them, the whole case was referred to the next general court, and the commissioners for military affairs gave orders in the mean time that all ensigns should be laid aside."

In the interim, a new flag, having for an emblem the red and white roses in place of the cross, was proposed, and letters in relation to the matter were written to England, for the purpose of obtaining "the judgment of the most wise and godly there." This project seems not to have met the approval of the wise and godly in England, for in December, 1635, it is recorded that the military commissioners "appointed colors for every company," leaving out the cross in all of them, and appointing that the king's arms should be put into them and in the colors of Castle Island, Boston.

All ships, in passing the fort at Castle Island, were bound to observe certain regulations; but after these occurrences, the fort, wearing for a time no flag to signify its real character, presented the appearance of a captured or deserted fortress.

Under these circumstances, in the spring of 1636, the ship *St. Patrick*, Captain Palmer, was brought to by Lieutenant Morris, the officer in command of the fort, and made to strike her colors. Captain Palmer complained to the authorities of the conduct of the commander of the fort as a flagrant insult both to his flag and country. They therefore ordered the commander of the fort before them, and in the presence of the master of the ship informed him that he had no authority to do as he had done; and he was ordered to make such atonement as Captain Palmer should demand. The captain was very lenient, only requiring an acknowledgment from the lieutenant of his error on board his ship, "that so all the ship's company might receive satisfaction." This Lieutenant Morris submitted to, and all parties became quieted; but within a few days another circumstance occurred respecting the fort, with a different result. The mate of a ship, called the *Hector*, pronounced all the people traitors and rebels, because they had discarded the king's colors, and was brought before the court and made to acknowledge his offence, and sign a paper to that effect.

These occurrences troubled the authorities lest reports should be carried to England that they had rebelled,¹ and that their contempt of the English flag was proof of the allegation. To counteract such representations, Mr. Vane, the governor, called together the captains

¹ A seafaring man, approaching in his ship, having noticed that the flag displayed was destitute of a cross, "spoke to some one on board the ship that we had not the king's colors, but were all traitors and rebels."—*Smith's Hist. Newburyport.*

of the ten ships then remaining in harbor, and desired to know if they were offended at what had happened, and, if so, what they required in satisfaction. They frankly told him that if questioned on their return to England "what colors they saw here," a statement of the bare facts in relation to it might result to their disadvantage. Therefore they would recommend that the king's colors might be set up in the fort. The governor and his advisers arrived at the same conclusion, and directed to give warrant to spread the king's colors at Castle Island, when ships passed by.

There being no king's colors to be found to display at the fort, the difficulty was met by two of the shipmasters offering to present a set; but so fearful were the authorities of tolerating a symbol of idolatry, they declined receiving the colors thus offered until they had taken the advice of Mr. Cotton in regard to them. It was finally concluded that, although they were of the decided opinion that the cross in the ensign was idolatrous, and therefore ought not to be had in it, nevertheless, as the fort was the king's, and maintained in his name, his colors might be used there. In accordance with this opinion, the governor accepted the colors of Captain Palmer, sending him, in requital, three beaver-skins, and directed Mr. Dudley to give warrant to Lieutenant Morris, the commander of the fort, to spread the king's colors whenever ships were passing.¹

This tempest in a tea-pot having been satisfactorily adjusted, the king's colors were continued at the castle, but were excluded from use elsewhere in the colony, through the religious prejudices of the people, and the flag bearing the king's arms continued in use until the establishment of the Commonwealth.

In 1638, the subject of forming a confederacy of the New England colonies was discussed; but, owing to divers differences, the matter was delayed.

Twenty-three years after the planting of Plymouth, in 1643, the colonies of Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Connecticut were united in a league called "THE UNITED COLONIES OF NEW ENGLAND." The declared object was defence against the French, Dutch, and Swedes, and in all relations with foreigners the confederation acted, each colony managing its domestic affairs. This was the first union on this continent. The union was declared to be perpetual, and the will of six of the eight commissioners chosen (two for each colony) was to be binding on all. We do not, however, learn that any common flag was adopted until several years later (1686), when Governor Andros received one from the king. In 1645, the people of Massachusetts,

¹ See Winthrop's Journal, vol. i. pp. 141, 154, 156; vol. ii. p. 344.

through its legislature, demanded that a negro brought from Africa should be surrendered and sent to his native country.

In 1651, the English Parliament revived and adopted the old standard of the cross of St. George as the colors of England, and the General Court of Massachusetts *ordered*, "as the Court conceive the old English colors now used by the Parliament to be a necessary badge of distinction betwixt the English and other nations in all places of the world, till the state of England alter the same, which we very much desire, we, being of the same nation, have therefore ordered that the captain of the Castle shall advance the aforesaid colors of England upon all necessary occasions."



Standard of the Three County Troop, 1659.

In the 'New England Historical and Genealogical Register' for 1871 there is an interesting account of a local company of cavalry raised in 1659, just before the restoration of Charles II., by the counties of Essex, Suffolk, Middlesex, Mass., and hence called '*The Three County Troop*,' which, according to the records, continued in existence until 1677, and

possibly longer. The annexed drawing of its standard, and bill of its cost, is from an entry in a herald painter's book of the time of Charles I., preserved in the British Museum.

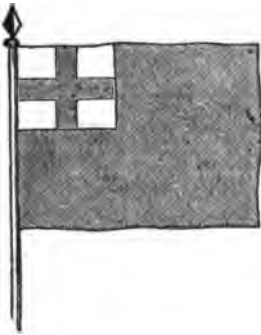
Worke don for New England

For painting in oyle on both sides a Cornett one rich crimson damask, with a hand and sword, and invelloped with a scarf about the arms of gold, black and sillver	[£2. 0. 6]
For a plaine cornett Staffe, with belte, boote and swible at first penny	1. 0. 0
For silke of crimson and sillver fring and for a Cornett String	1.11. 0
For crimson damask	11. 0
	£5. 2. 6

(NOTE.—The first item, '£2. 0. 6,' is not given, but is deduced from the adding. The term 'at first penny' may be the same as 'at first cost.')

The existence of this troop is clearly shown by the Massachusetts records of 1659-77, and there can be no doubt the drawing represents its standards. We may imagine it ordered from England before King Philip's war, and that under its folds the best soldiers of the three counties took part in the contest. Two copies from the drawing agree in representing the inscription on the flag as "*thre county trom,*" which is supposed to be a mistake, and that the flag really bore the words "Three County Troop," the name of the company for which it was ordered.

The Hon. Nathaniel Saltonstall, "late of Haverhill," one of the council for the colonies, on the 31st of May, 1684, wrote to Captain Thomas Noyes, of Newbury, Mass., concerning the colors of a company of foot commanded by the latter, as follows:—



Colors of Captain Noyes's Company, 1684.

"In y^e Major General's letter, I have ordered also to require you, which I herein do, with all convenient speed, to provide a flight of colors for your foot company, ye ground field or flight (fly) whereof is to be *green*, with a red cross with a white field in y^e angle, *according to the antient customs of our own English nation, and the English plantations in America, and our own praotise in our ships and other vessels.* The number of bullets to be put into your colors

for distinction may be left out at present without damage in the making of them.

"So faile not,

"Your friend and servant,

"N. SALTONSTALL."¹

The flag of New England, in 1686, under the administration of Sir Edmund Andros, as appears by a drawing of it in the British State Paper Office, was the cross of St. George, the king's colors of the time, borne on a white field occupying the whole flag, the centre of the cross emblazoned with a yellow or gilt crown over the cipher of the sovereign, King James I.

The early colonial documents of New York have several mentions of flags in use in that colony in the latter half of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Augustin Herman, Sept. 10, 1650, brought with him from Holland a flag for the burgher's corps of New Amsterdam; but Stuyvesant,

¹ Coffin's History of Newbury, credited to Robert Adams's Manuscript.

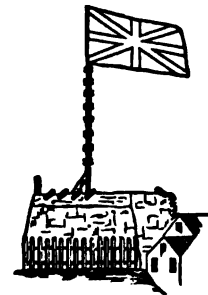
who, he wrote, was doing as he pleased, "would not allow it to be carried."

The patroon and his codirectors of the "colonie of Rensselaerswyck" complained, Jan. 17, 1653, that "*their* flag had been hauled down in opposition to the will and protest of their officers." What that obnoxious flag was we have now no means of ascertaining; but the directors of the chamber of Amsterdam reply, "they are ignorant where the flag was down."

An English flag was displayed with considerable bravado, Jan. 11, 1664, by one John Schott, in sight of the astonished burghers of New Amsterdam. "Captain John Schott," says the record, "came to the ferry in the town of Breucklin [Brooklyn] with a troop of Englishmen mounted on horseback, with great noise, marching with sounding trumpets," &c., and hoisted the English flag; and, as soon as John Schott arrived, they uncovered their heads and spoke in English. Secretary Van Ruyven asked the captain to cross over, to which John Schott answered, "No! Let Stuyvesant come over with a hundred soldiers. I shall wait for him here."

In September of that year the red cross of St. George floated in triumph over the fort, and the name of 'New Amsterdam' was changed to 'New York.' Early in October, 1664, New Netherland was acknowledged a part of the British realm, and Colonel Richard Nicolls, its conqueror, became governor.

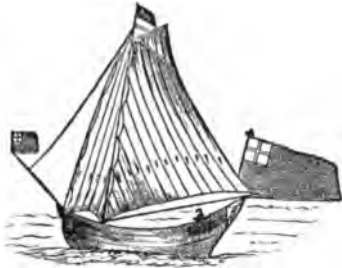
The journal of a voyage to New York in 1679-80, by Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter, translated from the original Dutch manuscript and published by the Long Island Historical Society in 1867, has several fac-simile engravings from the original drawings. One of these, a curious picture of New York in 1679, has the union flag or king's colors flying over the fort, and another, a view of New York from the north, has a rude drawing of a sloop sailing along with flags at the masthead, bowsprit end, and stern, all bearing the St. George cross in a white canton.



The King's Colors on the Fort at New York in 1679.

The same writers, under date Boston, Thursday, July 23, 1680, give us a precise description of the flag then in use in that colony, by which it seems those colonists' objection to the cross as an idolatrous symbol, nearly half a century earlier, still existed. Our voyagers say: "New England is now described as extending from the Fresh [Connecticut] River to Cape Cod and thence to Kennebec, comprising three provinces or

colonies,—Fresh River, or Connecticut, Rhode Island and the other islands to Cape Cod, and *Boston*, which stretches from thence north.



St. George's Cross, 1679.

They are subject to no one, but acknowledge the king of England for their *honer* [probably *heer*, that is, lord, is intended], and therefore no ships enter unless they have English passports or commissions. . . .

Each province chooses its own governor from the magistracy, and the magistrates are chosen from the principal inhabitants, merchants, or planters. They are all *Independent* in matters of religion, if it can be called religion; many of them perhaps more for the purpose of enjoying the benefit of its privileges than for any regard to truth and godliness. I observed that while the English flag or color has a red ground with a small white field in the uppermost corner where there is a red cross, they have dispensed with this cross in their color, and preserved the rest." The diary gives a poor and perhaps prejudiced account of the morality of the community, which it would be out of place to copy here.

Each province chooses its own governor from the magistracy, and the magistrates are chosen from the principal inhabitants, merchants, or

Messrs. Brooke and Nicoll, Nov. 13, 1696, in a paper addressed to his Majesty's Commissions for Trade and Plantations, relating to the requisites for the defence of New York, ask to be furnished with "six large union flags, for his ma^{tyes} several forts" in that colony; and, Feb. 1, 1696-97, the lords of trade write Governor Fletcher, his Majesty has ordered, with other stores that had been asked for, "six union flags, which we doubt not the agents will accordingly take care to see shipt."

It was soon seen that a special flag to designate the merchant ships of the colonies, and to distinguish them from the king's ships, was desirable; accordingly we find, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, the following report issuing from the Admiralty office, with a drawing of the flag:—

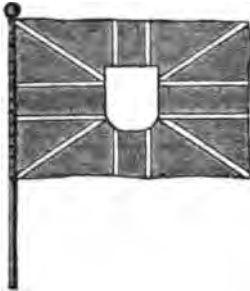
"ADMIRALTY OFFICE, July 29, 1701.

"COUNCIL CHAMBER, WHITEHALL, 31 July, 1701.

"*Their Excellencies the Lords Justices in Council.*

"Report of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty:—Merchant ships to wear no other Jack than that hereafter mentioned, viz. that worn by his Majesty's ships, with the distinction of a white escutcheon in the middle

thereof, and that said mark of distinction may extend itself to one-half the depth of the Jack, and one-third part of the fly thereof, according to the sample [drawing] hereunto annexed.



Flag ordered for the Merchant Service in 1701.

(Signed)

“ PEMBROKE.
HAVERSHAM.
D. MITCHELL.

“ The Lords Justices in Council order that the Governours of his Majesty’s Plantations do oblige the Commanders of such merchant ships to which they grant Commissions to wear no other Jack than according to what is proposed by said report: And the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations are to write to the Governours of his Majesty’s Plantations, signifying to them respectively their Excellencies’ pleasure herein, with notice that they have been further pleased to order the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to give necessary directions on their part obliging the said ships to comply with their Excellencies’ pleasure in this matter.

“ JOHN POVEY.

“ A true copy: W. POPPLE.”¹

This flag was undoubtedly worn by the American colonial vessels for many years, though we have no more than official mention of it, and it is never depicted in the engravings of the time. All the pictures of New England flags from 1700 to 1750 show a red or blue ensign cantoned white, with a red St. George’s cross, and having a tree or globe in upper corner of the canton.

Lieutenant-Governor John Nanfan writes from New York, Dec. 29, 1701, to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations: “ Since my last to your Lordships of the 20th October, by Mr. Penn, I have the honor of your Lordships’ letter of the 14th August, with their Excellencies the Lords Justices’ order on the reading the report from the lords of the admiralty relating to a flag of distinction from his Majesty’s ships of war to be worn by all ships that shall be commissioned by the governors of his Majesty’s Plantations, which I shall punctually observe.” J. Burchett writes to Mr. Popple from the admiralty office, April 19, 1708, that the Lords, &c., instruct Lord Lovelace, the governor of New York, “ they have no objections to certain colors proposed for privateers.”

Among the instructions furnished to Robert Hunter, governor of New York, dated Dec. 29, 1709, is the following: “Whereas great

¹The originals of these papers are in the records at the Massachusetts State House, Boston, vol. lxxi., Maritime Affairs, p. 390.

inconveniences do happen by merchant ships and other vessels in the plantations wearing colors borne by our ships of war, under pretence of commissions granted to them by the governors of the said plantations, and that by trading under those colors not only amongst our own subjects but also those of other princes and states, and committing divers irregularities, they do very much dishonor our service, for prevention whereof you are to oblige the commanders of all such ships to which you shall grant commission to wear no other jack than according to the sample here described; that is to say, such as is worn by our ships of war, with the distinction of a white escutcheon in the middle thereof, and that the said mark of distinction may extend itself one-half of the depth of the jack, and one-third of the fly thereof."¹ A similar order was included in the instructions of Francis Nichols, the first royal governor of South Carolina, in 1720, and was undoubtedly forwarded to the governors of the other colonies.

The Lords of Trade to the Duke of Newcastle, under date Aug. 20, 1741, forwarded instructions to the Hon. George Clinton, governor of New York, one of which orders colonial [war] vessels "to wear the same ensign as merchant ships, and a red jack,² with the union jack in a canton at the upper corner next the staff."

Governor Clinton wrote the Duke of Bedford from New York, June 17, 1750, that the Greyhound man-of-war had fired on a vessel with an intention of bringing her to, "she having a Birdgee flag hoisted;" a shot struck a young woman, Elizabeth Stibben by name, in the vessel, so that she expired a few hours afterward. The vessel belonged to "Colonel Richetts, of the Jerseys, a hot-headed, rash young man, who declared before he put off from the wharf he would wear that pendant in defiance of the man-of-war." This affair caused no little excitement, and was the occasion of considerable correspondence between the governor, the commander of the Greyhound, and the magistrates, &c.

The cross of St. George, from its establishment, in 1651, by the Commonwealth of England, continued in general use in the American colonies with occasional variations throughout the seventeenth century, and until the union flag of James I., devised for his English and Scotch subjects in 1606, was prescribed by act of Parliament for general use throughout the British dominions in 1707.³

¹ Instructions to Governor Hunter, *New York Colonial History*, vol. v., p. 137.

² See *Account of Landing of British Troops at Boston*, 1768.

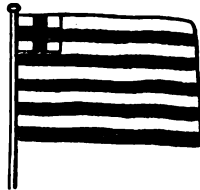
³ The proverb, "Those that live in glass houses should not throw stones," is said to have originated at the union of England and Scotland in 1606. Great numbers of

A crimson flag, the jack of which was a red St. George cross on a white field, was the ensign most generally in use in New England. Sometimes a tree, at other times a hemisphere, was represented in the upper canton next the staff formed by the cross, and occasionally the fly or field of the flag was blue.

In a little book, something of the character of the Gotha Almanac, entitled 'The Present State of the Universe,' by John Beaumont, Jr., printed at London by Benjamin Motte, 1704, there is a picture of a New England ensign, with a tree, like the one above described. Another book, entitled 'A General Treatise of the Dominion and Laws of the Sea,' &c., by Alexander Justice, Gent., printed at London for S. & J. Sprint and J. Nicholson & Rd. Smith, 1705, has a folding plate of national flags, among which there is a New England ensign of the same character, a tracing of which is annexed. This plate calls the



English Ensign.



East India Company.



Scotch Ensign.



Scotch Union Flag.



Irish Ensign.



New England Ensign.

From a Plate of National Flags in the 'Dominion of the Sea,' 1705.

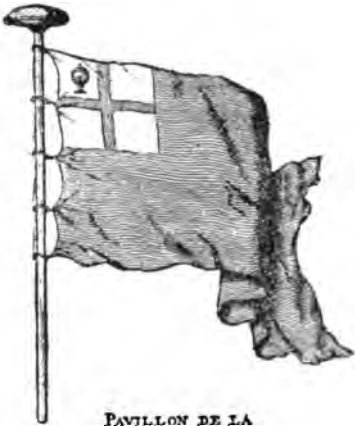
English red ensign 'the Budge flag,' the meaning of which is not obvious; perhaps a burgee flag.

Another work, published in 1701, has a representation of this New England ensign; and in yet another work there is a representation of

Scotsmen flocked to London. Buckingham hated the Scotch bitterly, and encouraged marauders to break the windows occupied by them. Some of the sufferers retaliated by breaking the windows of the Duke's house, which had so many, it was called 'the glass house.' The Duke of Buckingham complained to the king, and the monarch replied, "Ah, Steenie! Steenie! those wha live in glass housen should be carefu' how they fling stanes!"

the flag of the New England colonies, having a dark blue field, with a red St. George cross on a white canton, while in the place of the tree a half globe is represented. Lossing, in his 'Field-Book of the American Revolution,' gives a picture of a New England flag, with the tree, copied from an old Dutch work representing the flags of all nations, which is preserved in the library of the New York Historical Society.

I have a French work on flags, published in à La Haye, 1737, which describes a *Pavillon de Nouvelle Angleterre en Amerique*, "as



PAVILLON DE LA
NOUVELLE ANGLETERRE en AMERIQUE
1737.

azure, on a canton argent, quartered with the red cross of St. George, having a globe in the first quarter," in allusion to America, commonly called the 'New World.' The illustration is a fac-simile, reduced in size, of one in this book.¹

The earliest notice of a New England flag emblematic of the union of more than one colony I have found is that of 1686, heretofore described.²

The departure from the authorized English flag, and assuming standards of their own, evinces a feeling of independence among the colonies, while

the absence of a desire for separation is evident in the allegiance implied by representing on them the colors of England, or, when from tenderness of conscience they were left out, the substitution of the arms of the king.

A green tree was the favorite emblem of Massachusetts, and appeared on the coins of that colony as early as 1652.

By an order of the General Court in that year, a mint was established, and it was ordered that all pieces of money should have a double ring, with this inscription, "Massachusetts," and a tree in the centre on one side, and "New England" and the year of our Lord on the other. This was strictly adhered to by the mint-master, and for thirty years all the coins now known as pine-tree shillings, six-pences, &c., bore the date 1652. The rudeness of the impressions on these early coins may render it uncertain whether a pine-tree was

¹ La Connoissance des Pavillons ou Bannières que la plupart des Nations arborent en Mer, &c. A La Haye, chez Jaques Van den Kleboom. 1737.

² See *ante*, p. 183.

intended to be represented, or some other tree, though at length it received the name of one of the commonest tribes of trees in New England. Mr. Drake, in his 'History of Boston,' says, the tree on the New England flag, of which he gives an illustration, "no more resembles a pine-tree than a cabbage." The following story confirms the idea that a pine-tree may not have been the original design:—

When Charles II. learned the colonies' assumption of one of his prerogatives to coin money, he was very angry; his wrath was, however, appeased by Sir Charles Temple, a friend of the colony, who told him they thought it no crime to coin money for their own use; and, taking some of the money from his pocket, handed it to the king, who asked him what tree that was upon it. "That," replied Sir Charles, "is the royal oak which preserved your Majesty's life." His remark put the king in a good humor, and he heard what Sir Charles had to say in their favor, calling them "a parcel of honest dogs."¹

This New England flag was undoubtedly the earliest symbol of a union of the colonies, and it probably went out of use after the adoption of the union flag of King James, by the act of Parliament in 1707, for all the subjects of the British realm. That flag, with the addition of a white shield at the union of the crosses, was ordered (see *ante*), in 1701, to be worn by all merchant vessels commissioned by the colonial authorities of New England and New York, and, in 1720, by the merchant vessels of South Carolina; and the order was doubtless extended to all the American colonies.

On Will Burgess's map of Boston, engraved in 1728, there are pictured four ships at anchor and a sloop under sail, all wearing ensigns bearing the union jack of King James on a staff at the stern. One of the ships is dressed with flags, and firing a salute; another flies a long coach-whip pennant at her main.

Sir William Pepperrell, commander of the expedition against Louisbourg, in 1745, furnished the motto for the expeditionary flag; viz., "*Nil desperandum, Christo duce*,"—"Never despair, Christ leads us,"—which gave the enterprise the air of a crusade. Among those engaged against Louisbourg was William Vaughan, a graduate of Harvard University, holding the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel. He conducted the first column through the woods, within sight of the city, and saluted it with three cheers. He headed a detachment consisting chiefly of New Hampshire troops, and marched to the northeast

¹ Curwin's Journal. Valentine's New York Manual, 1863, contains an account of the flags which have waved over New York City, from a memoir prepared by Doct. A. K. Gardner, for the New York Historical Society.

part of the harbor in the night, where they burned the warehouses containing the naval stores, and staved a large quantity of wine and brandy.

The smoke of this fire, being driven by the wind into the grand battery, so terrified the French that they abandoned it, and retired to the city, having spiked the guns and cut the halyards of the flag-staff. The next morning, May 2, 1745, as Vaughan was returning with thirteen men only, he crept up the hill which overlooked the battery, and observed that the chimneys of the barrack were without smoke and the staff without a flag. With a bottle of brandy which he had in his pocket he hired one of his party, an Indian, to crawl in at an embrasure and open the gate. He then wrote to the general: "May it please your honor to be informed that, by the grace of God and the courage of thirteen men, I entered the royal battery about nine o'clock, and am awaiting for a reinforcement and a flag." Before either could arrive, one of the men climbed up the staff with a red coat in his teeth, which he fastened by a nail to the top. This piece of triumphant vanity alarmed the city, and immediately an hundred men were despatched in boats to retake the battery. But Vaughan, with his small party on the naked bank and in the face of a smart fire from the city and the boats, kept them from landing till reinforcements arrived.¹

The name of the man who hoisted this impromptu flag with such rash daring is given in an obituary notice containing the following exaggerated version of his feat, printed in the 'Boston Gazette' of June 3, 1771: "Medford, May 25, 1771. This day died here Mr. William Tufts, Jr., aged about 44 years. . . . When about 18 years of age he enlisted a volunteer into the service of his king and country in the expedition against Cape Britain [Breton], under the command of Lieut.-General Pepperrell, in the year 1745, where he signalized his courage in a remarkable manner at the Island Battery, when an unsuccessful attempt was made by a detachment from the army to take it by storm. He got into the battery, notwithstanding the heavy fire of the French artillery and small arms, climbed up the flag-staff, struck the French colors, pulled off his red great-coat, and hoisted it on the staff as English colors, all which time there was a continued fire at him from the small arms of the French, and got down untouched, tho' many bullets went thro' his trowsers and clothes."²

¹ Belknap's History of New Hampshire.

² J. L. Sibley, New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 1871.

Governor Thomas Pownall, in his *Journal of 'A Voyage from Boston to Penobscot River,'* May, 1759, mentions calling the Indians together and giving them a union flag, probably the union jack with a red field or flag, for their protection and passport. He also furnished them with a red and also a white flag, as emblems of war and amity. Afterwards, he mentions hoisting the king's colors on a flag-staff at Fort Point, with the usual ceremonies, and saluting them.¹

On the 21st of August, 1760, an engagement took place between the English under Lord Amherst and the French forces under Pouchet, which resulted in the capture of Fort Levis on the St. Lawrence, a little below the present city of Ogdensburg, N. Y. During this engagement the English vessel Seneca, of 22 guns and 350 men, grounded, and was compelled to strike her flag. There were two other vessels—the Ontaonaise and Oneida—on the English side. "One thing," says Pouchet, "which amused the garrison at the most serious moments of the battle was that the Indians, who were perched upon the trenches and batteries, to watch the contest with the vessels, which they regarded on their side on account of the names that had been given them, made furious cries at seeing them so maltreated, because they carried an Indian painted upon their flags."²

FLAGS OF THE PRE-REVOLUTIONARY AND REVOLUTIONARY PERIODS.

1766-1777.

In contemporary newspapers for ten years preceding the commencement of our revolutionary struggle, liberty poles, trees, and flags of various devices are frequently mentioned.

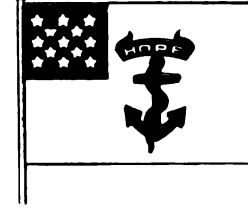
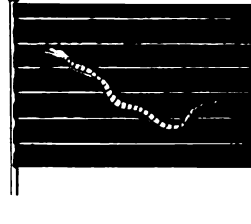
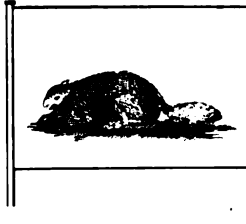
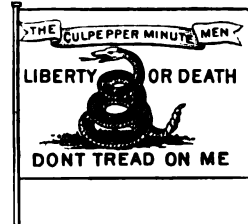
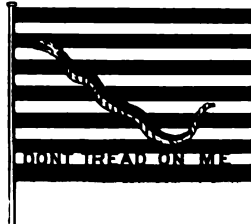
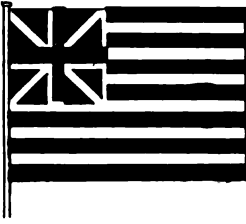
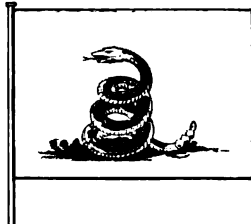
On the 9th of January, 1766, the people of Portsmouth, N. H., demanded from Governor Meserve, agent for the distribution of stamps in New Hampshire, his commission and instructions, and, notwithstanding his resignation, required him to take oath that he would not directly or indirectly attempt to execute the office. They afterwards marched through the streets, carrying the commission in triumph on the point of a sword, and bearing aloft a flag on which was inscribed "LIBERTY, PROPERTY AND NO STAMPS;" and, to perpetuate the memorable event, they erected this standard at Swing Bridge, which thenceforth was called 'Liberty Bridge.'

¹ *Maine Historical Collections*, vol. v.

² *L. B. Hough's Trans. Pouchet's Memoirs*, vol. II. p. 32.



FLAGS OF 1775 - 77



When the Stamp Act reached Boston, intense excitement ensued, and it was denounced as a violation of the British Constitution, and as destructive of the first principles of liberty; a coffin was prepared, inscribed "Liberty, born at Plymouth, in 1620; died, 1765, aged 145 years;" an oration was delivered at the grave, a long procession having followed, with minute guns firing; but, just as the oration was concluded, the figure of Liberty showed symptoms of returning life, whereupon "Liberty revived" was substituted on the coffin, amid the joyful ringing of bells.

The obnoxious Stamp Act was passed March 22, 1765, but did not go into effect until November. It was such a source of disaffection, rebellious utterances and acts, that it was repealed the 18th of March, 1766, after having been in operation only four months. When the glad tidings reached America, the colonists saw in its repeal a promise of justice for the future, and went into frenzies of rapture. They had celebrations and bonfires, and were ready to purchase all the goods England had to sell. At New York, they put up a liberty pole in The Fields, with a splendid flag, inscribed "*The King, Pitt, and Liberty.*" They ordered a statue of Pitt, who had insisted on the repeal, for Wall Street, and another for George III., for the Bowling Green.

The repeal of the obnoxious act was soon found to be only a snare of their rulers, under cover of which advantage was taken of their grateful mood to wring concessions. Citizens were seized by the British men-of-war in the harbor, and pressed to serve in the crews. Fresh taxes were levied. The soldiers openly insulted the people, and in a few weeks cut down their liberty pole. The angry but patient people raised a new pole, still with the loyal motto. The next spring the soldiers cut it down again. Next day came the Sons of Liberty, a society grown up with the peril of the times, composed of brave, loyal, and intelligent men, and set down a new pole sheathed with iron around its base,—still with the old loyal motto: "To his most gracious Majesty George III., Mr. Pitt, and liberty." For almost three years this staunch liberty pole stood, though the soldiers attacked it once or twice. Finally, one January day in 1770, a squad of red-coats mustered at its base, and the gallant pole came down. The Liberty Boys were ready with another pole, but the timid corporation forbade them to raise it on public ground. So the Liberty Boys bought a strip of private ground close by the old stand, eleven feet wide and a hundred feet deep; and from the ship-yard, where it had been formed, they escorted their new mast, six horses, gay with ribbons,

drawing it, a full band going before, and three flags flying free, inscribed "*Liberty and Property.*"¹ They took the mast to the field, and dug a hole twelve feet deep, in which they stepped the liberty pole, after girding it with iron two-thirds of its length from the ground, defying the red-coats to cut it down. On it they shipped a topmast twenty-two feet long, on which was inscribed the word *Liberty*. This pole the British cut down in 1776.

At Charleston, S. C., under a wide-spreading live oak-tree a little north of the residence of Christopher Gadsden, within the square now bounded by Charlotte, Washington, Brundy, and Alexander Streets, the patriots of 1765 were accustomed to assemble to discuss the political questions of the day; and from this circumstance, that oak, like the great elm in Boston, obtained the name of 'liberty tree,' and it is claimed, and generally believed in South Carolina, that under it Gadsden, as early as 1764, first spoke of American independence. In 1765, when the stamp paper reached Charleston, it was deposited at Fort Johnson. A volunteer force took the fort and captured the paper. Whilst they held the fort, they displayed a flag showing a blue field with three white crescents, which seems to have been improvised by the volunteers, of whom there were three companies. Underneath it, on the 8th of August, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed to the people. In 1766, the Sons of



Liberty met under it, and with linked hands pledged themselves to resist, when the hour for resistance came. Its history and associations were hateful to the officers of the crown, and after the city surrendered, in 1780, Sir Henry Clinton ordered it cut down, and a fire was lighted over the stump by piling its branches around it. Many cane-heads were made from its stump in after years, and a part of it was sawed into thin boards, and made into a neat ballot-box and presented to the '76 Association. The box was destroyed by fire, at the room of the association, during the great conflagration of 1838.²

The old liberty tree in Boston was the largest of a grove of beautiful elms that stood in Hanover Square, at the corner of Orange (now Washington) and Essex Streets, opposite the present Boylston Market. The exact site is marked by a building.

¹ Valentine's Manual of the City Councils of New York.

² Lossing.

erected by the late Hon. David Sears, in whose front is a bass-relief of the tree, with an appropriate inscription.¹ It received the name of 'liberty tree' from the association called the 'Sons of Liberty' holding their meetings under it during the summer of 1765. The ground under it was called 'liberty hall.' A pole fastened to its trunk rose far above its branching top, and when a red flag was thrown to the breeze, the signal was understood by the people. Here the Sons of Liberty held many a notable meeting, and placards and banners were often suspended from the limbs or affixed to the body of the tree, and the following inscription was placed upon it: "This tree was planted in the year 1614, and pruned, by order of the Sons of Liberty, Feb. 14, 1766."² Nov. 20, 1767, the day on which the new revenue law went into effect, there was a seditious handbill posted on it. It contained an exhortation to the Sons of Liberty to rise on that day and fight for their rights, stating, that if they assembled, they would be joined by legions; that if they neglected this opportunity, they would be cursed by all posterity. In June, 1768, a red flag was hoisted over it, and a paper posted upon it inviting the people to rise and clear the country of the commissioners and their officers.

In 1768, Paul Revere published a view of a part of the town of Boston, in New England, and British ships of war landing their troops, Friday, Sept. 30, 1768.

All the ships in front of the town, viz. the Beaver, Donegal, Martin, Glasgow, Mermaid, Romney, Launceston, and Bonetta, with several smaller vessels, carry the English red union ensign of the time on a staff at the stern, a union jack on the bowsprit, and a red pennant with a union at the main, except the Glasgow, which has a red broad pennant at her main. The Glasgow, seven years later, played an important part at the battle of Bunker's Hill. The troops are landed and being landed on Long Wharf, and have two pairs of colors, one of each pair is the ordinary union jack, the other a red flag with a union jack in the centre of it. This is probably the *red* union jack elsewhere mentioned.³

July 31, 1769, on Governor Bernard's being ordered to England, the general joy was manifested by congratulations among the people, salutes from Hancock's wharf, the union flag flying above the liberty tree, and bonfires on the hills. The flag was kept flying for several

¹ The illustration represents the bass-relief.

² Tudor's Life of Otis.

³ A fac-simile of this engraving was printed by the publisher of the 'Little Corporal,' Chicago, Ill., in 1870. An engraving of Boston, by William Price, dedicated to Peter Faneull, and probably of earlier date, as Faneull died in 1742, represents numerous ships wearing the English union ensign, while the union flag or king's colors fly over the forts.

days. The anniversary of the uprising against the Stamp Act, Aug. 14, 1773, was celebrated with great spirit, and a 'union flag' floated over the tent in which the company had their entertainment. Nov. 3, 1773, a large flag was raised above the liberty tree, and the town-crier summoned the people to assemble. The destruction of the tea followed this meeting. In the winter of 1775-76, the British soldiers cut down this noble tree, which from these associations had become odious to them. It furnished fourteen cords of wood, and probably went to ashes in the stove set up in the Old South Meeting-house, when the soldiers occupied that building for a riding-school, and kindled fires with books and pamphlets from Prince's valuable library, the remnant of which is now preserved in the Boston Public Library. The destruction of the liberty tree was bitterly resented.

The 'New England Chronicle,' reporting the act, says: "The enemies of liberty and America, headed by *Tom Gage*, lately gave a notable specimen of their hatred to the very name of liberty. A party, of whom was one Job Williams, was the ringleader, a few days since repaired to a tree at the south end of Boston, known by the name of 'Liberty Tree,' and, armed with axes, &c., made a furious attack upon it. After a long spell of groaning, swearing, and foaming, with malice diabolical they cut down a tree because it bore the name of 'Liberty.'" ¹

At Taunton, Mass., in October, 1774, a 'union flag' was raised on the top of a liberty pole, with the words 'Liberty and Union' thereon.

In January, 1775, the sleds containing wood for the inhabitants of Boston bore a 'union flag.' The colonists had long been familiar with union flags; they now began to associate liberty with them.

March 21, 1775, the friends of liberty at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., erected a flag bearing on one side "THE KING," and on the other "THE CONGRESS AND LIBERTY," which was cut down by the authorities as a public nuisance.²

In the earliest days of the Revolution each State seems to have set up its own particular banner. There were probably no colors worn by the handful of Americans hastily called together at the battle of Lexington or at Bunker's Hill, but immediately after, the Connecticut troops had standards, bearing on them the arms of that colony, with the motto, "*Qui transtulit sustinet*," in letters of gold, which was freely translated "God, who transported us hither, will support us." In April, 1775, six regiments were ordered by the General Assembly of

¹The New England Chronicle for August 24-31, 1775.

²Holt's Journal, April 6, 1775.

Connecticut to be raised for the defence of the colony. In May, standards were ordered for these regiments. For the 1st, the color was to be *yellow*; for the 2d, *blue*; for the 3d, *scarlet*; for the 4th, *crimson*; for the 5th, *white*; for the 6th, *azure*. In July, 1775, two additional regiments were ordered, and the colors for these were, for the 7th, *blue*; for the 8th, *orange*. These regiments were enlisted for a few months only, and were not in the field at the formation of the Connecticut line, in 1777. There is now deposited with the Connecticut Historical Society an old red silk flag, about a yard square, on which is a tracing of the arms of Connecticut, in a darker red paint, and over them, in gilt letters, this inscription:—

II BAT
II. REGT.
CONNECTICUT.
Raised 1640

This flag was presented to the State by the Hon. John Mix, who was an ensign, and adjutant of the 2d regiment of the line in 1777, and is supposed to be of that or earlier date. The "Raised 1640" is supposed to allude to the great English rebellion, as a presage of what might be hoped for in the rebellion just begun.¹

In March, 1775, a union flag with a red field, having on one side this inscription, "Geo. Rex and the Liberties of America," and on the other "No Popery," was hoisted at New York. The armed ships of New York of that time are said to have had a black beaver for their device on their flag. This was the device of the colonial seal of New Netherland, and is still seen on the seal of the city of New York.



Colonial Seal of New Netherland.

No description of the union flags of these times has been preserved. Aged people, living a few years since, who well remembered the processions and the great flags, could not recall their devices, nor has any particular description of them been found in the contemporaneous private diaries or public newspapers; nevertheless, it is more than probable, and almost certain, that these flags were the familiar flags of the English and Scotch union, established in 1707, and long known as union flags, inscribed with various popular and patriotic mottoes.

The Historical Chronicle of the 'Gentleman's Magazine,' under date April 17, 1775, records "by a ship just arrived at Bristol from

¹ Connecticut Quartermaster-General's Report, 1839; Hartford Courant, 1839; Army and Navy Chronicle, 1839; Letters of C. J. Hoadley to G. H. P., 1878.

America, it is reported that the Americans have hoisted their standard of liberty at Salem."

Neither contemporary accounts nor the recollections of old soldiers are satisfactory respecting the flags used by the continentals at the battle of Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June, 1775. The British used the following signals: "Signals for boats in divisions, moving to the attack on the rebels on the Heights of Charleston, June 17, 1775; viz., 1. Blue flag, to advance. Yellow ditto, to lay on oars. Red ditto, to land."¹ It is not positively ascertained that any were used by the Americans; certainly, none were captured from them by the British.

A eulogy on Warren, however, written soon after the battle, describing the astonishment of the British on the morning of the battle, says:—

"Columbia's troops are seen in dread array,
And waving streamers in the air display."

It is to be regretted that the poet has not described these fanciful waving streamers; probably, says another writer, but without stating his authority, "they were as various as the troops were motley."

At a patriotic celebration in 1825, a flag was borne which was said to have been unfurled at Bunker Hill; and tradition states that one was hoisted at the redoubt, and that Gage and his officers were puzzled to read by their glasses its motto. A whig told them it was "Come, if you dare." Trumbull, in his celebrated picture of the battle, now in the rotunda of the Capitol at Washington, has represented a red flag having a white canton and red cross and a green pine-tree.²

¹ Orderly Book of Major-General Howe.

² This cannot be considered authoritative. Painters frequently take a poet's license, and are not always particular in the accuracy of the accessories of their paintings. Thus Leutze, in his 'Washington crossing the Delaware,' Dec. 25, 1776, conspicuously displays the American flag with the blue field and union of white stars, although the flag had no existence before the 14th of June, 1777, and was not published until September, 1777. Yet this inaccurate historical tableau has been selected to embellish the face of the fifty-dollar notes of our national banks. In Powell's 'Battle of Lake Erie,' at the Capitol, the flag in Perry's boat has only thirteen stripes and thirteen stars, although fifteen of each had been the legal number for twenty years, or since 1794.

The gold medal awarded to General Daniel Morgan for the 'Battle of Cowpens,' which occurred Jan. 17, 1781, has on its reverse a mounted officer at the head of his troops charging a flying foe, while behind and over the officer are two large and prominent banners simply striped with thirteen stripes, alternate red and white without the stars, though the stars had been for more than three years blazoned on the American ensigns. The medal was probably struck in France.

Bacon, in his picture of the 'Boston Boys and General Gage,' hangs out over the porch of the Province House an English ensign showing the union jack of 1801, adopted a quarter of a century later than the scene represented. But this is

In a manuscript plan of the battle, colors are represented in the centre of each British regiment.

Botta¹ says that Doctor Warren, finding the corps he commanded pursued by the enemy, despising all danger, stood alone before the ranks, endeavoring to rally his men and to encourage them by his example. He reminded them of the motto inscribed on their ensigns, on the one side of which were these words, "An appeal to Heaven," and on the other, "*Qui transtulit sustinet*," meaning that the same Providence which brought their ancestors through so many perils to a place of refuge would also deign to support their descendants.

Mrs. Manning, an intelligent old lady, informed Mr. Lossing² that her father, who was in the battle, assisted in hoisting the standard, and she had heard him speak of it as a noble flag; the ground of which was blue, with one corner quartered by the red cross of St. George, in one section of which was a pine-tree.



Bunker Hill Flag.

Washington arrived in Cambridge, Sunday, July 2, accompanied by Major-General Charles Luce, and the 'New England Chronicle' says:—

"None of the men who have been raised by this and several other colonies are in future to be distinguished as the troops of any particular colony, but as the forces of "THE UNITED COLONIES OF NORTH AMERICA," into whose joint service they have been taken by the Continental Congress, and are to be paid and supported accordingly."³

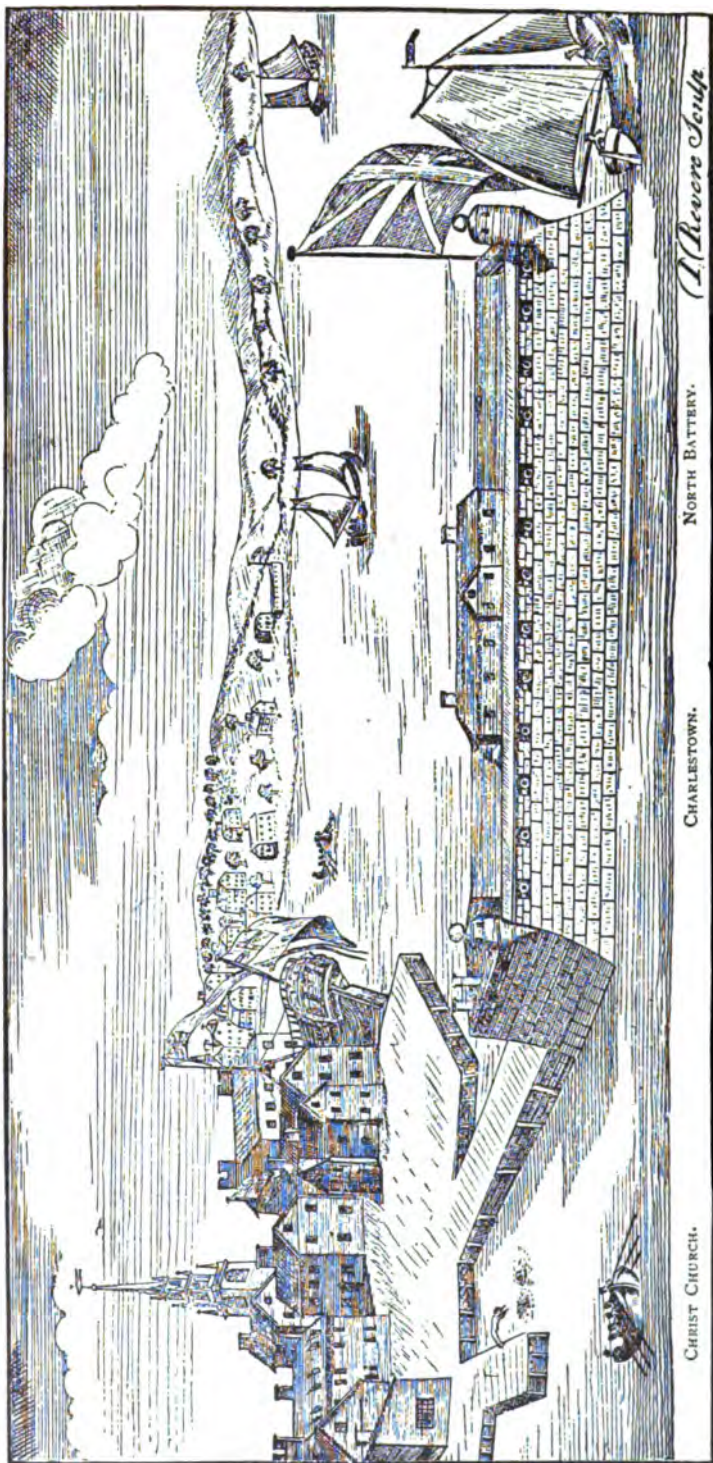
On the 18th of July, a month after the battle of Bunker's Hill, Major-General Putnam assembled his division on the height of Prospect Hill, to have read to it the manifesto of Congress, signed by John Hancock, its president, and countersigned by Charles Thomson, secretary. The reading was followed by a prayer suited to the occasion, and at the close of the prayer, at signal from the general, the troops cried 'Amen,' and at the same instant the artillery of the fort thundered a general salute, and the scarlet standard of the Third Connecticut Regiment recently sent to General Putnam, bearing on

excusable, since, in a fresco on the walls of the new Houses of Parliament or Palace of Westminster, the artist represents Charles II. landing under this union jack of 1801, which has the saltire *gules* for Ireland.

¹ History of American Revolution.

² Field-Book of the American Revolution, vol. i. p. 541.

³ The New England Chronicle, and the Essex Gazette, from Thursday, June 29, to Thursday, July 6, 1775.



CHARLESTOWN. NORTH BATTERY.

CHRIST CHURCH.

P. Revere Sculp.

An engraving by PAUL REVERE, showing the flags in use in Boston during the British occupation in 1775.

NOTE.— This is a fac-simile of the illustrated heading of a certificate that the bearer was enlisted as a "Montross" at His Majesty's North Battery. A similar certificate, with an engraving of the South Battery, at Fort Hill, was given to those enlisted at that battery.

the one side the Connecticut motto, "*Qui transtulit sustinet*," and on the other the recognized motto of Massachusetts, "*An appeal to Heaven*," were unfurled. The same ceremony was observed in the other divisions.¹

Lieutenant Paul Lunt, in his Diary, which has been printed, says: "May 10, 1775, marched from Newburyport with sixty men, Captain Ezra Lunt, commander, and May 12, at 11 o'clock, arrived at Cambridge. . . . June 16, our men went to Charlestown and entrenched on a hill beyond Bunker's Hill. . . . June 17, the regulars landed a number of troops, and we engaged them. They drove us off the hill and burned Charlestown. July 2, General Washington came into the camp. . . . July 18th. This morning a manifesto from the grand Continental Congress was read by the Rev. Mr. Leonard, chaplain of the Connecticut forces upon Prospect Hill in Charlestown. Our standard was presented in the midst of the regiments, with this inscription upon it, "*Appeal to Heaven*," after which Mr. Leonard made a short prayer, and then we were dismissed, by the discharge of a cannon, three cheers, and a war-whoop by the Indians."

The 'New England Chronicle' for July 21, 1775, says: "Cambridge, July 21. On Tuesday morning the standard lately sent to General Putnam was exhibited flourishing in the air, bearing on one side this motto, 'AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN,' and on the other, 'QUI TRANSTULIT SUSTINET.' The whole was conducted with the utmost decency, good order, and regularity, and to the universal acceptance of all present. And the Philistines on Bunker's Hill heard the shout of the Israelites, and, being very fearful, paraded themselves in battle array."



The Pine Tree Flag
From a map published in
Paris, 1776.

June 19, 1775, two days after the battle of Bunker Hill, and before the news had reached Georgia, there was a meeting of a committee of the leading men of Savannah to enforce the requirements of the American Association. After the meeting, a dinner was had at Tondee's tavern, where a 'union flag' was hoisted upon a liberty pole, and two pieces of artillery placed under it.

Aug. 1, 1775, there was raised at Prospect Hill, Charlestown, for a flag-staff, a mast seventy-six feet high, which came out of a schooner that was burnt at Chelsea.

¹ Bancroft's History of the United States; Frothingham's Siege of Boston; I. J. Greenwood.

In September, 1775, Arnold made his famous expedition through Maine to Canada, and, when drifting down the gentle current of the Dead River, came suddenly in sight of a lofty mountain covered with snow, at the foot of which he encamped three days, raising the continental flag over his tent. What its color was, or the devices upon it, we have no means of ascertaining. The mountain is now known as 'Mount Bigelow,'—tradition asserting that Major Bigelow, of Arnold's little army, ascended to its summit, hoping to see the spires of Quebec.

During September, 1775, two strong floating batteries were launched on the Charles River, and opened a fire, in October, upon Boston, that caused great alarm and damaged several houses. They appear to have been scows made of strong planks, pierced near the water-line for oars, and along the sides higher up for light, and musketry. A heavy gun was placed at each end, and upon the top were four swivels. Their ensign was a pine-tree flag.¹ The six schooners first commissioned by Washington and the first vessels commissioned by the United Colonies sailed under the pine-tree flag.² Colonel Reed, in a



American Floating Battery, used at the Siege of Boston.

From an English Manuscript.

¹ Lossing's Field-Book of the Revolution.

² Captain John Selman and Nicholas Broughton were commissioned by General Washington (according to the statement of Selman to Elbridge Gerry), in the fall of 1775, both living at Marblehead. "The latter as commodore of two small schooners, one the Lynch, mounting six 4-pounders and ten swivels, and manned by seventy seamen, and the other the Franklin, of less force, having sixty-five. The commodore hoisted his broad pendant on board the Lynch, and Selman commanded the latter.

"These vessels were ordered to the river St. Lawrence, to intercept an ammunition vessel bound to Quebec, but missing her, they took ten other vessels, and Governor Wright, of St. John's, all of which were released, as we had waged a ministerial war, and not one against our most gracious sovereign."—*Letter of E. Gerry to John Adams*, dated Feb. 9, 1813.

The form of commission issued by General Washington to the officers of the vessels fitted out by him, under authority of the Continental Congress, and the officers so commissioned, were as follows:—

By his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq., *Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the United Colonies.*

To WILLIAM BURKE, Esq.

By virtue of the powers and authorities to me given by the honorable Continental Congress, I do hereby constitute and appoint you captain and commander of the schooner *Warren*, now lying at *Beverly* port, in the service of the *United Colonies of North America*, to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office of captain and commander of the said vessel, and to perform and execute all matters and things which to your said office do, or may of right belong or appertain, until further order shall be given herein by the honorable Continental Congress, myself, or any future commander-in-chief of said army, willing and commanding all officers, soldiers, and per-

letter from Cambridge to Colonels Glover and Moylan, under date Oct. 20, 1775, says: "Please fix upon some particular color for a flag, and a signal by which our vessels may know one another. What do you think of a flag with a white ground and a tree in the middle, the motto, 'AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN,'—this is the flag of our floating batteries." Colonels Moylan and Glover replied the next day, that, as Broughton and Selman, who had sailed that morning, had none but their old colors (probably the old English union ensign), they had appointed as the signal by which they could be known to their friends the ensign at the main topping lift. In January, the Franklin was wearing the pine-tree flag.¹

The suggestion of Colonel Reed seems to have been soon adopted. The 'London Chronicle,' for January, 1776, describing the flag of a captured cruiser, says: "There is in the admiralty office the flag of a provincial privateer. The field is white bunting. On the middle is a green pine-tree, and upon the opposite side is the motto, 'An appeal to Heaven.'" April, 1776, the Massachusetts council passed a series

sons whatsoever any way concerned, to be obedient and assisting to you in the due execution of this commission.

Given under my hand and seal, at Cambridge, this 1st day of February, Annoque Domini, 1776.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

By His Excellency's command.

To Captain WILLIAM BURKE, of the Warren.

Officers of the Armed Vessels fitted out by Order of General Washington, on the 1st day of February, 1776.

<i>Hancock</i>	John Manley	Captain and Com. . . .	1 January, 1776.
	Richard Stiles	1st Lieutenant	1 January, 1776.
	Nicholas Ogilby	2d Lieutenant	1 January, 1776
<i>Lee</i>	Daniel Waters	Captain	20 January, 1777.
	William Kissick	1st Lieutenant	20 January, 1776.
	John Gill	2d Lieutenant	20 January, 1776.
<i>Franklin</i>	John Desmond	Master	20 January, 1776.
	Samuel Tucker	Captain	20 January, 1776.
	Edward Phittplace	1st Lieutenant	20 January, 1776.
<i>Harrison</i>	Francis Salter	2d Lieutenant	20 January, 1776.
	Charles Dyar	Captain	20 January, 1776.
	Thomas Dote	1st Lieutenant	23 January, 1776.
<i>Lynch</i>	John Wigglesworth	2d Lieutenant	20 January, 1776.
	John Ayres	Captain	20 January, 1776.
	John Roche	1st Lieutenant	20 January, 1776.
<i>Warren</i>	John Tilley	2d Lieutenant	20 January, 1776.
	William Burke	Captain	1 February, 1776.

American Archives, 4th series, vol. 1v. pp. 909, 910.

¹ See next page.

of resolutions for the regulation of the sea service, among which was the following:—

“*Resolved*, That the uniform of the officers be green and white, and that they furnish themselves accordingly; and that the colors be a white flag, with a green pine-tree, and the inscription, ‘*An appeal to Heaven.*’”

According to the English newspapers, privateers, throughout this year, wearing a flag of this description were captured and carried into British ports. “Jan. 6, 1776, the *Tartar*, Captain Meadows, arrived at Portsmouth, England, from Boston, with over seventy men, the crew of an American privateer that mounted ten guns, taken by the *Fowry*, man-of-war. Captain Meadows likewise brought her colors, which are a pale green palm-tree upon a white field, with this motto, ‘*We appeal to Heaven.*’” She was taken on the Massachusetts coast cruising for transports, and was sent out by the council of that province.

Commodore Samuel Tucker, writing to the Hon. John Holmes, March 6, 1818,¹ says: “The first cruise I made was in January, 1776, in the schooner *Franklin*, of seventy tons, equipped by order of General Washington, and I had to purchase the small arms to encounter the enemy with money from my own pocket, or go without; and my wife made the banner I fought under, the field of which was white, and the union green, made therein in the figure of a pine-tree, made of cloth of her own purchasing, at her own expense.”

Under these colors he captured the ship *George* and brig *Arabella*, transports, having on board about two hundred and eighty Highland troops of General Fraser’s corps.

“Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 10, 1776, on Sunday, arrived from off Boston a privateer brig, called the *Yankee Hero*, Captain Tracy. She was taken by the *Milford* frigate, 28 guns, Captain Burr, after an obstinate engagement, in which the captain of the privateer received a ball through his thigh, soon after which she struck. She is a fine vessel, and mounts twelve carriage guns and six swivels. Her colors were a pine-tree on a white field.”

Instances of the use of this pine-tree flag, from October, 1775, to July, 1776, could be multiplied.

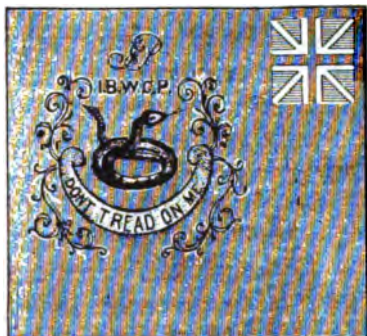
In the museum collected in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, in 1876, was exhibited a green silk military flag, said to have belonged to a Newburyport company during the Revolution. The flag has a white canton, on which is painted a green pine-tree in a blue field, surrounded by a chain circle of thirteen links, each link grasped by a mailed hand coming out of a cloud.

¹ Shepard’s *Life of Commodore Tucker*.

In the same museum was a regimental flag of yellow silk, which once belonged to Colonel D. B. Webb, aid to General Putnam, and afterwards an aid and the private secretary of Washington. It was so mutilated that its general device could not be traced, but a female figure holds in her hand a staff, the top crowned or covered with a low-crowned and broad-brimmed hat, while from the staff streams a pennant of thirteen red and white stripes.

Among the curious relics of the American Revolution in the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society there is a silk flag, which was presented by Governor Hancock to a colored company called the "Bucks of America." It has for a device a pine-tree and buck, above which are the initials "J. H." and "G. W.," for Hancock and Washington.

Mrs. Margaret C. Craig, the daughter of General Craig, an officer of the Revolution, and now living in New Alexandria, Penn., has a rattlesnake flag, which was carried by Colonel John Proctor's regiment all through the war, and was at the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Ash Swamp, &c.



Flag of First Brigade, Westmoreland County, Penn., 1775.¹

The flag is composed of heavy crimson watered silk, somewhat faded, and, where painted, cracked and broken, and the covering and fringe of the two tassels have been worn almost away; otherwise, the flag is in good condition. The painting is alike on both sides of the flag. It is six feet four inches long by five feet ten inches wide, and is cantoned with the English union jack of 1707; that is, with a St. George's red and St. Andrew's white cross on a blue field. In the centre of the red field of the flag there is painted a rattlesnake of the natural color, coiled up, and in the attitude of striking, and having thirteen rattles erect, representing the thirteen colonies. It will be noticed that the head of the snake is significantly erected, as if in defiance, towards the English union. Below the snake, on a yellow scroll, in large black letters, is the motto, "Don't tread on me." Above the snake are the letters "J. P.," and just below them are the letters "I. B. W. C. P." These letters, General Craig said,

¹The illustration is from a drawing of the flag by Mrs. Campbell, furnished by Mrs. Craig.

meant "John Procter's First Brigade, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania."

The flag belonged to Colonel Procter's regiment, of which General Craig was a junior officer. On Colonel Procter's death, the flag was presented to the next senior officer, and thus handed down to General Craig, who was the last surviving officer, and was sent to him by mail, but, unfortunately, the accompanying letter, detailing its history, has been lost. Mrs. Craig, to whom I am indebted for a painting of this interesting relic, from which the illustration is taken, informs me the flag has been in the possession of her family for more than seventy years. It is the only flag of the time bearing the rattlesnake device that I know of in existence at this time.

Mrs. Craig values the flag very highly, and says, when the rebels invaded Pennsylvania, from the front yard of her house she heard distinctly the cannonading at Gettysburg, and resolved, should the rebels raid through her neighborhood, that she would secure it from them, as also her father's sword. The flag was last displayed in public at the centennial celebration at Greensburg, Penn.

Another standard exhibited in Independence Hall, in 1876, and now deposited with the Pennsylvania Historical Society, was that of the First Rifle Regiment of Pennsylvania, 1775-83, which is thus described by Lieutenant-Colonel Hand, in a letter to Jasper Yeates, under date, "Prospect Hill, March 8, 1776:" "I am stationed on Cobles Hill, with four companies of our regiment. Two companies—Cluggage's and Chambers's—were ordered to Dorchester on Monday. Ross's and Lowden's relieved them yesterday. Every regiment is to have a standard and colors. Our standard is to be a deep green ground, the device a tiger, partly enclosed by toils, attempting the pass, defended by a hunter armed with a spear (in white), on a crimson field. The motto, "*Donari Nolo.*"

In its services the regiment traversed every one of the thirteen States, and this standard was borne by it in all its skirmishes in front of Boston; at White Plains, Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Green Springs, Yorktown, and was with Wayne when he fought the last battle of the war, at Sharon, Ga., May 24, 1782; entered Savannah in triumph, July 11, and Charleston, S. C., Dec. 14, 1782; was in camp on James Island, S. C., May 11, 1783, and only when the news of the cessation of hostilities reached that point was embarked for Philadelphia.¹

¹ *Annals of Buffalo Valley*, by John Blair Linn, Esq., p. 85; also his letter to Philadelphia Times, April 6, 1877.

The battle flag of Colonel William Washington's cavalry troop, known as the 'Eutaw Standard,' was placed in the custody of the Wash-



Eutaw Flag.

ington Light Infantry Corps, of Charleston, S. C., on the 19th of April, 1827, by the Colonel's widow, Mrs. Jane Washington, and is now preserved in their armory. It is of heavy crimson silk, and is in good condition. This little crimson flag first waved in victory at the battle of Cowpens, Jan. 17, 1781; and under its folds at Eutaw Springs, Sept. 8, 1781, Lieutenant-Colonel Wade Hampton and many officers were wounded, and Colonel William Washington being disabled by the killing of his horse while charging the enemy, was made a prisoner.¹

The tradition of the origin of the flag is interesting. Colonel Washington came from Virginia to South Carolina at the head of a cavalry force, and met Miss Jane Elliott at her father's house on the family estate, known as Sandy Hill, near Rautowle's Bridge, ten miles west of Charleston; a mutual attachment was formed, and Miss Elliott, sharing the sentiments of all her family, was an intense friend of the rebel cause. In the fall of 1780, Colonel Washington paid a hurried visit to his *fiancée*, and when about to leave, in reply to her playful remark that she would look out for news of his flag and fortunes, he replied, that his corps carried no flag. With a woman's ready resource she seized her scissors, and, cutting a square of crimson damask that embellished the back of a stately drawing-room chair, said, "Colonel, make this your standard!" and gave it to her gallant lover, at the head of whose cavalry it was borne, mounted on a small hickory pole, during the remainder of the war. Never were knights of the old days of chivalry more deeply inspired by maidenly guerdons than were Washington and his brave cavaliers as they charged under that little square of crimson silk.

¹ Constitution and Rules and Relics belonging to the Washington Light Infantry, 1879.

This flag was known as "Tarleton's Terror," after their last-named battle. It was presented to the Washington Light Infantry of Charleston, by Mrs. Jane Elliott Washington in person, in 1827, on the anniversary of the battle of Lexington. The presentation took place in front of the then Washington mansion, southwest corner of South Battery and Church Streets, Charleston, S. C., and the house is still standing. Sergeant H. S. Tew, the color-sergeant, who received and bore the flag on that parade, still survives. This standard is always displayed on the Washington birthday parade, and other important military occasions. It was carried to the Bunker Hill centennial, and everywhere received with great enthusiasm. It was also carried as the colors of the Centennial Legion at Philadelphia, 4th July, 1876, which command was composed of one representative military corps from each of the old thirteen States. It will be a conspicuous feature at the grand celebration of the centennial of Cowpens, 17th January, 1881, at which time a memorial column to the victors of that field will be dedicated, with imposing ceremonies, under the auspices of the Washington Light Infantry of Charleston, S. C.

At the semi-centennial celebration by the corps of Jane Washington day, or of the presentation of the flag, in 1877, Captain Courtenay, in an eloquent and patriotic speech, thus alluded to this valued relic:—

"Fifty years ago to-day the Washington Light Infantry were in martial array in front of a well-known Carolina home. In the ample portal stood a venerated matron, whose brow had been frosted by time. Supported by an only son, she was discharging the last public duty of an eventful life. In her hand was that banner, originally improvised by her for the service of her country, and presented to that soldier of Virginia who under its crimson folds achieved a flashing fame, which filled the new-born States with patriotic enthusiasm, and still casts a reflected splendor on his times. Grouped around her were a trio of our own worthies, chosen sponsors of this corps, to make its solemn pledges and to assume the custody of this relic. The brilliant assemblage of spectators has receded from view, the long line of enthusiastic soldiers now answer a short roll-call. The chief actors have passed from time to eternity, but the spirit of the day we celebrate survives. . . . The world is largely impressed by symbols. We have our symbol! There it stands, the flag of Eutaw, Guilford, and the Cowpens! It has been intrusted to our keeping, but it is the heritage of all our people, a constant reminder to the youth of Carolina of every thing that is noble in citizenship and the martial virtues. May that standard in its progressing life ever command the reverence due age, and combine the privileges of ardent youth! and as is

the breadth of its widening fame, so shall also be the responsibilities imposed upon this community, for whom it stands in solemn pledge, ever recalling the wisdom, fortitude, and self-sacrificing spirit of our heroic past.”¹

On the 22d of February following, a day which is always remembered by the corps as its chosen anniversary, the orator of the day, the Rev. E. C. Edgerton, a member of the company, said, alluding to the flag: “There is meaning in our words when we gather beneath the crimson folds of the Eutaw banner, illumined by the stars and stripes, and shout:—

“ ‘Unfurl the glorious banner
Which at Eutaw shone so bright,
And, like a dazzling meteor, swept
Through the Cowpens deadly fight.
Sound, sound your lively bugles,
Let them pour their loudest blast,
While we pledge both life and honor
To stand by it to the last.’ ”²

In the orderly book of the army, at Williamsburg, Va., under date, “Head-quarters, April 8, 1776,” is found this entry: “The colonels are desired to provide themselves with some colors and standards, if they are to be procured: it doth not signify of what sort they are.”

In the American Archives there is a description of the standard of the Thirteenth Regiment, under date Sept. 8, 1776; viz., “Ground, light buff; device, a pine-tree and field of Indian corn (emblematical of New England corn-fields). Two officers in the uniform of the regiment, one of them wounded in the breast, the blood streaming from the wound. Under the pine, several children. One of the officers pointing to them, with the motto, ‘*For posterity we bleed.*’ ”³

On the 13th of September, 1775, Colonel Moultrie received an order from the Council of Safety for taking Fort Johnson, on James Island, S. C.;⁴ and, a flag being thought necessary, Colonel Moultrie was requested to procure one by the council, and had a large blue flag made, with a crescent in the dexter corner, to be uniform with the troops of the garrison, who were clothed in blue, and wore silver cres-

¹ Jane Washington Day, &c., Charleston, S. C., 1877, p. 10.

² Annual Observance of Washington's Birthday by the Washington Light Infantry of Charleston, S. C., 1878, p. 12, and Banner Song of the Washington Light Infantry, by Theo. L. Smith, Esq.

³ American Archives, 5th series, vol. ii. p. 244.

⁴ Holmes's Annals.

cents in front of their caps,¹ inscribed "Liberty or Death." He said, "*this was the first American flag displayed in the South.*" When Moultrie hoisted this flag, the timid people said it had the appearance of a declaration of war, and that the captain of the Tamar, then off Charleston, would look upon it as an insult and flag of defiance. A "union flag" had been displayed at Savannah the preceding June.² June 28, 1776, the standard advanced by Colonel Moultrie on the southeast bastion of Fort Sullivan—or Moultrie, as it was afterwards named, on account of his gallant defence of it—was the same crescent flag, with the word LIBERTY emblazoned upon it.³

At the commencement of the action, the crescent flag which waved opposite the union flag upon the western bastion fell outside upon the beach. Sergeant William Jasper, an Irishman by parentage, seeing this, cried out to Colonel Moultrie, "Don't let us fight without a flag, Colonel," and leaped the parapet, walked the whole length of the fort, picked up the flag, fastened it on a sponge staff, and in the midst of the iron hail pouring upon the fortress, and in sight of the whole British fleet, fixed the flag firmly upon the bastion. Three cheers greeted him as he leaped within the fort. On the day after the battle, Governor Rutledge visited the fort, and rewarded Jasper for his valor by presenting him with his own small sword, which he was then wearing, and thanked him, in the name of his country. He offered him a lieutenant's commission; but Jasper, who could neither read nor write, declined it, saying: "I am not fit to keep officers' company: I am but a sergeant."

On the day after the battle, the British fleet left Charleston Harbor. The joy of the Americans was unbounded, and the following day (June 30) the wife of Major Bernard Elliot presented Colonel Moultrie's regiment with a pair of elegant colors; one of them was of fine blue silk, the other of fine red silk, both richly embroidered. In the assault on Savannah, Oct. 9, 1779, they were planted on the walls of the city, beside the lilies of France. Lieutenants Hume and Buck, who carried them, having fallen, Lieutenant Gray, of the South Carolina regiment, seized their standards, and kept them erect until he was stricken by a bullet, when brave Sergeant Jasper sprang forward, and had just fastened them on the parapet of the Spring Hill redoubt when a rifle-ball pierced him, and he fell into the ditch. Just then a retreat was sounded, and Jasper, wounded and dying as he was, seized the colors, and succeeded in saving them from falling into the hands of the enemy. He was carried to camp, and

¹ Colonel Moultrie's Memoirs of the Revolution, vol. 1. p. 90.

² See *ante*.

³ Bancroft's History of the United States; Dawson's Battles by Sea and Land.

soon after expired. Just before he died, he said to Major Harry, "Tell Mrs. Elliot I lost my life supporting the colors she gave to our regiment."¹

The Declaration of Independence was read by Major Elliot at Charleston, on the 5th of August, 1776, to the people, young and old, and of both sexes, assembled around the liberty pole, with all the military of the city and vicinity, flags flying and drums beating. Among the flags were, without doubt, these standards presented by his wife. They were captured when Charleston surrendered, May 12, 1780, and were among the British trophies preserved in the Tower of London.

The General Congress, having previously appointed a committee to prepare a plan, on the 13th of October, 1775, after some debate, "*Resolved*, That a swift sailing-vessel, to carry the carriage-guns and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted with all possible despatch, for a cruise of three months." It was also "*Resolved*, That another vessel be fitted for the same purposes," and "that a marine committee, consisting of Messrs. Dean, Langdon, and Gadsden, report their opinion of a proper vessel, and also an estimate of the expense." On the 17th of October, the committee brought in their estimate and report, which, after debate, was recommitted. On the 30th, the committee recommended that the second vessel be of a size to carry fourteen guns and a proportionate number of swivels and men; it was further resolved that two more vessels be fitted out with all expedition, the one to carry not exceeding twenty guns, and the other not exceeding thirty-six guns, with a proportionate number of swivels and men, to be employed for the protection and defence of the United Colonies, as Congress shall direct. Four new members were added to the committee; viz., Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Hewes, Mr. R. H. Lee, and Mr. John Adams.²

Nov. 9, 1775, it was "*Resolved*, That two battalions of marines be raised, to be enlisted and commissioned to serve for and during the present war between Great Britain and the colonies, and to be considered as a part of the continental army of Boston, particular care to be taken that no persons be appointed or enlisted into said battalions but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs

¹ Lossing's *Field-Book of the Revolution*, vol. II. pp. 532, 551. Oct. 9, 1879, there was a centennial celebration, at Savannah, of the siege, when the corner-stone of a monument to Jasper was laid over the spot where he received his death-wound a hundred years before. *Savannah News*, Oct. 9. 1879.

² *Journal of Congress*, vol. I. p. 204.

as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required." By a resolution of the 30th, they were ordered to be raised independent of the army ordered for service in Massachusetts.

November 23, the Marine Committee reported rules for the government of the navy, which were adopted on the 28th. On the 2d of December, the committee were directed to prepare a proper commission for the captains and commanders of the ships of war in the service of the United Colonies,¹ and reported one, which was adopted the same day. December 9, Congress established the pay of the navy, and on December 11 it was resolved that a committee be appointed to devise ways and means for furnishing these colonies with a naval armament, and report with convenient speed, and that this committee consist of a member from each colony; viz., Mr. Bartlett, Mr. S. Adams, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Deane, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Crane, Mr. Morris, Mr. Read, Mr. Paca, Mr. R. A. Lee, Mr. Hewes, and Mr. Gadsden.

On the 13th, this committee reported that five ships of thirty-two guns, five of twenty-eight guns, three of twenty-four guns, can be fitted for sea probably by the last of March next; viz., in New Hampshire, one; in Massachusetts, two; in Connecticut, one; in Rhode Island, two; in New York, two; in Pennsylvania, four; in Maryland, one,"—the probable cost of these vessels being estimated at \$866,666 $\frac{2}{3}$. The next day, the same committee, Mr. Chase being substituted for Mr. Paca, was appointed to carry out the report.

These provisions for a continental navy were prior to the resolutions of the Massachusetts Council, April, 1776, providing a green uniform and the pine-tree flag for her State marine; but they make no provision for a national flag for this navy of the United Colonies.

John Jay, in a letter dated July, 1776, three months later, expressly states Congress had made no order, at that date, "concerning continental colors, and that captains of the armed vessels had followed their own fancies." He names as one device a rattlesnake rearing its crest and shaking its rattles, and having the motto, "Don't tread on me."

De Benvouloir, the discreet emissary of Vergennes, who arrived in Philadelphia the latter part of 1775, just after Congress had ordered the thirteen ships of war, reports to the French minister: "They have given up the English flag, and have taken for their devices a rattlesnake with thirteen rattles, and a mailed arm holding thirteen arrows."

'The London Chronicle,' July 27, 1776, says: "The colors of the

¹ Journal of Congress, vol. 1. p. 255.

American fleet have a snake with thirteen rattles, the fourteenth budding, described in the attitude of going to strike, with this motto, 'Don't tread on me.'"

The number thirteen, representative of the number of colonies, seems to have been constantly in mind; thus, thirteen vessels are ordered to be built, thirteen stripes are placed on the flag, thirteen arrows are grasped in a mailed hand, thirteen rattles on the rattle-snake, and, later, thirteen arrows in the talons of the eagle, and thirteen mailed hands grasping an endless chain of thirteen links.

The rattlesnake was a favorite device with the colonists, and its origin as an American emblem deserves investigation as a curious feature in our national history.¹

The choice of this reptile as a representative of the colonies had attained a firm position in the regard of the colonists long before difficulties with Great Britain were anticipated. As early as April, 1751, an account of the trial of Samuel Sanders, an English transported convict, for the murder of Simon Gerty, occasioned the following reflections, which were published in Franklin's paper, the 'Pennsylvania Gazette':—

“When we see our papers filled continually with accounts of the most audacious robberies, the most cruel murders, and an infinity of other villanies perpetrated by convicts transported from Europe, what melancholy, what terrible reflections, must it occasion! What will become our position? These are some of thy favors, Britain, and thou art called *the mother country*? But what good mother ever sent thieves and villains to accompany her children, to corrupt some with infectious vices and murder the rest? What father ever endeavors to spread plague in his own family? We don't ask fish, but thou givest us serpents, and worse than serpents, in which Britain shows a more sovereign contempt for us than by emptying her jails into our settlements. What must we think of that board which had advocated the repeal of every law that we have hitherto made to prevent this deluge of wickedness from overwhelming us? and with this cruel sarcasm: that those laws were against the public utility, for they tended to prevent the improvement and well-peopling of the colonies. And what must we think of those merchants who, for the sake of a little paltry gain, will be concerned in importing and disposing of such cargoes?’

“This remonstrance, a bold one for the time, was commented upon in a succeeding number of the 'Gazette,' by a writer who proposed the colonists should send to England in return *a cargo of rattlesnakes,*

¹The account following is derived in part from an article printed in the 'Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch,' 1871.

which should be distributed in St. James's Park, Spring Garden, and other places of pleasure, and particularly in noblemen's gardens.' He adds:—

“Let no private interests obstruct public utility. Our mother knows what is best for us. What is a little house-breaking, shop-lifting, or highway robbery? What is a son now and then corrupted and hanged, a daughter debauched, a wife stabbed, a husband's throat cut, or a child's brains beat out with an axe, compared with “the improvement and well-peopling of the colonies”?”

“This idea of rendering the rattlesnake a means of retribution for the wrongs of America could scarcely have been forgotten, and received a new value three years afterwards, when, to stimulate the colonies to a concert of measures against the Indians, the device of a snake cut into eight parts, representing the colonies then engaged in the war against the French and Indians, was published at the head of the ‘Gazette,’ with the motto, ‘Join or die.’ This device was adopted



Snake Device.

by other newspapers in the colonies, and in 1775 it was placed at the head of the ‘Pennsylvania Journal,’ the head representing New England, and the other disjointed portions being marked with the initials, ‘N. Y.,’ ‘N. J.,’ ‘P.,’ ‘M.,’ ‘V.,’ ‘N. C.,’ ‘S. C.,’ and ‘G.’ The motto then was, ‘Unite or die.’ These matters kept the rattlesnake in the memory of the provincials, and may have led to its early adoption.

“Bradford’s ‘Pennsylvania Journal’ of Dec. 27, 1775, contains the following speculations upon the reasons for the adoption of this emblem. This composition has been ascribed to Dr. Franklin, without any very good cause. The journal which published it was one with which Dr. Franklin was not friendly. He would have been more likely to have sent his communication to the ‘Gazette,’ which was partly owned by his old partner, David Hall.

“*Messrs. Printers*:—I observed on one of the drums belonging to the marines, now raising, there was painted a rattlesnake, with this modest motto under it, “Don’t tread on me!” As I know it is the custom to have some device on the arms of every country, I supposed this might be intended for the arms of North America. As I have nothing to do with public affairs, and as my time is perfectly my own, in order to divert an idle hour I sat down to guess what might have been intended by this uncommon device. I took care, however, to consult on this occasion a person acquainted with heraldry, from whom I learned that it is a rule among the learned in that science that the

worthy properties of an animal in a crest shall be considered, and that the base ones cannot have been intended. He likewise informed me that the ancients considered the serpent as an emblem of wisdom, and, in a certain attitude, of endless duration; both which circumstances, I suppose, may have been in view. Having gained this intelligence, and recollecting that countries are sometimes represented by animals peculiar to them, it occurred to me that the rattlesnake is found in no other quarter of the globe than America, and it may therefore have been chosen on that account to represent her. But then the worthy properties of a snake, I judged, would be hard to point out. This rather raised than suppressed my curiosity, and having frequently seen the rattlesnake, I ran over in my mind every property for which she was distinguished, not only from other animals, but from those of the same genus or class, endeavoring to fix some meaning to each not wholly inconsistent with common sense. I recollected that her eye exceeded in brightness that of any other animal, and that she had no eyelids. She may therefore be esteemed an emblem of vigilance. She never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged ever surrenders. She is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage. As if anxious to prevent all pretensions of quarrelling with the weapons with which nature favored her, she conceals them in the roof of her mouth, so that, to those who are unacquainted with her, she appears most defenceless; and even when those weapons are shown and extended for defence, they appear weak and contemptible; but their wounds, however small, are decisive and fatal. Conscious of this, she never wounds until she has generously given notice even to her enemy, and cautioned him against the danger of treading on her. Was I wrong, sirs, in thinking this a strong picture of the temper and conduct of America?

“The poison of her teeth is the necessary means of digesting her food, and, at the same time, is the certain destruction of her enemies. This may be understood to intimate that those things which are destructive to our enemies may be to us not only harmless, but absolutely necessary to our existence. I confess I was totally at a loss what to make of the rattles until I went back and counted them, and found them just *thirteen*,—exactly the number of colonies united in America; and I recollected, too, that this was the only part of the snake which increased in numbers. Perhaps it may have only been my fancy, but I conceived the painter had shown a half-formed additional rattle, which I suppose may have been intended to represent the province of Canada. ’Tis curious and amazing to observe how

distinct and independent of each other the rattles of this animal are, and yet how firmly they are united together so as to be never separated except by breaking them to pieces. One of these rattles, singly, is incapable of producing a sound; but the ringing of thirteen together is sufficient to alarm the boldest man living. The rattlesnake is solitary, and associates with her kind only when it is necessary for her preservation. In winter, the warmth of a number together will preserve their lives, whilst singly they would probably perish. The power of fascination attributed to her by a generous construction may be understood to mean that those who consider the liberty and blessings which America affords, and once come over to her, never afterwards leave her, but spend their lives with her. She strongly resembles America in this: that she is beautiful in youth, and her beauty increases with age; her tongue also is blue, and forked as lightning, and her abode is among impenetrable rocks.

“ ‘ Having pleased myself with reflections of this kind, I communicated my sentiments to a neighbor of mine, who has a surprising readiness at guessing any thing which relates to public affairs; and, indeed, I should be jealous of his reputation in that way, were it not that the event constantly shows that he has guessed wrong. He instantly declared it his sentiment that Congress meant to allude to Lord North’s declaration in the House of Commons, that he never would relax his measures until he had brought America to his feet, and to intimate to his lordship that if she was brought to his feet, it would be dangerous treading on her. But I am positive he has guessed wrong; for I am sure Congress would not, at this time of day, condescend to take the least notice of his lordship in that or any other way. In which opinion I am determined to remain your humble servant.’ ”

Colonel Gadsden of South Carolina, a member of the Marine Committee, presented Congress, on the 8th of February, 1776, “ an elegant standard, such as is to be used by the commander-in-chief of the American navy; being a yellow flag, with a lively representation of a rattlesnake in the middle in the attitude of going to strike, and these words underneath, ‘ *Don’t tread on me.*’ ” Congress ordered that the said standard be carefully preserved and suspended in the Congress-room; and from that time it was placed in the southwest corner of that room, at the left hand of the President’s chair.¹

It would be interesting to know the further history of this flag, and what became of it. Such an historical flag would not be purposely destroyed.

¹ Drayton’s *Memoirs American Revolution*, vol. ii. p. 172.

The first legislation of Congress on the subject of a Federal navy was in October, 1775, and after that, national cruisers were equipped and sent to sea on a three months' cruise; but, so far as we can learn, without any provision for a national ensign, and probably wearing the colors of the State they sailed from. Before the close of the year, and before the grand union flag raising at Cambridge, Congress had authorized a regular navy of seventeen vessels, varying in force from ten to thirty-two guns; had established a general prize law, in consequence of the burning of Falmouth by Mowatt; had regulated the relative rank of military and naval officers; had established the pay of the navy, and appointed (Dec. 22, 1775) Esek Hopkins commander-in-chief of the naval forces of the embryo republic, fixing his pay at one hundred and twenty-five dollars a month. At the same time, captains were commissioned to the *Alfred*, *Columbus*, *Andrea Doria*, *Cabot*, and *Providence*, and first, second, and third lieutenants were appointed to each of those vessels.

John Adams, a member of the Marine Committee, gives the following reasons for the choice of these names: "The first was named *Alfred*, in honor of the founder of the greatest navy that ever existed; the second, *Columbus*, after the discoverer of this quarter of the globe; the third, *Cabot*, for the discoverer of the northern part of this continent; the fourth, *Andrea Doria*, in honor of the great Genoese admiral; and the fifth, *Providence*, the name of the town where she was purchased, and the residence of Governor Hopkins and his brother Esek, whom we appointed the first captain."

The *Alfred* was a stout merchant ship, originally called the *Black Prince*, and commanded by John Barry. She arrived at Philadelphia on the 13th of October, and was purchased and armed by the committee. The *Columbus*, originally the *Sally*, was first purchased by the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, and ten days after sold to the naval committee of Congress. The merchant names of the other ships I have been unable to ascertain. Notwithstanding the equipping of this fleet, the necessity of a common national flag seems not to have been thought of until Doctor Franklin, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. Harrison were appointed to consider the subject, and assembled at the camp at Cambridge. The result of their conference was the retention of the king's colors or union jack, representing the still-recognized sovereignty of England, but coupled to thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, emblematic of the union of the thirteen colonies against its tyranny and oppression, in place of the loyal red ensign.

The new striped flag was hoisted for the first time on the 2d of January, 1776, over the camp at Cambridge. General Washington, writing to Joseph Reed on the 4th of January, says: "We are at length favored with the sight of his Majesty's most gracious speech, breathing sentiments of tenderness and compassion for his deluded American subjects; the speech I send you (a volume of them was sent out by the Boston gentry), and, farcical enough, we gave great joy to them without knowing or intending it, for on that day (the 2d) which gave being to our new army, but before the proclamation came to hand, we hoisted the union flag in compliment to the United Colonies. But, behold! it was received at Boston as a token of the deep impression the speech had made upon us, and as a signal of submission.

"By this time I presume they begin to think it strange that we have not made a formal surrender of our lines."

An anonymous letter, written Jan. 2, 1776, says: "The grand union flag of thirteen stripes was raised on a height near Boston. The regulars did not understand it; and as the king's speech had just been read, as they supposed, they thought the *new* flag was a token of submission."

The captain of a British transport, writing from Boston to his owners in London, Jan. 17, 1776, says: "I can see the rebels' camp very plain, whose colors, a little while ago, were entirely red; but on the receipt of the king's speech, which they burnt, they hoisted the union flag, which is here supposed to intimate the union of the provinces."

The 'British Annual Register' says, "They burnt the king's speech, and changed their colors from a plain red ground, which they had hitherto used, to a flag with thirteen stripes, as a symbol of the union and number of the colonies."

A letter from Boston, in the 'Pennsylvania Gazette,' says: "The grand union flag was raised on the 2d, in compliment to the United Colonies." A British lieutenant, writing from Charlestown Heights, Jan. 25, 1776, mentions the same fact, and adds: "It was saluted with thirteen guns and thirteen cheers."

Botta, in his 'History of the American Revolution,' derived from contemporary documents, writes: "The hostile speech of the king at the meeting of Parliament had arrived in America, and copies of it were circulated in the camp. It was announced there, also, that the first petition of Congress had been rejected. The whole army manifested the utmost indignation at this intelligence; the royal speech was burnt in public by the infuriated soldiers. They changed at this time the red ground of their banners, and striped them with thirteen lists, as an emblem of their number, and the union of the colonies."

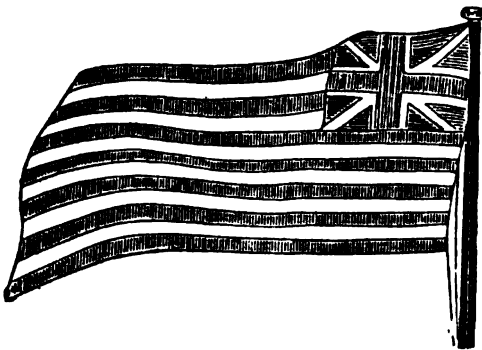
Two and a half months after this grand union flag raising at Cambridge, the flag was displayed for the first time in the streets of Boston. The occupation of Dorchester Heights compelled the evacuation of Roxbury, and on the afternoon of March 17, 1776, a detachment of Americans, under Colonel Ebenezer Learned, pushed its way through the crow's-feet and other obstacles thickly strewn in its path, and unbarred the gates of the deserted stronghold. The flag was borne by Ensign Richards, and the troops were accompanied by General Ward.¹

We have contemporary evidence enough as to the time and place when "the grand union striped flag" was first unfurled; but it will be observed there is no mention of the color of the stripes placed on the previously red flag, or the character of its union, or other than presumptive evidence that it had a union.

Hinman states, in his 'Connecticut in the Revolution,' that "the red ground of the American flag was altered to thirteen blue and white stripes, as an emblem of the thirteen colonies in war for liberty," but does not give his authority for the statement.

Bancroft, in his 'History of the United States,' describes this flag as "the tricolored American banner, not yet spangled with stars, but showing thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, in the field, and the united crosses of St. George and St. Andrew on a blue ground in the corner."

I am informed by Benson J. Lossing, the eminent American historian, that he furnished Mr. Bancroft with the statement, having found among the papers of Major-General Philip Schuyler, and having in his possession, a water-color sketch of the Royal Savage, one of the little fleet on Lake Champlain, in the summer and winter of 1776, commanded by Benedict Arnold. This drawing is known to be the Royal Savage, being indorsed, in the handwriting of General Schuyler, as Captain Wynkoop's schooner, and Captain, or rather Colonel, Wynkoop is known to have commanded her at that time. There is no date on the drawing, but it may be considered as settling what were the characteristic features of



Flag of the Royal Savage, 1776.

¹ Drake's History of Roxbury. 1878.

peace between England and Holland, the cross of St. George was rehoisted over the city.

"From Holland," argues a writer, "came the emigrants who first planted the seeds of civil and religious liberty and popular education in the Empire State, and from Holland more than any other land came the ideas of a federal union,¹ which binds together the American States. From Holland, whither persecution had driven them, also embarked the Pilgrim Fathers, to land upon our winter-swept and storm and rock bound coast.



Dutch West India Flag.

The rights for which Holland so long struggled, and so ably portrayed by Motley in his 'History of the Rise of the Dutch Republic,' are identical with those which the thirteen colonies so successfully maintained. What more likely then," says this reasoner, "that in adopting a device for a union flag our fathers should derive the idea from a country to whose example they were already so much indebted."

A more commonplace origin for the stripes has been suggested. The continental army of 1775 was without uniforms, and the different grades were distinguished by means of a stripe or ribbon. The daily view of these, the only distinguishing marks of rank, would naturally suggest the same device for representing the United Colonies.²

¹ The United Provinces of the Netherlands on their independence devised for their standard the national lion of Flanders [rampant *guz*], grasping in his paws a sheaf of seven arrows *or*, to denote the seven provinces, and a naked sword, which had been borne by the counts from the eleventh century. The shield of the arms was *azure* billetée, and the whole achievement was charged upon the white of the flag.

² Sarmento's History of our Flag, 1864. The orders to which he refers are to be found in American Archives, 4th series, vol. ii. p. 1738, viz. :—

"HEAD-QUARTERS, CAMBRIDGE, July 23, 1775.

"Parole, 'Brunswick.' Countersign, 'Princeton.'

"As the continental army have, unfortunately, no uniforms, and consequently many inconveniences must arise from not being able always to distinguish the commissioned officers from the non-commissioned, and the non-commissioned from the privates, it is desired that some badges of distinction may be immediately provided; for instance, the field-officers may have red or pink cockades in their hats, the captains yellow or buff, and the subalterns green. They are to furnish themselves accordingly. The sergeants may be distinguished by an epaulette or stripe of red cloth sewed upon the right shoulder; the corporals, by one of green.

"HEAD-QUARTERS, CAMBRIDGE, July 24, 1775.

"Parole, 'Salisbury.' Countersign, 'Cumberland.'

"It being thought proper to distinguish the majors from brigadiers general by some particular mark, for the future major-generals will wear a broad purple ribbon."

Without far seeking for the origin of the stripes upon our flag, it is possible that the stripes on his own escutcheon suggested them to the mind of Washington. They were also one of the devices on the flag of the troop of light horse which accompanied Washington from Philadelphia to New York, when proceeding to assume command of the army at Cambridge, where they were first shown; and it may be that these lists, as they were sometimes called, were adopted as an easy expedient for converting the red ensigns of the mother country, by an economical method, into a new flag, representing the union of the American colonies against ministerial oppression, when not quite ready to give up their loyalty to the "king's colors," which they retained on the new ensign.



Reduced Fac-simile of Washington's Book-plate.

It required the addition of the "new constellation" to render the stripes significant, and give a poetic life and national character to the flag.

When the Virginia convention at Williamsburg instructed its delegates in Congress, May 15, 1776, three weeks before the Declaration of Independence, "to declare the United Colonies free and independent States, absolved from all allegiance to dependence upon the crown and parliament of England, and to propose a confederation of the colonies," there was a great civil and military parade, when, according to an eye-witness, "the union flag of the American States" waved upon the Capitol during the whole ceremony.¹ This could have been no other than the flag inaugurated by Washington at his camp at Cambridge in January.

In July, 1776, a committee, consisting of Generals Sullivan and Greene and Lord Stirling, was appointed to devise a system of signals to be hoisted on the Highlands of Neversink, to give the earliest intelligence of the enemy's approach. They proposed that, for any number of ships from one to six, and from six to twenty-two, and for any

¹ Niles's American Revolution, pp. 251, 252. The toasts at the soldiers' banquet were: 1st, "The American Independent States;" 2d, "The grand Congress of the United States and their respective legislatures;" 3d, "General Washington, and victory to the American arms." These toasts were accompanied by salutes of artillery and *feu de joie* of small-arms.

greater number, three large ensigns with broad stripes of red and white should be hoisted.¹

Colonel Rud. Ritzema, addressing the members of the New York Congress, May 31, 1776, says that, the day before, it was given out in general orders that General Putnam had received a letter from General Washington, requesting all the colonels at New York to immediately provide colors for their several regiments; and he asks that Mr. Curtinius may have directions to provide a pair for his regiment, of such a color and with such devices as shall be deemed proper by the Congress; *i. e.*, New York Provincial Congress.²

On the 4th of July, 1776, after various amendments, the Declaration of Independence from Mr. Jefferson's pen was adopted. The document was authenticated, like other papers of Congress, by the signatures of the President and Secretary, and, in addition, was signed by the members present, with the exception of Mr. Dickenson, of New York, who, as Mr. Jefferson has testified, "refused to sign." It did not bear the names of the members of Congress as they finally appeared upon it. Some days after the Declaration had thus passed, and had been proclaimed at the head of the army, it was ordered to be engrossed on parchment, and signed by every member; and it was not until the 2d of August that these signatures were made. It is this copy or form which has been preserved, as the first-signed paper does not exist, and was probably destroyed.³

No person actually signed the Declaration on the 4th of July. Mr. Read, whose name appears among the signers, was then actually against it; and Morris, Rush, Clymer, Smith, Taylor, and Ross, whose names also appear, were not members on that day, and were not appointed delegates until the 20th of July. Thornton, of New Hampshire, who entered Congress in November, then placed his name upon it, and Judge McKeen, who was present, and voted for it, did not sign until after his return from Washington's camp. It is said that, by a

¹ *Life of General Nathaniel Greene*, vol. 1.

² *American Archives*, 4th series, vol. vi. p. 634, and on page 637 is the order he refers to, *viz*:—

"After Orders, May 31, 1776.

"General Washington has written to General Putnam desiring him in the most pressing terms to give positive orders to all the colonels to have colors immediately completed for their respective regiments."

In a letter to General Putnam, dated May 28, 1776, Washington adds, in a postscript, "I desire you'll speak to the several colonels, and hurry them to get their colors done."—*Washington Letters*, B, vol. 1. p. 316.

³ E. A. Pollard, in *Lippincott's Magazine*, July, 1872.

secret resolution, no member of the first year should hold his seat in Congress until he became a subscriber.¹

The first legislation of the Continental Congress on the subject of a federal navy was on the 18th of October, 1775, and cruisers were about that time equipped and sent to sea on a three months' cruise, under the pine-tree flag, but without any provision for a national ensign. Two days later, Oct. 20, 1775, Washington writes to Colonel Glover and Stephen Moylan, "Please fix upon some particular flag, and a signal by which our vessels may know one another. What do you think of a flag with a white ground, a tree in the middle, the motto, '*Appeal to Heaven.*' This is the flag of our floating batteries. We are fitting out two vessels at Plymouth, and when I next hear from you on this subject I will let them know the flag and the signal, that we may distinguish our friends from our foes."²

Mr. Moylan replies: "The schooner sailed this morning. As they had none but their old colors, we appointed them a signal that they may know each other by, and be known to their friends,—as the ensign up the main topping lift."³

Before the close of the year, and before the grand union flag raising at Cambridge, a regular navy of seventeen vessels, varying in force from ten to thirty-two guns, was ordered, a general prize law established, the relative rank of military and naval officers regulated, and Esek Hopkins, Esq., appointed commander-in-chief of the naval forces of the embryo republic. At the same time, Dec. 22, 1775, captains were commissioned for the purchased vessels, and first, second, and third lieutenants appointed to each. Under the same law the pay of the commander-in-chief of the fleet was fixed at one hundred and twenty-five dollars a month. Such was the humble beginning of a national naval organization. Cruisers armed and equipped by and holding commissions from the several colonies had been fitted and continued to be sent out for some time after under their colonial or State flags, and probably continued to fly them until the close of the war.

The floating batteries of Pennsylvania, in the Delaware, carried the pine-tree flag in the autumn of 1775. According to the English newspapers, privateers throughout the year 1776, wearing a flag of this description, were captured and carried into British ports. The Yankee Hero was captured under these colors in June. Commodore Tucker has related that he hoisted them on the Franklin in

¹ Watson's Annals of Philadelphia.

² Washington's Letters, B, vol. i. p. 84.

³ Washington's Letters, vol. vii. p. 106.

January, 1776, and under them captured the ship *George* and brig *Arabella*.

Dec. 21, 1775. The province of North Carolina authorized three armed vessels to be fitted out with all despatch for the protection of the trade of that province.

Nov. 11, 1775. The South Carolina Colony schooner *Defence*, proceeding to sink some hulks in Hog Island Creek, Charleston Harbor, was fired at by the king's ships *Tamar*, of sixteen, and *Cherokee*, of six guns. Fort Johnson discharged some 26-pounders at the king's ships.

Nov. 14, 1775. Clement Lemprière was appointed captain of the ship *Prosper*, fitting and arming for South Carolina, and other officers were appointed to her.

Throughout October, 1776, the navy board of South Carolina made various provisions for a State navy, and commissioned officers for it and vessels.¹

Dec. 20, 1775. A committee was appointed by the New York Provincial Congress to purchase and equip a proper vessel for the defence of the East River, her cost not to exceed £600.

Jan. 22, 1776. The Committee of Safety of the Provincial Congress of New York wrote to the delegates from New York to the Continental Congress, that they are informed by one of those delegates that the Continental Congress will take into the continental service the sloop *Sally*, purchased December 20 by Colonel McDougall for the defence of the colony for £325, and request, "*Should it so be determined, her flag should be described to them,*"—showing that at that time the New York Committee of Safety were not informed what the continental flag was.²

April, 1776, the Massachusetts Council passed a series of resolutions providing for the regulation of the sea service; among them was the following:—

"*Resolved*, That the uniform of the officers be green and white, and that they furnish themselves accordingly, and that the colors be a white flag with a green pine-tree, and the inscription, 'An appeal to Heaven.'"

The following order to the commander of one of these State cruisers issued later in the year:—

¹ American Archives, vol. II. 5th series, pp. 1323-1329.

² American Archives, vol. IV. 4th series.

"State of Massachusetts Bay to JOHN CLONSTON, Commander of the Sloop Freedom, in the service of said State.

"You are hereby directed and commanded to repair, with the vessel under your command, to the harbor of Boston, in company with the sloop Republick, commanded by John Foster Williams, now in Dartmouth, and there to await the further orders of the council.

"By order of the major part of the council, the 4th of September, 1776.

"SAMUEL ADAMS, *Secretary.*

"Returns of officers on board the armed sloop called the Freedom, whereof JOHN CLONSTON is commander:—JOHN CLONSTON, captain; JAMES SCOTT, first lieutenant; TIMOTHY TOBEY, second lieutenant. In council, Sept. 4, 1776, read and ordered that the above officers be commissioned agreeably to their respective rank.

"SAMUEL ADAMS, *Secretary.*"

Philadelphia, June 6, 1776. Two privateers belonging to this port have taken three very valuable ships bound from Jamaica to London, laden with rum, sugar, molasses, &c., having also a large quantity of dollars and plate on board. We hear that on board of the above ships there were several very fine sea-turtles, intended as a present to Lord North, one of which, with his lordship's name nicely cut in the shell, was yesterday presented by the captain to the worthy president of the American Congress.

June 29, 1776, an ordinance passed the Virginia Convention establishing a board of commissioners to superintend and direct the naval affairs of that colony.¹

Senior of the five first lieutenants of the new continental navy stood John Paul Jones, who was commissioned to the Alfred, then in the Delaware, designed to be the flag-ship of the commander-in-chief, Esek Hopkins, and of which Dudley Saltonstall, Esq., was the captain.

Paul Jones has recorded that 'the FLAG OF AMERICA' was hoisted by him, "by his *own hand*,"² on board the Alfred,³ and adds, "being the first time it was ever displayed by a regular man-of-war." From

¹ American Archives, vol. vi. 4th series, p. 1598.

² Mackenzie's *Life of J. Paul Jones*, vol. i. p. 22; J. F. Cooper's *Life of Jones*, p. 17; Emmons's *United States Navy, 1775-1853*; Sands's *Life of Jones*, p. 33, who adds, "He does not mention the date of this transaction, nor has the present compiler been able to fix it."

³ All the commissions for the Alfred were made out before those for the Columbus. Sands's *Life of Jones*, p. 35.

this we may infer it had been previously displayed by some of the State cruisers.

In a letter to Robert Morris, dated Oct. 10, 1783, Jones says: "It was my fortune, as the senior first lieutenant, to hoist the 'flag of America' the first time it was displayed. Though this was but a light circumstance, yet I feel for its honor more than I think I should have done if it had not happened."

In a letter to Baron Vander Capellan, Jones says: "America has been the country of my fond election from the age of thirteen. When I first saw it, I had the honor to hoist with my own hands the flag of freedom, the first time it was displayed on the Delaware; and I have attended it with veneration ever since on the ocean."

Jones's commission is dated the 7th of December, but as the flag is said to have been hoisted for the first time when the commander-in-chief embarked on the Alfred, and his commission was not issued until the 22d of December, it would seem probable either that Christmas or New Year's day would be selected for its display. The latter would bring its hoisting to the same date as the raising of the union flag in the lines of the army at Cambridge.

Could the log-book of the Alfred referred to in the following letter be found, the precise date when Jones hoisted the flag of America would be known.

"CAPTAIN JONES TO COLONEL TILLINGHAST.

"SLOOP PROVIDENCE, June 20, 1776.

"SIR,—I have made so many unsuccessful attempts to convey the Fly past Fisher's Island, that I have determined to give it up, and pursue my orders for Boston. When I arrive there I will transmit you my letter of attorney; in the mean time you will singularly oblige me by applying to the admiral for an order to receive for me a copy of the Alfred's log-book, which I had made out for my private use before I left the ship, and which was unjustly withheld from me when I took command of the sloop, by the ill-natured and narrow-minded Captain Saltonstall. When the old gentleman was down here he promised to order that my copy should be delivered; but when my lieutenant applied for it, the master of the Alfred told the admiral a cursed lie, and said there was no copy made out. On inquiry, you will find that Mr. Vaughan, the mate of the Alfred, made out the copy in question for me before I went to New York.

"I should not be so particular, did I not stand in absolute need of it before I can make out a fair copy of my journal to lay before the Congress, for I was so stinted in point of time in the Alfred, that I did not copy a single remark; besides, it is a little hard that I, who planned and superintended the log-book, should not be thought worthy a copy, when a midshipman, if he pleases, may claim one. I take it for granted that you will receive

the book; I must therefore beg you to send it, if possible, to me at Mr. John Head's or Captain J. Bradford's, Boston. Regard not the expense, I will cheerfully pay it.

"I am, sir, with esteem, your obliged and very humble servant,

"J. PAUL JONES."

The Alfred, for which the high honor is claimed of being first to wear 'the flag of America,' as well as the standard or flag of the first naval commander-in-chief, was originally a merchant vessel called the Black Prince. She arrived at Philadelphia from London under the command of Captain Barry, October 13,¹ and was purchased and armed by the committee. According to our present ideas, she was a small ship, though a stout vessel of her class at that time, mounting twenty 9-pounders on her main deck, and from one to two guns on her quarter deck and fore-castle. When captured, in 1778, by H. B. M. ships Ariadne and Ceres, her captors reported her as mounting twenty 9-pounders on a single deck, having no spar deck battery. The weight of shot thrown from her entire battery or both broadsides was not equal to the weight of a single shot thrown by one of our modern monitors. Such have been the changes in naval warfare within a hundred years.

I have said that Christmas or New Year's day was probably selected for hoisting the flag of America, but there is evidence showing that it, or at least a continental flag, was hoisted over the Alfred as early as the 3d of December, before any of the officers of our infant navy had been commissioned. A letter addressed to the Earl of Dartmouth, and dated from 'Maryland, Dec. 20, 1775,' says: "Their harbors by spring will swarm with privateers: an admiral is appointed, a court established, and on the 3d inst. [December] the continental flag on board the Black Prince opposite Philadelphia was hoisted."² Another letter to a friend in England says: "The Black Prince [Alfred], a fine vessel, carries a flag, and mounts from twenty to thirty 12 and 16 pounders, besides swivels, and fights mostly underdeck."

It is not known with certainty what flag Jones calls 'the flag of America,' though there are reasons for supposing it the grand union flag of thirteen stripes displayed at Cambridge on the 2d of January, and identical with the "union flag" displayed by the Virginia Convention in May.

¹ "The Black Prince, Campbell, arrived at Falmouth from Philadelphia, Oct. 31, 1775."—*Boston Gazette*, Feb. 3, 1776. Either this was another ship of the same name or there is a mistake of dates. A vessel called the Black Prince was one of the Saltonstall expedition, and was burnt by the enemy.

² See letter signed B. P., Niles's American Revolution, Baltimore, 1822, p. 541.

In the day-signals for the fleet to the several captains in the fleet, as sailing from the capes of Delaware, Feb. 17, 1776, the signal for the Providence to chase was a "St. George's ensign with stripes at the mizzen peak." For a general attack, or the whole fleet to engage, "the standard at the maintop masthead with the striped jack and ensign at their proper places." This standard was probably the rattlesnake flag mentioned elsewhere. The striped jack may have been a flag of thirteen stripes, with a rattlesnake undulating upon it.¹

¹ The following are these orders in full, taken from American Archives, 4th series, vol. iv. p. 179, &c. They are undoubtedly the first signals used by our navy.

ORDERS GIVEN THE SEVERAL CAPTAINS IN THE FLEET AT SAILING FROM THE CAPES OF THE DELAWARE, FEB. 17, 1776.

SIR,—You are hereby ordered to keep company with me, if possible, and truly observe the signals given by the ship I am in; but in case you should be separated in a gale of wind or otherwise, you then are to use all possible means to join the fleet as soon as possible; but if you cannot, in four days after you leave the fleet you are to make the best of your way to the southern part of Abaco (one of the Bahama islands) and there wait for the fleet fourteen days. But if the fleet does not join you in that time, you are to cruise in such places as you think will most annoy the enemy. And you are to send into port, for trial, all British vessels, or property, or other vessels, with any supplies for the ministerial forces, who you may make yourself master of, to such places as you may think best within the United Colonies. In case you are in any great danger of being taken, you are to destroy these orders and your signals.

EZECK HOPKINS, *Commander-in-Chief.*

SIGNALS FOR THE AMERICAN FLEET BY DAY.

For sailing: Loose the foretopsail, and sheet it home.

For weighing and coming to sail: Loose all the topsails, and sheet them home.

For the fleet to anchor: Clew up the maintopsail, and hoist a weft in the ensign.

For seeing a strange vessel: Hoist the ensign, and lower and hoist it as many times as you see vessels, allowing two minutes between each time.

For chasing: For the whole fleet to chase, a red pendant at the foretopmast head.

To give over the chase: A white pendant at the foretopmast head.

For the Columbus to chase: Strike the broad pendant half mast, to be answered by a weft in the ensign, and making sail.

To chase to windward: Hoist the ensign, lowering the pendant at the same time; if to leeward, not.

To give over the chase: A white pendant at the foretopmast head, and if at a great distance, fire a gun at the same time. This may serve for any of the vessels to give over the chase and return to the fleet.

For the Andrew Doria to chase: A Dutch flag at the foretopmast head.

To chase to windward: Hoist the ensign, lowering the pendant at the same time; if to leeward, not.

To give over the chase: A white pendant at the foretopmast head, and if at a great distance, fire a gun at the same time.

A contemporary account says that, in the succeeding February, Admiral Hopkins sailed from Philadelphia with the American fleet,

For the Cabot to chase: A white flag at the foretopmast head. To chase to windward, &c., as above.

For the Providence to chase: A St. George's ensign with stripes at the mizzen peak. To chase to windward, as above.

For the Fly to chase: A Dutch flag at the maintopmast head. To chase to windward, &c., as above.

For the Hornet to chase: A red pendant at the maintopmast head. To chase to windward, &c., as above.

For the Wasp to chase: A Dutch flag at the mizzen peak. To chase to windward, &c., as above.

For a General Attack, or the whole Fleet to engage.

The standard at the maintopmast head, with the *striped jack* and *ensign* at their proper places.

To disengage and form into a squadron: A white flag at the ensign staff, and the same into a weft for every vessel to make the best of their way off from the enemy for their own preservation.

For all captains to come on board the Commodore: A red pendant at the ensign staff.

To speak with the Columbus: A white pendant at the mizzen topmast head.

To speak with the Andrew Doria: A Dutch flag at the mizzen topmast head.

To speak with the Cabot: A weft in a jack at the mizzen topmast head.

To speak with the Providence: A white flag at the mizzen topmast head.

To speak with the Fly: A Dutch flag at the ensign staff.

For any vessel in the fleet that wants to speak with the Commodore: A weft in the ensign, and if in distress, accompanied with two guns.

To fall into a line abreast: A red pendant at the mizzen peak.

To fall into a line ahead: A white pendant at the mizzen peak.

For meeting after a separation: A weft in an ensign, at the maintopmast head, to be answered with the same, and clewing up the maintop gallant sail, if they have any set.

For the ship Providence to chase: A red pendant at the mizzen topmast head. To chase to windward, as before.

To speak with the ship Providence: A weft in the ensign at the ensign staff.

Among the signal flags to be used by the fleet under Abraham Whipple, commodore commanding, given under his hand on board the continental frigate, Providence, Nantasket Roads, Nov. 22, 1779, are mentioned:—

A continental ensign. *A Dutch jack and ensign.* *A striped flag, and*
A continental jack. *A white ensign.* *A white jack.*
A red ensign.

Among the signals prescribed to be observed by commanders in the continental navy, and issued by order of the Marine Committee, Jan. 14, 1778, are mentioned as to be used,—

A French jack and *A continental jack.*

Colonel Reigart, in his unreliable pamphlet, assigns a particular flag to each vessel of this squadron,—but without giving any authority for his statement, and in all my researches I have never found any,—which is, viz: that “the Alfred carried a pine-tree flag, presented by Connecticut; the Columbus, the red cross of St. George, presented by Vermont; the Andrea Doria, the white cross of St. Andrew, presented by Philadelphia; the Cabot, a white silk pine-tree flag from Connecticut; the Providence, St. Andrew's cross, presented by Rhode Island; the Hornet, the yellow silk flag of

“amidst the acclamations of thousands assembled on the joyful occasion, under the display of the union flag, with thirteen stripes in the field, emblematical of the thirteen United Colonies.”

The first achievement of this squadron was the capture of New Providence, and a writer from thence to the ‘London Ladies’ Magazine,’ under date May 13, 1776, mentions that the colors of the American fleet were “striped *under the union*, with thirteen stripes, and their standard [admiral’s flag] a rattlesnake; motto, ‘Don’t tread on me.’”

This confirms my opinion that ‘the flag of America’ was no other than the grand union flag of Cambridge, and that the commander-in-chief’s flag was the yellow flag presented by Colonel Gadsden, and heretofore described.

At the Naval Academy, Annapolis, there is preserved a mezzotinto engraving of “*Commodore Hopkins, commander-in-chief of the American fleet, published as the law directs, 22d August, 1776, by Thomas Hart, London, which has been transferred to glass and colored.*”¹ I have a copy of this mezzotinto from which the illustration has been engraved.² The commodore is represented in the naval continental uniform,³ with a drawn sword. At his right hand there is a flag of thirteen

Virginia, with rattlesnake; the Wasp, the yellow silk flag of South Carolina, with a crescent, a beaver, a rattlesnake, and motto, ‘Don’t tread on me;’ the despatch vessel Fly, bearing a blue flag with red cross of St. George.” As these vessels were not fitted out or equipped by the colonies to which he assigns them, without further authority his statement with regard to the flags cannot be credited.

¹ There are extant other copies of this engraving. C. J. Bushnell, Esq., of New York, has one. It is inscribed like the other, 22d August, 1776. Hon. J. R. Bartlett, of Providence, also has a copy. Mr. Bushnell has a similar engraving of Charles Lee, which has over a cannon a flag-staff, attached to which is a white flag bearing the motto, “*An Appeal to Heaven.*” This engraving is inscribed, “*Charles Lee, Esq., major-general of the continental forces in America. Published as the act directs Oct. 31, 1775, by C. Shepherd. Thomtinson, pinxt.*” Mr. Bushnell has also a similar engraving of General Gates, which exhibits at his right hand a flag with thirteen black bars and thirteen white. It is inscribed, “*Horatio Gates, Esq., major-general of the American forces. London, published as the act directs, Jan. 2, 1778, by John Morris.*” I have seen a colored copy of this engraving, in which General Gates is dressed in a red coat with white or buff facing, and the thirteen black bars on the flag are painted red.

² See p. 222.

³ This, the first uniform of the continental navy, was prescribed by the Marine Committee, just two weeks after the date of this engraving.

Uniform of Navy and Marine Officers.

IN MARINE COMMITTEE, PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 5, 1776.

Resolved, That the uniform of the officers of the navy in the *United States* be as follows:—

Captains: Blue cloth with red lapels, slash cuff, stand-up collar, flat yellow buttons, blue breeches, red waistcoat with yellow lace.

stripes with a snake undulating across them, and underneath it the motto, "*Don't tread on me.*" There is no union to the flag, and it may represent the striped jack mentioned in his signals to the fleet. Over

Lieutenants: Blue with red lapels, a round cuff faced, stand-up collar, yellow buttons, blue breeches, red waistcoat, plain.

Master: Blue with lapels, round cuff, blue breeches, and red waistcoat.

Midshipmen: Blue lapelled coat, a round cuff faced with red, stand-up collar, with red at the button and button-hole, blue breeches, and red waistcoat.

Uniform of the Marine Officers.

A green coat faced with white, round cuff, slashed sleeves and pockets, with buttons round the cuff, silver epaulette on the right shoulder, skirts turned back, buttons to suit the facings. White waistcoat, and breeches, edged with green, black garters, and garters. Green shirts for the men, if they can be procured.

Extract from the Minutes :

JOHN BROWN, *Secretary.*

American Archives, 5th series, vol. II. p. 181.

This uniform does not appear to have been satisfactory, for in March, 1777, the major part of the captains at Boston agreed upon the following uniform dress for the navy:—

Full Dress for Post Captains.

Dark blue coat, white lining, white cuffs, and narrow white lapels the whole length of the waist. The coats full trimmed with gold lace or embroidered button-holes; the buttons at equal distance asunder on the lapels, the upper part of the lapels to button on the upper part of the shoulder, three buttons on each pocket flap, three on each cuff. Stand-up blue collars. White waistcoats, breeches, and stockings. Dress swords. Plain hats with black cockades and gold buttons and loops. Gold epaulettes on the right shoulder, the figure of a rattlesnake embroidered on the straps of the epaulettes, with the motto, "*Don't tread on me.*" The waistcoat trimmed with gold lace, yellow flat buttons, with the impression of the rattlesnake and the motto "*Don't tread on me*" on each of them.

Undress for Post Captains.

The same as dress coats, with the difference that the undress coats have frock backs and turn-down white collars.

Dress for Lieutenants.

The same as for post captains, excepting the lace and embroidery and the epaulettes, and that instead of the rattlesnake they wear buttons with the impression of an anchor. Evidently lieutenants were not allowed epaulettes.

Undress for Lieutenants.

The same as for post captains, excepting the lace, embroidery, and the epaulettes and buttons, and that the coats be made short, or such as are usually called '*coatees.*'

Dress and Undress for Masters and Midshipmen.

The same as for lieutenants, excepting the lapels, and that they wear turn-down collars on their dress and undress coats.

The dress and undress for commanders of ships and vessels under twenty guns to be the same as for post captains, excepting the epaulettes.

This uniform proposition I found among the '*Paul Jones MS.*' in the Congressional Library, and is signed by Captains John Manly, Hector McNeill, Dudley Saltonstall, E. Hinman, Joseph Olney, John Roche, and John Paul Jones, and by Captain McNeill for Captain William Thompson, and by Captain Olney for Captain Abraham Whipple.

Evidently this uniform was adopted by Jones, if by no one else; for John Adams,

thirteen stripes. Watson must be mistaken, since the Alliance was not launched until 1777, and Jones did not command her until 1779, when she must have carried the stars and stripes. On Dec. 17, 1779, the Dutch admiral at the Texel wrote Jones, asking to be informed whether the Alliance was a French or an American vessel; if the first, the admiral expected him to show his commission and display the French ensign and pendant, under a salute; if an American, that he should lose no occasion to depart. The French commissary of marine urged him to satisfy all parties by hoisting French colors; but Jones refused to wear any other than '*the American flag*,' and sent word to the admiral that under that flag he should proceed to sea whenever the pilot would undertake to carry the ship out.

Ten days after, on the morning of the 27th of December, Jones went to sea, and had the satisfaction of writing to Mr. Dumas, by the pilot: "I am here, my dear sir, with a good wind at east, and under my *best American colors*." Favored by a strong east wind, the Alliance the next day passed through the Straits of Dover, with her colors set, running close to the Goodwin Sands, in full view of the fleet anchored in the Downs only three or four miles to leeward. On the 29th she reconnoitred the fleet at Spithead, still showing her colors, and on the 18th of January, 1780, was fairly out of the Channel.¹

It is claimed for Commodore Barney that he first hoisted 'the continental flag' in Maryland. He was appointed second in rank to the sloop Hornet, one of Hopkins's squadron. A crew had not been shipped, and the duty of recruiting fell upon him. Fortunately for his purpose, just at this moment a new 'American flag,' sent by Commodore Hopkins for the service of the Hornet, arrived from Philadelphia, the first that had been seen in the State of Maryland. His biographer calls it a star-spangled banner; but that is evidently her mistake. The next morning at sunrise Barney unfurled it, to the music of drums and fifes, and, hoisting it upon a staff, planted it with his own hands at the door of his rendezvous. The sound of the martial music, then a novelty in Baltimore, and the still more novel sight of the *rebel colors* gracefully waving in the breeze, attracted crowds of all ranks and sizes to the gay scene of the rendezvous; and before the setting of the same day's sun the young recruiting officer had enlisted a full crew of jolly rebels for the Hornet.²

¹ Mackenzie's Life of Paul Jones, vol. 1. pp. 262, 263.

² Life of Commodore Joshua Barney, by Mary Barney.

That Paul Jones was the first to hoist the new continental flag has been doubted; and Cooper remarks, he may have been mistaken: ¹ "He always claimed to have been the first man to hoist the flag of 1775 in a national ship, and the first man to show the present ensign on board a man-of-war. This may be true or not. There was a weakness about the character of the man that rendered him a little liable to self-delusions of this nature; and while it is probable he was right as to the flag which was shown before Philadelphia, the town where Congress was sitting, it is by no means as reasonable to suppose that the first of the permanent flags [stars and stripes] was shown at a place as distant as Portsmouth. The circumstances are of no moment, except as they serve to betray a want of simplicity of character, that was rather a failing with the man, and his avidity for personal distinction of every sort."

John Adams, who certainly did not love Jones, writing Elbridge Gerry, Vice-President of the United States, from Quincy, Jan. 28, 1813,² disputes this claim of Jones, and says, with the pride of a Massachusetts man: "Philadelphia is now boasting that Paul Jones has asserted in his Journal that 'his hand hoisted the first American flag,' and Captain Barry has asserted that 'the first British flag was struck to him;' now I assert that the first American flag was hoisted by Captain John Manly, and the first British flag was struck to him. You were not in Congress in 1775, but you was in the State Congress, and must have known the history of Manly's capture of the transport which contained the mortar³ which afterwards, on Dorchester Heights, drove the English army from Boston, and navy from the harbor."

He also wrote John Langdon, who was a member of the first Marine Committee, Jan. 24, 1813: "My recollection has been excited lately by information from Philadelphia that Paul Jones has written in his Journal, 'My hand first hoisted the American flag,' and that Captain Barry used to say that the first British flag was struck to

¹ Cooper's *Life of Paul Jones*, p. 31.

² Austin's *Life of Elbridge Gerry*.

³ The transport brig *Nancy*, with military stores, several brass guns, and one mortar, was captured by the schooner *Lee*, Captain John Manly, of four guns, ten swivels, and fifty men, on the 29th of November, 1775. December 8, he captured the ship *Jenny*, of two guns, loaded with provisions, and the brig *Hannah*, and beat off a British schooner of eight guns, having two vessels under convoy.

Captain Barry did not get to sea in the *Lexington* until February, 1776. We have no account of the flag worn by Manly. It was probably the pine-tree flag. I think Jones may retain his honors, and for Barry, it can be truthfully claimed that he was the first under the striped flag to capture an armed vessel of the enemy. The fortunate capture of the *Nancy* is alluded to in one of Mr. John Adams's letters.

him. Both these vain boasts I know to be false, and as you know them to be so, I wish your testimony to corroborate mine. It is not decent nor just that these emigrants, foreigners of the South, should falsely arrogate to themselves merit that belongs to New England sailors, officers and men."

Mr. Langdon replied from Portsmouth, "Jan. 27, 1813, the appointment of Manly and his successors must be well known throughout the United States. As to Paul Jones, if my memory serves me, pretending to say that 'this hand first hoisted the American flag,' and Captain Barry, that 'the first British flag was struck to him,' they are both unfounded, as it is impressed on my mind that many prizes were brought into the New England States before their names were mentioned."¹

The brig *Lexington*, mounting fourteen 4-pounders, commanded by Captain John Barry, has been credited as the first of the new continental marine to get to sea and to display the striped flag upon the ocean. There had been private and colonial marine enterprises and cruisers previously, as there were later. Two vessels, the *Lynch* and the *Franklin*, had been commissioned by General Washington, and had sailed under the pine-tree flag, and two small vessels, the *Wasp* and *Hornet*, had come around from Baltimore to join the fleet in the Delaware;² but it was claimed for the *Lexington* that she was the first to get to sea. Cooper, in the early editions of his 'Naval History,' so asserted; but in later editions he says an examination of the private papers of Captain Barry has shown him that Captain Barry was actually employed on shore or in the Delaware for a short time after Commodore Hopkins got to sea.³ The first regular commissioned cruisers, therefore, of the National Navy of the United Colonies were those of Hopkins's squadron. The fleet left Philadelphia early in January, 1776.⁴

¹ *Life and Works of John Adams*, vol. x. pp. 28 and 29, where also are his letters to Elbridge Gerry, pp. 30, 31.

² "Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1776. *Resolved*, That a letter be written to Mr. Tilghman informing him that the *Hornet* and *Wasp* are under orders to sail to the Capes of Delaware, and that such vessels as are ready to sail may take the benefit of that convoy.

"That the committee for fitting out armed vessels be directed to give orders to the captains of the *Hornet* and *Wasp*, to take under their convoy such vessels as are ready to sail."—*American Archives*, 4th series, vol. iv. p. 1637.

³ Cooper's *Naval History*, edition 1856.

⁴ The Naval Committee were authorized by the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, under date Jan. 1, 1776, to engage three pilots of that province to conduct the vessels down to Reedy Island, and the Committee of Safety also authorized the loan of a number of men from the armed bodies of that province to navigate the

The following letter contains an account of its departure for Reedy Island:—

“NEWBURN, N. C., Feb. 9, 1776.

“By a gentleman from Philadelphia, we have received the pleasing account of the actual sailing from that place of the first American fleet that ever swelled their sails on the Western Ocean, in defence of the rights and liberties of the people of these colonies, now suffering under the persecuting rod of the British ministry, and their more than brutish tyrants in America. This fleet consists of five sail, fitted out from Philadelphia, which are to be joined at the Capes of Virginia by two ships more from Maryland, and is commanded by Admiral Hopkins, a most experienced and venerable sea-captain. The admiral's ship is called the *Columbus*, after Christopher Columbus, thirty-six guns, 12 and 9 pounders, on two decks, forty swivels, and five hundred men. The second ship is called the *Cabot*, after Sebastian Cabot, who completed the discoveries of America made by Columbus, and mounts thirty-two guns. The others are smaller vessels, from twenty-four to fourteen guns. They sailed from Philadelphia, amidst the acclamations of many thousands assembled on the joyful occasion, under the display of a union flag with *thirteen stripes in the field*, emblematical of the thirteen United Colonies; but unhappily for us, the ice in the river Delaware as yet obstructs the passage down, but the time will now soon arrive when this fleet must come to action. Their destination is a secret, but generally supposed to be against the Ministerial Governors, those little petty tyrants that have lately spread fire and sword throughout these southern colonies. For the happy success of this little fleet, three millions of people offer their most earnest supplications to Heaven.”¹

At Reedy Island, the squadron was frozen up for six weeks, and did not leave the Delaware until the 17th of February.² On the 19th, the *Hornet* and *Fly* parted company. The first achievement of the

vessels belonging to Congress down. The Naval Committee's sailing orders to Hopkins are dated Jan. 5, 1776.—*American Archives*, 4th series, vol. iv. pp. 506 and 578.

Washington, in his letter to Read, Jan. 4, 1776, after describing his raising the union flag at Cambridge, says: “I fear your fleet has been so long fitting out, and the destination of it is so well known, that the end will be defeated, if the vessel escape.”

¹ *American Archives*, 4th series, vol. iv. p. 964. John Adams, in a letter from “Quincy, April 13, 1819,” writes: “I lay no serious claim to the title of ‘Father of the American navy,’ or of any thing else except my own family. Have you seen the ‘History of the American Navy,’ written by a Mr. Clark and edited by Mat. Carey? I gave the names Alfred, Columbus, Cabot, and Andrea Doria to the first ships that sailed under the flag of the United Colonies.”—*Watson's Men and Times of the Revolution*. See also *ante*.

Adams alludes to the ‘Naval History of the United States,’ by Thomas Clark, a second edition of which, in two volumes, 12mo, was published in Philadelphia, by M. Carey, Jan. 3, 1814. The book is scarce, and has long been out of print. The first edition was published May 6, 1813.

² *Life of Paul Jones; Hopkins's Orders to the Fleet; Cooper's Naval History, &c.*

the arrival of the sloop *Queen of Hungary*, bringing arms and ammunition from Martinico, whose flag was six black bars and six yellow bars.

In a little work published at Leipsic, entitled 'The Historic Genealogical Calendar or Chronicle of the most Memorable Transactions in the New World,' for 1784, copies of which are in the Mercantile and Historical Society Library of New York City, there is a colored representation of "the flag and pendant of the thirteen United States of North America." The flag bears on its field thirteen horizontal stripes, red, blue, and white, and a canton extending over the first six stripes, charged with thirteen white stars, arranged three and two. The narrow pendant corresponding, consists of three stripes, red, blue, and white, forked red and white at the end, and has a blue chief charged with thirteen white stars next the staff, similarly arranged; but between this chief and the three horizontal stripes are thirteen short perpendicular stripes, red, blue, and white.

The first vessel to obtain a salute for the continental flag from a foreign power was the brig *Andrea Doria*, Captain Robinson. This little brig was purchased prior to the resolution of Dec. 22, 1775, and had done some active cruising under the command of Nicholas Biddle. She sailed from Philadelphia, September, 1776, and proceeded at once to St. Eustatia to procure arms. On her arrival at that port, Nov. 16, 1776, she saluted the Dutch flag, and her salute was returned by the governor, who was subsequently removed from office for his indiscretion.¹ A letter to the Maryland Council of Safety, dated St. Eustatia, Nov. 19, 1776, says, "Captain Robertson, of the continental brig *Andrea Doria*, arrived here three days ago, and saluted the fort with eleven guns. The salute was returned by the fort with 18-pounders, and the captain most graciously received by his Honor the Governor and all ranks of people." "All *American* vessels here now wear the Congress colors."²

On her return, the *Andrea Doria* captured the *Race Horse*, of twelve guns, a vessel of about her own force, and arrived at Philadelphia with her prize. When the evacuation of Fort Mifflin gave command of the Delaware to the British, both these vessels were burnt, to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy.

¹ In 1876, a pamphlet was published in Concord, N. H., entitled 'The Stars and Stripes: The Flag of the United States of America.—When, where, and by whom was it first saluted?' in which the writer proves the fact of this salute, and considers it a salute to the stars and stripes! Of course he is mistaken, as the stars were not added to the stripes until June, 1777, and did not come into use for some months later.

² *American Archives*, vol. II. 5th series, p. 760.

In August, 1777, the General Mifflin, commanded by Captain William McNeil, and wearing the 'continental colors,' was saluted at Brest, much to the indignation of the British ambassador. This is the second salute to the continental striped flag of which we have any account.¹

On the 29th of October, 1776, the Continental Congress passed the following resolve, though it does not appear upon its journals that to that time, or for several months later, there was any legislation establishing a national flag:²

Resolved. That no private ship or vessel of war, merchant ship, or other vessel, belonging to the subjects of these States, be permitted to wear pendants when in company with continental ships or vessels of war, without leave from the commanding officer thereof. That if any merchant ship or vessel shall wear pendants in company with continental ships or vessels of war without leave from the commander thereof, such commander be authorized to take away the pendant from the offender. That if private ships or vessels of war refuse to pay the respect due the continental ships or vessels of war, the captain or commander refusing shall lose his commission."

This law, says Cooper, in his 'Naval History,' who dates it a year earlier (1775), "was framed in a proper spirit, and manifested an intention to cause the authorized agents of the government on the high seas to be properly respected. It excites a smile, however, that the whole marine of the country consisted at that time of two small vessels, that were not yet equipped."³ He might have added, and before any national flag had by legal enactment, so far as the journals of Congress show, been prescribed. The official origin of the grand union striped flag at Cambridge, and the striped flags worn by the fleet of Commodore Hopkins, is involved in obscurity. It is singular that no mention of their official establishment can be found in the private diaries of the times, the official or private correspondence since made public of the prominent actors of the Revolution, the newspapers of the times, or the journals of the Provincial and Continental Congresses. We only know, from unimpeached testimony, that there was

¹ In 1863, the Confederate (rebel) cruiser Florida received a return salute from the English authorities at Bermuda, but we do not learn that the governor was removed for his indiscretion.

² Journal of Congress, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 1776, vol. 1. p. 531 (edition of Way & Glendon, Washington, 1823).

³ The list of vessels belonging to the United States Navy, October, 1776, the date of the resolve given by Cooper, was: Thirteen vessels of from 32 to 28 guns building, and thirteen vessels in service; viz., One of 24, one of 20, two of 16, three of 14, one of 12, two of 10, and three smaller,—814 guns. At the same time (Oct. 10, 1776), a resolution passed Congress defining the relative rank of the twenty-four captains then in the navy. Cooper's Naval History, 1856 ed., pp. 57, 58.

a striped continental flag, representing the majesty and authority of the thirteen United Colonies.

Flags with different devices and mottoes continued, however, to be used by troops in the field.

At the battle of Long Island, Aug. 26, 1776, the Hessian regiment of Rahl saw a troop of some fifty Americans hastening towards them with flying colors. Rahl commanded to give fire. The Americans, who had lost their way, or had been cut off from their countrymen, surrendered, begged for quarter, and laid down their arms. An under officer, leaping forward, took away the colors. He was about to present them to Colonel Rahl, when General Von Merbach arrived, and was about snatching the colors from the under officer's hands, when Rahl said, in a tone of vexation, "By no means, General; my grenadiers have taken those colors, they shall keep them, and I shall not permit any one to take them away." A short altercation now took place between them, and they separated in an angry mood, but the colors remained for the present with Rahl's regiment. The captured colors were of red damask, with the motto, "*Liberty*." The Americans took their stand at the head of the regiment Rahl, with arms reversed, carrying their hats under their arms, and fell upon their knees, earnestly entreating that their lives might be spared.¹



American Flag.

From an old English engraving of the Battle of White Plains, Oct. 28, 1776.

I have an engraving of what purports to be the battle of White Plains, Oct. 28, 1776, which seems to represent the scene above described, the Americans carrying a flag of which the annexed is a fac-simile.

That a national flag other than the striped continental was not provided until some time after the Declaration of Independence, is to me certain. William Richards, writing to the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, Aug. 19, 1776, says, "I hope you have agreed what sort of colors I am to have made for the galleys, &c., as they are much wanted;" and again, Oct. 15, 1776, "The commodore was with me this morning, and says the fleet has not any colors to hoist if they should be called on duty. It is not in my power to get them until there is a design fixed on to make the colors by."²

¹ Hessian account of the battle of Long Island. *Memoirs of Long Island Historical Society*, vol. II. pp. 434, 435.

² *Pennsylvania Archives*, vol. V. pp. 17, 46.

A letter dated Newport, Oct. 21, 1776, says, on the authority of a Captain Vickery, just arrived from the West Indies: "No vessel is suffered to wear English colors in any French port, but continental colors are displayed every Sunday, and much admired."¹ A letter dated "Southampton, England, Nov. 11, 1776," says, "that the brig Kingston, Captain Reveness, this day arrived fourteen days from Oporto, and brought advice of sixteen American privateers at Bilboa and four at Ferrol, Spain, and that "their colors are a red field with thirteen stripes where our union is placed, denoting the united rebellious colonies."² This would show that the flags were red, with thirteen stripes in a union where we now have stars.

Boston, Dec. 5, 1776. Captain Barbeoc, in a vessel belonging to Newburyport, has arrived at Squam from Bilboa, in thirty-three days. With him came passenger Mr. George Cabot, of Beverley, merchant, who informs that the Spanish and French ports are open to our cruisers, and that they permit American vessels to carry the American flag in their ports.

In the preceding pages we have established that the earliest flags planted on the shores of North America, of which there is any record, were those of England; that during the colonial and provincial periods they were continued in the Anglo-Saxon settlements, with the addition of various devices and mottoes, to the time of the grand union flag raising at Cambridge, Massachusetts, Jan. 2, 1776, when the long-established and well-known red ensign of England, bearing in its union the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, was striped in its field with thirteen alternate red and white stripes, emblematic of the union of the thirteen colonies against the oppressive acts of the ministerial government of the Kingdom of Great Britain, whose symbol they nevertheless retained. We now have arrived at the period when this last symbol of loyalty was abandoned, and the striped union flag of the colonies received added beauty and new significance by the erasure of the blended crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, and showing in their place a canopy of white stars on a blue field, representing a new constellation in the western political heavens, an entire separation of the colonies from Great Britain, and the advent among nations of a new power, which, by its Declaration a few months previous, had solemnly proclaimed a free and independent State, under the name of **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

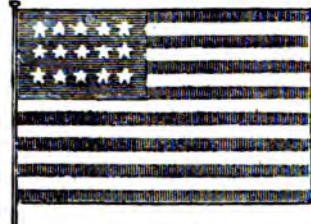
¹ American Archives, 5th series, vol. i. p. 173.

² American Archives, 5th series, vol. iii. p. 637.

THE STARS AND STRIPES, 1777-1878.



1777
13 STARS 13 STRIPES



1795
15 STARS 15 STRIPES



PROPOSED STANDARD
1818



1818



1818



1847
36 STARS 13 STRIPES



1878
36 STARS 13 STRIPES

PART III.

THE STARS AND STRIPES.

A.D. 1775-1818.

**THEORIES AS TO THE ORIGIN OF THE STARS AND
STRIPES AS THE DEVICES OF OUR
NATIONAL BANNER.**

1774-1777.

**THE THIRTEEN STARS AND THIRTEEN STRIPES DURING
THE REVOLUTION.**

1777-1783.

**THE FLAG OF THIRTEEN STARS AND THIRTEEN
STRIPES.**

1783-1795.

THE FLAG OF FIFTEEN STARS AND FIFTEEN STRIPES.

1795-1818.

"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth."—*Psalms* lx 4.

"As at the early dawn the stars shine forth even while it grows light, and then, as the sun advances, that light breaks into banks and streaming lines of color, the glowing red and intense white striving together and ribbing the horizon with bars effulgent. So on the American flag, stars and beams of many-colored light shine out together. And where this flag comes, and men behold it, they see in its sacred emblazonry no ramping lions and no fierce eagle, no embattled castles or insignia of imperial authority: they see the symbols of light. It is the banner of dawn. It means *Liberty*; and the galley slave, the poor oppressed conscript, the down-trodden creature of foreign despotism, sees in the American flag that very promise and prediction of God: 'The people which sat in darkness saw a great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.'

"In 1777, within a few days of one year after the Declaration of Independence, the Congress of the Colonies in the Confederate States assembled and ordained this glorious national flag which we now hold and defend, and advanced it full high before God and all men as the flag of liberty.

"It was no holiday flag gorgeously emblazoned for gayety or vanity. It was a solemn national signal. When that banner first unrolled to the sun, it was the symbol of all those holy truths and purposes which brought together the Colonial American Congress! . . . Our flag carries American ideas, American history, and American feelings. Beginning with the Colonies, and coming down to our time, in its sacred heraldry, in its glorious insignia, it has gathered and stored chiefly this supreme idea: *Divine right of liberty in man*. Every color means liberty; every thread means liberty; every form of star and beam or stripe of light means liberty: not lawlessness, not license; but organized institutional liberty,—liberty through law, and laws for liberty!

"It is not a painted rag. It is a whole national history. It is the Constitution. It is the government. It is the free people that stand in the government on the Constitution."—*Henry Ward Beecher's Address to two Companies of the Brooklyn Fourteenth Regiment, 1861.*

PART III.

THE STARS AND STRIPES.

THEORIES AS TO THE ORIGIN OF THE STARS AND STRIPES.

1774-1777.

“Flag of the free heart's hope and home!
By angel hands to valor given;
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in heaven.
For ever float that standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe but falls before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us?” — *Drake.*

THE earliest suggestion of stars as a device for an American ensign prior to their adoption in 1777 is found in the ‘Massachusetts Spy’ for March 10, 1774, in a song written for the anniversary of the Boston Massacre (March 5). In a flight of poetic fancy, the writer foretells the triumph of the American ensign:—

“A ray of bright glory now beams from afar,
The American ensign now sparkles a star
Which shall shortly flame wide through the skies.”

The earliest known instance of the thirteen stripes being used upon an American banner is found upon a standard presented to the Philadelphia troop of Light Horse in 1775, by Captain Abraham Markoe, which is now in the possession of that troop, and displayed at its anniversary dinners.¹ As General Washington, when *en route* to take command of the army at Cambridge, accompanied by Generals Lee and Schuyler, was escorted by this troop of Light Horse from

¹ I had a dim recollection of having seen a lithograph of this standard many years before, but I am indebted to my indefatigable friend, John A. McAllister, Esq., of Philadelphia, in a letter dated Oct. 26, 1871, for my knowledge of this flag, which had escaped the notice of the previous historians of our flag.

Philadelphia, June 21, 1775, to New York,¹ he was doubtless familiar with the sight of this standard, and it is possible that it may have



Standard of the Philadelphia Light Horse,
1775.

suggested to him the striped union flag he raised at Cambridge six months later.

The first Continental Congress assembled at Philadelphia, September, 1774; and on the 17th of November twenty-eight gentlemen of the highest respectability and fortunes voluntarily associated, constituted themselves the Philadelphia troop of Light Horse, and elected Abraham Markoe captain. The members equipped themselves at their own expense. The uniform adopted by them was a dark brown short-coat, faced and lined with white; high-topped boots; a round black hat, bound with silver cord and a buck's tail. Their housings were brown edged with white, with the letters 'L. H.' worked on them. Their arms were a carbine, a pair of pistols in holsters, and a horseman's sword, with white belts for the sword and carbine. Such was the appearance of the troop when it escorted General Washington to New York, and afterward fought under this standard at Trenton and Princeton.

¹ Sparks's *Life of Washington*, p. 143, also Bancroft's *History of the United States*. "On the 23d of June, the day after Congress had heard the first rumors of the battle at Charlestown, Washington was escorted out of Philadelphia by the Massachusetts delegates and many others, with music, officers of militia, and a cavalcade of light horse in uniform. On Sunday, the 25th, all New York was in motion. Washington, accompanied by Lee and Schuyler, under escort of the Philadelphia Light Horse, was known to have reached Newark. On the news that he was to cross the Hudson, bells were rung, the militia paraded in their gayest trim, and at four o'clock in the afternoon the commander-in-chief, dressed in a uniform of blue, was received at Lispenard's by the mass of inhabitants. Drawn in an open carriage by a pair of white horses, he was escorted into the city by nine companies of infantry, while multitudes of all ages bent their eyes on him from house-tops, the windows, and the streets. That night the royal governor, Tryon, landed without any such popular parade."—*Bancroft's History of the United States*.

"Nov. 21, 1775, Lady Washington was escorted from Schuylkill Ferry into the city by the Light Horse," &c.

"Nov. 27, 1775, Lady Washington, attended by a troop of horse, two companies of light infantry, &c., left Philadelphia on her journey to the camp at Cambridge."—*Passages from the Diary of Christopher Marshall*, vol. 1., 1774-77, edited by William Duane, pub. Phila., 1839.

Captain Markoe resigned his commission late in 1775, an edict of Christian VIII., king of Denmark, forbidding his subjects to engage in the war against Great Britain, under penalty of confiscation of their property.¹ He presented this standard to the troop before his resignation, and it was their first standard; this fixes the date of its manufacture in 1775, and prior to the union flag raising at Cambridge. For this reason this flag is considered a relic of priceless value by the troop.

The following minute description of this interesting Revolutionary relic is furnished by Mr. Charles J. Lukens, of Philadelphia:²—

“The flag of the Light Horse of Philadelphia is forty inches long and thirty-four inches broad. Its canton is twelve and one-half inches long, and nine and one-half inches wide. The armorial achievement in its centre occupies the proportional space shown in the drawing; both sides of the flag exhibit the same attributes. The left side shows every thing as if the material were transparent, giving the right side entirely in reverse, except the ciphers ‘L. H.’ and the motto, “For these we strive.” The ciphers, the running vine on both sides, the cord and tassels, and the fringe, are of silver bullion twist. The spear-head and the upper ferrule, taken together eight inches in length, are of solid silver. The staff is of dark wood, in three carefully ferruled divisions screwing together. Ten screw rings at irregular intervals, from two and one-half to three and three-fourths inches, are used to attach the flag to the staff by means of a cord laced through corresponding eyelets in the flag.

“The flag is formed of two sides very strongly hemmed together along the edges, each side being of two equal pieces attached together by means of a horizontal seam, the material of the flag being a light, bright yellow silk, and apparently the same tint as that of the present artillery flag of the United States. The *canton* of the flag is ‘Barry of thirteen *azure* and *argent*.’ The *azure* being deep ultramarine, the *argent* silver leaf. The *achievement* in the centre of the flag is: *Azure*, a round knot of three interlacings, with thirteen divergent, wavy, bellied, double foliated ends *or*, whereof two ends are in chief and one



¹ By-Laws, Muster Roll, and Papers of the First Troop of the Philadelphia City Cavalry, Philadelphia, 1856; History of the First Troop, 1876. The edict was dated Oct. 4, 1775.

² Letters of C. J. Lukens, Nov. 6, 1871, March 21, 1872, &c. Mr. Lukens says the

in *base* as per margin. The scrolled edging of the shield is gold, with outer and inner rims of silver.

"*Crest* [without a wreath] a horse's head *bay*, with a white star on the forehead, erased at the shoulders, maned *sable*, bitted and rosetted *or*, and bridled *azure*. Over the head of the charger is the monogram 'L. H.,' for Light Horse, though it has been suggested these letters are the monogram of Levi Hollingsworth, who was quartermaster of the troop at the battle of Trenton.

"Beneath the shield, the motto, '*For these we strive,*'¹ in black Roman capitals of the Elizabethan style, on a floating silver scroll, upon the upcurled ends of which stand the supporters, *Dexter*, a continental masquerading as an American Indian (probably of the Boston tea-party, Dec. 16, 1773), with a bow *or*, the loosened string *blue* floating on the wind, in his left hand, and in his right a gold rod upholding a liberty cap,² with tassel *azure*, the lining *silver*, head-dress

first troop have always prized their standard very highly, but never suspected its value in the history of the stars and stripes. Since the publication of the first edition of this work the flag has been placed between two plates of glass and deposited in an iron fire-proof safe, built expressly for its reception in the troop's new armory.

¹ Evidently referring to fame and liberty, represented by the supporters.

² Many persons entertain a belief that the liberty cap was first used in modern times as an emblem of freedom by the French in 1790. That this was not the case is proved by its being one of the devices on the flag of the Philadelphia Light Horse, and by the following resolve:—



"*Philadelphia, August 31st, 1775.* At a meeting of the Committee of Safety, held this day, *Resolved*, That Owen Biddle provide a seal for the use of the board, about the size of a dollar, with a *cap of liberty*, with this motto, '*This is my right, and I will defend it.*'"

The Phrygian Cap.

The liberty cap is of Phrygian origin, and belongs to classical times. It was granted to freedmen as a token of manumission from bondage. The Saxons of England used it as their ordinary head-dress, but without the meaning we attach to it. It was on American coins in 1783. The *Bryges*, a warlike people from the southwest shores of the Euxine, conquered the east of Asia Minor, which they called 'Briga,'—afterwards changed to *Phrygia*. This people distinguished themselves from the primitive inhabitants by wearing their national cap as a sign of their independence, and it was stamped on their coins. The Romans adopted it, and, when a slave was manumitted, placed a small red cap called 'a *pileus*' on his head, proclaimed him a freedman, and registered his name as such. When Saturnius took the capital in 263, he hoisted a cap on a spear to indicate that all slaves who joined him should be free. When Cæsar was murdered, the conspirators raised a Phrygian cap on a spear as a token of liberty. The Goddess of Liberty on the Aventine Mount held in her hand a cap, the symbol of freedom. In France, the Jacobins wore a red cap. In England, the symbol of liberty is a blue cap with a white border; and Britannia is represented holding such a cap on the end of a spear. The American cap of liberty has been adopted from the British, and is blue with a white border or bottom on which are thirteen stars. There is no positive regulation in regard to it beyond its shape and color, so far as America is concerned.

and kilt (or ga-ka-ah) of feathers, the former of five alternately of dark red and gold, with fillet of crimson. The latter of seven alternately of *gold* and of *dark red*. This may be of eight, and then it would be $5 + 8 = 13$, alternately of dark red and of gold, as the gold at least occupies the extreme natural right of the kilt. The uncertainty arises from age, and the fact that the dependent ends of a crimson shoulder sash or scarf worn from left to right with knot at the waist bound the left edge of the kilt, which itself is supported by a narrow girdle, with pendent loops of gold, and the looped spaces red. The quiver is of *gold*, supported over the right shoulder by a *blue* strap; its arrows are *proper*. A continental officer's crescent, *gold*, suspended around the neck by a *blue* string, rests just where the clavicles meet the sternum. The mocassins are *buff* with feather tops, I think alternated dark red and gold. The Indian has deep black hair, but his skin is intermediate between the Caucasian and the aboriginal hues, rather inclining to the former, and his cheek is decidedly ruddy, almost rosy. He approaches the shield in profile, as does also the *sinister supporter*, which represents an angel of florid tint, roseate cheek, with auburn curly hair, and blue eyes, blowing a golden trumpet, with his right hand, and holding in his left a *gold* rod. His wings are a light *bluish gray* with changeable flashes of *silver*. His flowing robe from the right shoulder to the left flank is *purple*. These supporters not being heraldic in position and motion for human or angelic figures, their left and right action have the natural and not heraldic significations.

"This flag is in admirable condition, considering that more than one hundred years have elapsed since it was made. The whole is a model of good taste and judgment, and evidences that Captain Markoe spared no expense."

The presentation is not found chronicled in the Philadelphia papers of the time.¹

A lithograph of this flag, presenting a fair idea of its appearance, was published in William Huddy's 'Military Magazine,' Philadelphia, 1839. The picture is accompanied by some spirited lines by Andrew McMakin, which are dedicated to it.² A fine colored representation

¹The 'Germantown Telegraph,' some twenty years ago, stated that the old flag of the first troop of Philadelphia county cavalry was in existence, and said: "It was painted in 1774, at the organization of the corps, and is believed to be the only relic now extant of the first flag adopted by the colonies." A correspondent of the 'Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch' says: "The newspapers of 1774 contain nothing about the presentation of this flag, nor about the formation of the troop of Light Horse, and I have searched the newspapers of 1774 and '75, without finding any mention of the presentation."

²These lines were given in full in the first edition of this book.

of the flag is given in the 'Centennial History of the Troop,' published in 1875.

On the semi-centennial anniversary of the troop, Nov. 17, 1824, this banner was displayed; and David Paul Brown, when called upon for a toast, gave impromptu:—

"OUR BANNER!

For fifty years, at fray or feast,
O'er deadly foe or gentle guest,
Triumphantly unfurled!
And FIFTY more our flag shall wave
In memory of the Good and Brave
Who dignified the world,
And tyranny and time defy
In freedom's immortality."

Mr. Lukens considered this flag to bear intrinsic evidence of having existed before the invention of the star-spangled banner, "because it has no stars save a white star in the forehead of the horse-head used as a crest; it also symbolizes the thirteen colonies by a golden knot of thirteen divergent wavy, floating, foliated ends upon a blue shield; and although this in itself is a very beautiful type of the United Colonies, it never would have been selected for the purpose by anybody after the invention of the thirteen stars on blue, equivalent to thirteen stars in the heavens; as the latter, being a higher and more significant symbol, would instantly have swayed every heart in its favor."¹

Fortunately, solving all doubts as to the early date of this standard, William Camac, a great-grandson of Captain Markoe, and at one time a lieutenant of the City Troop, discovered among his ancestor's papers, in November, 1874, the original bills for designing and painting it, and has presented them to the troop. A fac-simile of them will be found on the following page.

The first bill, it will be observed, is for a pair of colors, that is, both sides of the standard, which were made separately and sewed together; and includes a charge for a 'union,' that is, the stripes, showing that it was not an after addition, as has been suggested.

Nothing on these bills fixes the precise date of ordering the flag. The bill for designing is dated a week later than the bill for painting, and it is reasonable to suppose the standard was completed some time before these bills were presented. Georgia, the thirteenth State to

¹ Mr. Lukens's lecture on 'The Heraldry of the American Flag,' as reported in the 'Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch.'

join the confederacy, assented in her provincial congress to all the measures of resistance, and united with the other colonies on the

Captain Mather Philadelphia Sept 1775
To James Claypoole Esq
In painting, gilding, binding, or Device, Stripes
& Motto on 2. below for the troops of Light
Horse 248. £8. 0. 0
Received the Contract in full from
Mr. Mitchell of James Claypoole

September 16th 1775
M. Mather Esq
To John Folwell
To Drawing & Designing the Colours for
the Light Horse
£1. 15.
Received in full from
John Folwell

6th of July, 1775, three months earlier, though her delegates did not take their seats in Congress until September; and the thirteen blue and white stripes on the union of this flag may have symbolized those events, or anticipated them. And it may be that it was borne by the troop when it accompanied Washington, June 21, 1775, from Philadelphia to New York, when, being a new flag and device, it would naturally have attracted his attention. Colonel Joseph Reed, his military secretary, was at that time a resident of Philadelphia, and had doubtless opportunities of seeing the flag carried by the troop, and he may have suggested the stripes to Washington. This conclusion is strengthened by the fact that he was secretary of the Committee of Conference sent by Congress to arrange with General Washington the details of the organization of the army, which went into being Jan. 2, 1776, and Colonel Reed, while the committee was in

¹ James Claypoole was a painter in Philadelphia as early as 1749. He died in Philadelphia in 1784. Nothing is known of John Folwell.—*History of the First Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry, 1774-1874.*

session, had the subject of a flag under consideration. This standard was carried by the troop on all important parades until about 1830, when its condition, owing to age and the risk of its exposure, prevented its use in service. It was, however, often displayed at the anniversary dinners.

As from its increasing age the standard required careful preservation, and would not permit of its being handled, in 1872, immediately after the publication of the first edition of this book, in which attention was called to its exceeding value, the City Troop had a handsome frame and case made for its safe-keeping. The frame is of black walnut, in the form of a screen, in which is set the case made of two plates of plate-glass, between which the flag is placed. On either side, and below the case, in one face of the frame, are attached the three sections of the staff. In the ornamental head of the same is a small semicircular opening, faced on either side with glass, which contains the spear-head and tassels. In the construction of the troop's new armory, in 1874, a fire-proof safe was built for the special purpose of containing this frame, in which is kept the original bills, since discovered. On the 17th of November, 1874, at the centennial anniversary of the troop, the standard was displayed to the assembled guests in its new and safe quarters. A fine, large, colored illustration of it was published in the Centennial History of the troop, in 1875.¹

The 'Pennsylvania Magazine,' vol. i., 1775, has for frontispiece two flags crossed, one of which, it has been asserted, is blazoned with the thirteen stripes, but has no stars. An examination of the engraving, however, shows that both flags are plain, and that the stripes are only a shaded representation of the folds of the flag. The same magazine has "a correct view of the battle at Charlestown, June 17, 1775," in which the British flag is plainly to be seen, but no other flag is visible.

¹ History of the First Troop, City Cavalry, 1774. Nov. 17, 1874. 1 vol. 4to, pp. 150.

THE THIRTEEN STARS AND THIRTEEN STRIPES DURING
THE REVOLUTION.

1777-1783.

“Red, white, and blue, wave on;
Never may sire or son
Thy glory mar;
Sacred to liberty,
Honored on land and sea,
Unsoiled for ever be
Each stripe and star.”

W. P. Tilden.

On Saturday, the 14th of June, 1777, the American Congress “*Resolved*, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”¹ Thus, full fledged, and without any debate or previous legislation, our flag was flung as a new constellation among the nations. A careful examination of the Rough and Smooth MS. Journals of Congress in the Library of Congress, and of the files of the original drafts of motions made in the Continental Congress in the Department of State, instituted at my request by the Librarian of Congress, shows that this is the first legislative action of which there is any record for the establishment of a national flag for the sovereign United States of America, declared independent July 4, 1776,² nearly a year previous, and proclaims the official birth of a new constellation as the symbol of their union. In the ‘*Rough Journal*’ the resolve reads: “1777, Saturday, June 14. . . *Resolved*, That the flag of the United States of [‘of’ changed to ‘by’] 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the

¹ MS. Journal of Congress, copied by Charles Thomson, No. 2, vol. vi. p. 1537, also in 1823 ed., vol. i. p. 165; Arnold’s History of Rhode Island; Hamilton’s History of the U. S. Flag; Sarmento’s History of our Flag; Boston Gazette, Sept. 15, 1777, &c.

² Professor S. F. B. Morse, President of the American Academy of Design, said that, entering the studio of Benjamin West, long after the death of his patron and friend, George III., he found him copying a portrait of that king. As he sat at his work and talked, according to his custom, he said: “This picture is remarkable for one circumstance. The king was sitting to me when a messenger brought him ‘the Declaration of Independence.’” “How did he receive the news?” I asked “He was agitated at first,” replied West, “then sat silent and thoughtful; at length he said, “Well, if they cannot be happy under my government, I hope they may not change it for a worse. I wish them no ill.”—*Dunlop’s History of the Arts of Design in America.*

union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." ¹ This resolve was printed in the papers in August, but was not officially promulgated over the signature of the Secretary of Congress at Philadelphia until September 3, and at other places still later. An officer of the American army records in his diary, under the date Aug. 3, 1777: "It appears by the papers that Congress resolved, on the 14th of June last, that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field," &c. ² This tardy resolve of Congress, it will be observed, was not passed until eighteen months after the union flag raising at Cambridge, and the sailing of the first American fleet from Philadelphia, under continental colors,—nearly a year after the declaration of the entire separation of the colonies from Great Britain, and another two and a half months were allowed to elapse before it was promulgated officially. There was red tape in those early days as well as now. No record of the discussions which must have preceded the adoption of the stars and stripes has been preserved, and we do not know to whom we are indebted for their beautiful and soul-inspiring devices. It does not appear from the record whether it was the device of a committee or of an individual, or who presented the resolve. It seems probable, however, it emanated from the Marine Committee, if not from a special one, and such is the tradition. There are many theories as to its origin, but, though less than a century has elapsed, none are satisfactory.

The stripes, as already stated, some have supposed to have been borrowed from the Dutch or from the designating stripes on the coats of the continental soldiers. Both stars and stripes, others have considered, were suggested by the arms of Washington, which, by a singular coincidence, contain both. The arms of William, Lord Douglas, however, also bear on a shield *argent* a chief *azure*, a heart imperially crowned proper, and three mullets (five-pointed stars) *argent*. The stars and shield, it will be observed, of the Douglas arms, are the color of our union, while those on the Washington arms are not.

"The Hodye harte in the Dowglas armes
Hys standere stood on hye
That every man myght fule well knowe;
By side stode starres three." ³

¹ Rough MS. Journal, No. 1, vol. ix. p. 248.

² Military Journal during the American Revolutionary War, from 1775 to 1783, by James Thatcher, M.D., late Surgeon in the America.

³ Battle of Otterburne (written *cir.* Henry VI.).

Had any banner been blazoned with the coat armor of Washington, it is reasonable to suppose he would have chosen its devices for the banner of his own Life Guard; but that had no such device.¹

A British antiquarian² supports the idea that Washington's arms furnished the device for "our flag."

"Like Oliver Cromwell, the American patriot was fond of genealogy, and corresponded with our heralds on the subject of his own pedigree.³ Yes! that George Washington, who gave sanction if not birth to that most democratical of all sentiments, 'that all men are free and equal,'⁴ was, as the phrase goes, a gentleman of blood, of ancient time, and coat-armor, nor was he slow to acknowledge the fact.⁵ When the Americans, in their most righteous revolt against the tyranny of the mother country, cast about for an ensign with which to distinguish themselves from their English oppressors, what did they ultimately adopt? Why! nothing more nor less than a gentleman's badge, a modification of the old English coat of arms borne by their leader and deliverer. A few stars had, in the old chivalrous times, distinguished his ancestors from their compeers in the tournament and upon the battle-field; more stars and additional stripes, denoting the number of States that joined in the struggle, now became the standard around which the patriots of the West so successfully rallied. It is not a little curious that the poor worn-out ray of feudalism, as so many would count it, should have expanded into the bright and ample banner that now waves from every sea."

The assumption of this writer finds denial in this,—that Washington, in his correspondence or writings, has not mentioned any connection of his arms with our flag, as he would have been likely to have done had there been any, for he would certainly have been proud of the

¹ See illustration, p. 10.

² Lowes.

³ Not until 1792.

⁴ He gives to Washington credit due to Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, in which all men are declared to be created equal; or rather to Hon. George Mason, of Virginia, who wrote, May, 1776, "that all men are created equally free and independent," the commencing words of the Declaration of Rights, on a copy of which he indorsed, "The first declaration of the kind in America." The document can be found in Niles's 'American Revolution.'

⁵ Washington to Sir Isaac Heard, "Philadelphia, May 2, 1792," in answer to his queries about the genealogy, &c., of the Washington family, says: "This is a subject to which I confess I have paid very little attention." "The arms enclosed in your letter are the same that are held by the family here."

Mrs. Lewis, of Woodlawn, Va., has the little robe in which Washington was baptized. It is made of white silk lined with red (crimson) silk, and trimmed with blue ribbon, our national colors, red, white, blue.—*Lossing's Hist. Record*, March, 1872.

connection; and there is no allusion to the subject in the published correspondence of his contemporaries.

Mr. Haven favors the supposition that the devices of our flag were taken from the arms of the Washington family, and were used out of respect to the commander-in-chief. He thought, also, the stars on the Washington shield might be of Roman origin. "Virgil speaks of returning to the stars, *redire ad astra*, implying a home of peace and happiness; and the Romans worshipped the stars, which bore the name of their gods. They also used scourges, producing stripes on the bodies of those they punished." From these symbolic antecedents we may, he says, "derive our star-bearing banner, the heaven-sent ensign of our union, freedom, and independence, the stripes only to be used as a scourge to our enemies."¹

A correspondent of the 'New York Inquirer' beautifully said: "Every nation has its symbolic ensign,—some have beasts, some birds, some fishes, some reptiles, in their banners. Our fathers chose the stars and stripes,—the red telling of the blood shed by them for their country; the blue, of the heavens and their protection; and the stars of the separate States embodied in one nationality, '*E Pluribus Unum*.'"

Alfred B. Street, alluding to our flag as first unfurled at the surrender of Burgoyne, says:—

"The stars of the new flag represent a constellation of States rising in the West. The idea was taken from the constellation Lyra, which in the hands of Orpheus signified harmony. The blue of the field was taken from the edges of the Covenanters' banner in Scotland,² significant also of the league and covenant of the United Colonies against oppression, and involving the virtues of vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The stars were disposed in a circle, symbolizing the perpetuity of the union; the ring, like the circling serpent of the Egyptians, signifying eternity. The thirteen stripes showed with the stars the number of the United Colonies, and denoted the subordination of the States to the Union, as well as equality among themselves. The whole was a blending of the various flags, previous to the union flag,—the red flag of the army and the white one of the floating batteries. The red color, which in Roman days was the signal of defiance,³ denotes daring, and the white purity."

¹ Paper read before the New Jersey Historical Society, January, 1872.

² See p. 139 for description of the Covenanters' banner.

³ Admiral Farragut used the old Roman signal when he designated two red lights as a signal for battle previous to passing the forts below New Orleans. In ancient military history, a gilded shield hung out of the admiral's galley was a signal for

“What eloquence do the stars breathe when their full significance is known! a new constellation, union, perpetuity, a covenant against oppression, justice, equality, subordination, courage, and purity.”

I have been unable to find that his poetic and fanciful description is supported by contemporaneous proof, or that it was ever required the stars should be arranged in a circle, though in Trumbull's painting of the ‘Surrender of Burgoyne,’ and Peale's portrait of Washington, the stars are so arranged by those artists. The resolution of June 14, 1777, does not direct as to their arrangement in the union. It does say, however, that they represent, not ‘Lyra,’ or any known heavenly cluster of stars, but ‘a new constellation.’ The idea that the new constellation was a representation of Lyra is advocated in Schuyler Hamilton's ‘History of the Flag;’ but I cannot deem the evidence conclusive. The constellation of Lyra is a symbol of harmony and unity, and consists of the required number of stars; but to represent it in the union of a flag would be difficult and objectionable. John Adams is said to have proposed Lyra as the emblem of union; and when John Quincy Adams was Secretary of State, in 1820, he gave color to the idea by removing the United States arms from the United States passports, and substituting in place of them a circle of thirteen stars, surrounding an eagle holding in his beak the constellation Lyra and the motto, “*Nunc sidera ducit.*”

Our Revolutionary fathers, when originating a national flag, undoubtedly met with difficulty in finding a device at once simple, tasteful, inspiring, and easily manufactured. The number of States whose unity was to be symbolized was a stumbling-block. The stripes represented them; but what could be found to replace the crosses emblematic of the union of the kingdoms of Scotland and England, whose authority they had renounced? The rattlesnake, which had been used for a time as a symbol of the necessity of union and defiance, rather than of union itself, was repulsive to many, from being akin to the tempter of our first parents, and the cause of their expulsion from Paradise, bearing also the curse of the Almighty.

battle. Sometimes it was a red garment or banner. During the elevation of this signal, the fight continued, and by its depression or inclination to the right or left, the ships were directed how to attack their enemies or to retreat from them. In matters of military parade, probably derived from this ancient custom, it is usual to fix a red flag, called a ‘signal-staff,’ somewhat larger than a camp color, to point out the spot where the general or officer commanding takes his station.—*London Encyclopedia*, vol. xx.

A red flag is the danger-signal on all modern railroads.

One of the best of the devices suggested for a union was a circle of thirteen mailed hands, issuing from a cloud, and grasping as many links of an endless chain. An instance of this device exists in the flag or color of a Newburyport company, which was on exhibition in the National Museum in Philadelphia, in 1876. It had the addition of a pine-tree in the centre of the surrounding links.



A Union Device, 1776.

A mailed hand grasping a bundle of thirteen arrows had been a device for privateers; but that was a symbol of war and defiance rather than of union. A round knot with thirteen floating ends was the beautiful device, signifying strength in union, of the standard of the Philadelphia Light Horse. A checkered union of blue and white or blue and red squares might have answered, but the odd number of the colonies prevented that or any similar device. Thirteen terrestrial objects, such as eagles, bears, trees, would have been absurd, and equally so would have been thirteen suns or moons; besides, the crescent was the chosen emblem of Mohammedanism, and therefore unfitted to represent a Christian people. Thirteen crosses would have shocked the sentiments of a portion of the people, who looked upon the cross as an emblem of popish idolatry. There remained then only the stars, and the creation of a new constellation to represent the birth of the rising republic.¹ No other object, heavenly or terrestrial, could have been more appropriate. They were of like

¹ An English writer, a few years later, thus ridicules the fondness of the American colonists for the number thirteen:—

"Thirteen is a number peculiarly belonging to the rebels. A party of naval prisoners lately returned from Jersey say that the rations among the rebels are thirteen dried clams per day; that the titular Lord Stirling takes thirteen glasses of grog every morning, has thirteen enormous rum bunches on his nose, and that (when duly impregnated) he always makes thirteen attempts before he can walk; that Mr. Washington has thirteen toes to his feet (the extra ones having grown since the Declaration of Independence), and the same number of teeth in each jaw; that the Sachem Schuyler has a topknot of thirteen stiff hairs, which erect themselves on the crown of his head when he grows mad; that old Putnam had thirteen pounds of his posterior bit off in an encounter with a Connecticut bear ('twas then he lost the *balance* of his mind); that it takes thirteen Congress paper dollars to equal one penny sterling; that Polly Wayne was just thirteen hours in subduing Stony Point, and as many seconds in leaving it; that a well-organized rebel household has thirteen children, all of whom expect to be generals and members of the high and mighty Congress of the 'thirteen united States' when they attain thirteen years; that Mrs. Washington has a mottled tomcat (which she calls in a complimentary way *Hamilton*) with thirteen yellow rings around his tail, and that his flaunting it suggested to the Congress the adoption of the same number of stripes for the rebel flag."—*Journal of Captain Smythe, R. A., January, 1780.*

form and size, typifying the similarity of the several States, and, grouped in a constellation, represented their unity.

It will probably never be known who designed our union of stars. The records of Congress being silent upon the subject, and there being no mention or suggestion of it in any of the voluminous correspondence or diaries of the time, public or private, which have been published.

It has been asked why the stars on our banner are five-pointed, while those on our coins are, and always have been, six-pointed. The answer is, that the designer of our early coins followed the English, and the designer of our flag the European, custom.¹ In the heraldic language of England, the star has six points; in the heraldry of Holland, France, and Germany, the star is five-pointed.

Mr. William J. Canby, in 1870, read before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania a paper on the American Flag, in which he claimed that

his maternal grandmother, Mrs. John Ross,² was the maker and partial designer of the first flag combining the stars and stripes. The house where this flag was made is now No. 239 Arch Street, below Third; it is a small two-storied and attic tenement, formerly No. 89, and was occupied by Mrs. Ross after the death of her first husband. The illustration is from a photograph furnished by Mr. Canby.



House where the first Stars and Stripes are said to have been made.

A committee of Congress, he asserts, accompanied by General Washington, in June, 1776,³ called upon Mrs. Ross, who was

¹ Editor Historical Magazine.

² Mrs. Ross's maiden name was Griscom. After the death of Mr. Ross, she married, second, Ashburn, who died a prisoner of war in the Mill Prison, England; and, third, John Claypole, a lineal descendant of Oliver Cromwell. Mrs. Ross's first husband was the nephew of Colonel George Ross, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

³ Washington was called from New York to Philadelphia, June, 1776, to advise with Congress on the state of affairs just previous to the Declaration of Independence, and was absent from New York fifteen days.—*Sparks's Washington*, p. 177.

an upholsterer, and engaged her to make the flag from a rough drawing, which, at her suggestion, was redrawn by General Washington in pencil in her back parlor. The flag thus designed was adopted by Congress, and was, according to Mr. Canby, the first star-spangled banner which ever floated on the breeze.

Mrs. Ross received the employment of flag-making for government, and continued in it for many years. Three of Mrs. Ross's daughters were living when Mr. Canby wrote his paper, and confirm its statements, founding their belief upon what their mother had told them concerning it. A niece, Miss Margaret Boggs, then living at Germantown, aged ninety-five, was also cognizant of the fact. As related by them, Colonel George Ross and General Washington visited Mrs. Ross and asked her to make the flag. She said, "I don't know whether I can, but I'll try;" and directly suggested to the gentlemen that the design was wrong, the stars being six-cornered and not five-cornered [pointed], as they should be. This was altered, and other changes made.

Mr. Canby, in a letter written soon after reading his paper, says:¹ "It is not *tradition*, it is *report* from the lips of the principal participator in the transaction, directly told not to one or two, but a dozen or more living witnesses, of whom I myself am one, though but a little boy when I heard it. I was eleven years old when Mrs. Ross died in our house, and well remember her telling the story. My mother and two of her sisters are living, and in good memory. I have the narrative from the lips of the oldest one of my aunts, now deceased, reduced to writing in 1857. This aunt, Mrs. Clarissa Wilson, succeeded to the business, and continued making flags for the navy-yard and arsenals and for the mercantile marine for many years, until, being conscientious on the subject of war, she gave up the government business, but continued the mercantile until 1857. Washington was a frequent visitor at my grandmother's house before receiving command of the army. She embroidered his shirt ruffles, and did many other things for him. He knew her skill with the needle. Colonel Ross, with Robert Morris and General Washington, called upon Mrs. Ross, and told her they were a committee of Congress, and wanted her to make the flag from the drawing, a rough one, which, upon her suggestions, was redrawn by General Washington in pencil in her back parlor. This was prior to the Declaration of Independence. I fix the date to be during Washington's visit to Congress from New York in June, 1776, when he came to confer

¹ Letters from W. J. Canby. March 29, 1870; Nov. 9, 1871.

upon the affairs of the army, the flag being, no doubt, one of these affairs." ¹

Mr. Canby contends that the stars and stripes were in common if not general use soon after the Declaration of Independence, nearly a year before the resolution of Congress proclaiming them the flag of the United States of America; but I cannot agree with him.

He finds evidence of this in the fact that regiments were allowed compensation for altering their colors after July 4, 1776, and that Indian tribes during that year petitioned Congress for a flag of the United States. He probably refers to the following, which is dated eleven days earlier than the resolve giving birth to the new constellation: "Philadelphia, June 3, 1777, Colonial Records, vol. xi., p. 212. The President laid before the council three strings of wampum, which had been delivered to him some time before by Thomas Green, a nominal Indian of the nation, requesting that a *flag of the United States* might be delivered to him to take to the chiefs of the nation, to be used by them for their security and protection, when they may have occasion to visit us their brethren, and that his Excellency had referred him to Congress for an answer to his request." ² He also regards as evidence the statements of Miss Montgomery, ³ that her father, Captain Hugh Montgomery, early in July, 1776, hoisted the stars and stripes. Her statement is that Robert Morris, in the winter of 1775, chartered the brig Nancy, commanded by her father, who was one of the owners of the brig. In March, 1776, she sailed for Porto Rico under English colors, thence to other West India islands, and finally to St. Thomas, where, when her cargo was nearly completed, information was received that independence was declared, with a description of the colors adopted. "This was cheering intelligence to the captain, and would divest him of acting clandestinely. Now they

¹ A ridiculous pamphlet has been published entitled 'The History of the First United States Flag and the Patriotism of Betsy Ross, the immortal heroine that originated the First Flag of the Union. Dedicated to the Ladies of the United States. By Colonel J. Franklin Reigart, author of the "Life of Robert Fulton." Harrisburg, Pa.; Lane S. Hart, Printer and Binder, 1878.' It is a handsome 4to of twenty-five pages, illustrated with a pretended portrait of Mrs. Betsy Ross (printed in colors) making the first flag, but which is really the portrait of a Quaker lady of Lancaster, now living, and taken from a photograph! His facts and dates and assumptions are equally unreliable. Mr. Canby repudiates the book, and says it does not correctly present the modest Quaker lady (his grandmother) or her claim. The book is a literary curiosity.

² In the orderly book of the army at Williamsburg, under date April 8, 1776, the colonels are desired to provide themselves with colors, but "it doeth not signify of what sort they are."

³ Reminiscences of Wilmington, in Familiar Village Tales, Ancient and New, by Elizabeth Montgomery, pp. 176-179. Philadelphia: T. K. Collins, Jr., 1851.

could show their true colors. The material was at once procured, and a young man on board set to work privately to make them." He was well known in after years as Captain Thomas Mendenhall. The number of men was increased, the brig armed for defence, and all things put in order. The day they sailed, the captain invited the governor and his suite, with twenty other gentlemen, on board to dine. A sumptuous dinner was cooked; and a sea-turtle being prepared, gave it the usual name of a turtle feast.

"As the custom-house barges approached with the company, they were ordered to lay on their oars while a salute of thirteen guns was fired. Amid this firing Mendenhall was ordered to haul down the English flag and hoist the first American stars ever seen in a foreign port.¹ Cheers for the national congress; cries of 'Down with the lion, up with the stars and stripes!' were shouted. This caused great excitement to the numberless vessels then lying in the harbor, and to the distinguished guests was a most animating scene. After the entertainment was hurried over, they returned in their boats, and the brig was soon under full sail." Miss Montgomery then narrates the Nancy's approach to our coast, and her being run ashore and blown up to avoid capture by a British fleet, and says, "One tottering mast, with the national flag flying, seemed only left to guess her fate. Still a quantity of powder and merchandise was left below, and it was resolved, ere she was abandoned, to prevent these stores from falling into the hands of the enemy by blowing her up. The plan was arranged so that the men could have time to leave, and the captain and four hands were the last to quit. As the boat distanced the wreck, one man, John Hancock, jumped overboard, as he said, 'to save the beloved banner or perish in the attempt.' His movement was so sudden that no chance was afforded to prevent his boldness, and they looked on with terror to see him ascend the shivering mast, and deliberately unfasten the flag, then plunge into the sea and bear it to the shore." The enemy, taking this act as a signal of surrender, hastened in their boats "to take possession of the prize, and was involved in the subsequent explosion." Miss Montgomery's narrative proves, if any thing, not that her father hoisted the stars and stripes, but the continental flag; for the Nancy was blown up on the 29th of June, 1776, five days before the Declaration of Independence, and before a drawing of Mrs. Ross's flag, in accordance with Mr. Canby's theory, could have reached her in the West Indies, as will be seen by the

¹ A beautiful mezzotinto engraving of the Nancy flying the stars and stripes (1) furnishes a frontispiece to Miss Montgomery's 'Reminiscences.'

following statement in a newspaper, dated "Philadelphia, June 29, 1776. The brig Nancy, Captain Montgomery, of six 3-pounders and eleven men, from St. Croix and St. Thomas, for this port, with three hundred and eighty-six barrels of gunpowder, fifty firelocks, one hundred and one hogsheads of rum, and sixty-two hogsheads of sugar, &c., on board, in the morning of the 29th of June, when standing for Cape May, discovered six sail of men-of-war, tenders, &c., making towards him, as also a row-boat. The boat and tenders he soon after engaged and beat off, stood close alongshore, and got assistance from Captains Wickes and Barry, when it was agreed to run the brig ashore, which was done; and, under favor of a fog, they saved two hundred and sixty-eight barrels of powder, fifty arms, and some dry-goods, when the fog clearing away, Captain Montgomery discovered the enemy's ships very near him, and five boats coming to board the brig, on which he started a quantity of powder in the cabin, and fifty pounds in the mainsail, in the folds of which he put fire, and then quitted her. The men-of-war's boats (some say two, some three) boarded the brig, and took possession of her, with three cheers; soon after which the fire took the desired effect, and blew the pirates forty or fifty yards into the air and much shattered one of their boats under her stern; eleven dead bodies have since come on shore, with two gold-laced hats and a leg with a garter. From the number of limbs floating and driven ashore, it is supposed thirty or forty of them were destroyed by the explosion. A number of people from on board our ships of war, and a number of the inhabitants of Cape May, mounted a gun on shore, with which they kept up a fire at the barges, which the men-of-war, &c., returned, and killed Mr. Wickes, third lieutenant of the continental ship Reprisal, and wounded a boy in the thigh."¹

Although the flag of thirteen stripes had been displayed Jan. 2, 1776, the following order shows conclusively that no common flag had been adopted for the continental army in February:²

"HEAD-QUARTERS, 20th February, 1776.

"Parole, 'Manchester.' Countersign, 'Boyle.'

"As it is necessary that every regiment should be furnished with colors, and that those colors bear some kind of similitude to the regiment to which they belong, the colonels, with their respective brigadiers and with the quartermaster-general, may fix upon any such as are proper and can be procured. There must be for each regiment the standard for regimental colors, and colors for each grand division,—the whole to be small and light. The

¹ American Archives, 4th series, vol. vi. p. 1132.

² See note, *ante*, p. 226, letter and order on same subject dated May 28 and 31, 1776.

number of the regiment is to be marked on the colors, and such motto as the colonels may choose, in fixing upon which the general advises a consultation among them. The colonels are to delay no time in getting the matter fixed, that the quartermaster-general may provide the colors for them as soon as possible.

“GO. WASHINGTON.”

Washington's first requisition on arriving in camp was for one hundred axes, and hunting for colors. At the battle of Long Island, fought August, 1776, a regimental color of red damask, having only the word 'LIBERTY' on the field, was captured by the British.

On the 24th of February, 1776, the Committee of Safety at Philadelphia ordered “that Captain Proctor procure a flag-staff for the fort, with a flag of the *United Colonies*,”¹ and that Commodore Caldwell and Captain Proctor fix upon proper signals for the fleet, merchantmen, and battery. Under date Aug. 19, 1776, Captain William Richards writes to the Pennsylvania Council of Safety:—

“Gentlemen, I hope you have agreed what sort of color I am to have made for the galleys, &c., as they are much wanted;” and under date “Oct. 15, 1776: Gentlemen, the commodore was with me this morning, and says the fleet has not any colors to hoist if they should be called to duty. It is not in my power to get them done, until there is a design to make the colors by.”²

The colors he asked a design for were State colors, but the request shows that no national colors had been adopted, and the continental flag was still in use.

The first colors made for this fleet, of which there is record, were made by Mrs. Elizabeth Ross, as is shown by the following, extracted from the minutes of the Navy Board:—

“STATE NAVY BOARD, May 29, 1777.

“Present: William Bradford, Joseph Marsh,
Joseph Blewer, Paul Cox.

“An order on William Webb to Elizabeth Ross for fourteen pounds, twelve shillings, and two pence, for making ship's colours, &c., put into William Richards store. £14. 12.2.”³

¹ Pennsylvania Colonial Records, vol. x. p. 494.

² Pennsylvania Archives, vol. v. pp. 13, 14.

³ Pennsylvania Archives, 1st series, vol. v. p. 46.

Joseph Webb was paid by the Massachusetts Board of War, May 5, 1777. “To mending an ensign and sewing in a pine tree, 6s.

“*State of Mass. Bay to Jos. Webb, Dr.*

“Aug. 20, 1777. To making a suit of Colours, 44s.; thread, 12s.; painting Pine Trees, &c., 24s.—£4. 0. 0.

“JOHN CONSTON.

“*State Armed Brig Freedom.*”

When the Declaration of Independence was received at Easton, Penn., July 8, the colonel and all the other field-officers of the first battalion repaired to the court-house, the light infantry company marching there with their drums beating, fifes playing, "and the standard (the device for which is the thirteen United Colonies), which was ordered to be displayed."¹

The Declaration was read in New York in the presence of Washington by one of his aids, on the 9th of July, 1776, in the centre of a hollow square of the troops, drawn up on the Park near where there is now a fountain, and the "grand union" flag of Cambridge was then, if it had not been earlier, unfurled in New York. On the 10th the Declaration was read at the head of the several brigades.

On the 9th it was proclaimed from the old State House in Philadelphia, by the Committee of Safety, and the king's arms were taken from the court-house and committed to a bonfire in front of it.

Thursday, July 18, 1776, it was proclaimed from the balcony of the State House in Boston, and the king's arms and every sign of them taken down and burnt, bells rung, &c.

It was not until Sept. 9, 1776, that Congress ordered "all continental commissions and instruments should be made to read 'United States,' where heretofore the words 'United Colonies' had been used."

The first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1777, was celebrated in Philadelphia, with demonstrations of joy and festivity. About noon, all the armed ships and galleys in the river were drawn up before the city, dressed in the gayest manner, with the colors of the United States and streamers flying. At one o'clock, the yards being manned, they celebrated the day by a discharge of thirteen cannon from each ship, and one from each of the thirteen galleys, in honor of the thirteen United States. In the afternoon, an elegant dinner was provided by Congress, when toasts were drank and *feu-de-joies* were fired. The troops were reviewed by Congress and the General Officers, and the day closed with the ringing of bells and exhibition of fireworks, which began and ended with thirteen rockets. The city was beautifully illuminated.²

At Charleston, S. C., at sunrise the same day, American colors were displayed from all the forts, batteries, and vessels in the harbor,³ and at one o'clock the forts discharged seventy-six pieces, alluding to the glorious year 1776.

¹ Pennsylvania Evening Post, July 11, 1776; New England Chronicle, vol. viii. No. 414, July 25, 1776.

² Pennsylvania Journal, July 9, 1777. ³ Independent Chronicle, July 31, 1777.

Similar rejoicings and displays of the 'United States' colors were had all over the country.

The portrait of Washington at the battle of Trenton, Dec. 26-27, 1776, painted by Charles Wilson Peale in 1779, represents the union jack, with the thirteen stars arranged in a circle; but it affords only presumptive proof that such a flag was carried. Mr. Peale's son, Titian R. Peale, writing a friend in 1870, says: "Whether the union jack was my father's design, original or not, I cannot say, but I suppose it was, because he has somewhat marred the artistic effect by showing the stars, and flattening the field to show their arrangement;" and in another letter he says: "I have just had time to visit the Smithsonian Institution to see the portrait of Washington painted by my father, C. W. Peale, after the battle of Trenton. It is marked in his handwriting, 1779. The flag represented is a blue field with white stars arranged in a circle. I don't know that I ever heard my father speak of that flag, but the trophies at Washington's feet I know he painted from the flags then captured, and which were left with him for the purpose. He was always very particular in matters of historic record in his pictures (the service sword in that picture is an instance, and probably caused its acceptance by Congress). The blue ribbon has also excited comment,—the badge of a field-marshal of France in that day.¹ I have no other authority, but feel assured that flag was *the* flag of our army at the time, 1779.² My father commanded a company at the battles of Germantown, Trenton, Princeton, and Monmouth, and was soldier as well as painter, and, I am sure, represented the flag then in use, not a regimental flag, but one to mark the new republic."³

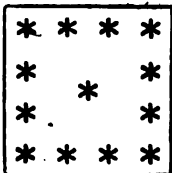
An unfinished sketch of the battle of Princeton, Jan. 3, 1777, in the Trumbull Gallery at New Haven, represents the American flag with thirteen white stars on a blue field, arranged as in the diagram,—and with thirteen stripes, red and white alternately. As Colonel Trumbull was in active service until February, 1777, his representation of the flag carried by the troops, with which he must have been familiar, is worthy of attention.²

Arthur Lee, one of our commissioners to France, writing Henry Laurens, the President of the Continental Congress, Sept. 20, 1778, a

¹ Washington's general order, July 24, 1775, prescribes a broad purple ribbon as the distinguishing mark of a major-general. See note, *ante*, p. 224.

² Possibly in 1779; but in December, 1776, or in January, 1777, the stars had no place on our flag. See *ante*, p. 198.

³ Letter to John A. McAllister, 1872.



year after the public promulgation of the law of June, 1777, which prescribed the thirteen stripes to be red and white alternately, says: "The ship's colors should be white, red, and blue alternately, to thirteen, and in the upper angle [canton] next the staff a blue field with thirteen white stars."

I am indebted to Miss Sarah Smith Stafford for the following account of the presentation of the first star-gemmed banner by ladies of Philadelphia to Paul Jones. This story she received from Mrs. Patrick Hayes, who had it from her aunt, Miss Sarah Austin, one of the donors. Miss Austin became later the second wife of Commodore John Barry, U. S. N. "The patriotic ladies of Philadelphia met at the Swedes' Church in that city, and under the direction of John



Swedes' Church, Philadelphia.

Brown, Esq., secretary of the new Board of Marine, formed or arranged a flag, which was presented to Jones by Misses Mary and Sarah Austin in behalf of the patriotic ladies of Philadelphia. Captain Jones was so delighted and enthusiastic, that after the presentation he procured a small boat, and, unfurling the flag, sailed up and down the river before Philadelphia, showing it to thousands on shore."¹

Paul Jones claimed it was his good fortune to be the first to display the stars and stripes on a naval vessel, as it had been his to hoist

¹ Miss Sarah Smith Stafford, Letter, Jan. 15, 1873. I can find no notice of this event in the church records or in the newspapers of the time, and the fact, if fact it be, rests upon the statement of Miss Stafford and her informants.

with his own hand the "flag of America" for the first time on board the Alfred. He also claimed to have obtained and received for our star-spangled banner the first salute granted to it in Europe.

The day that Congress passed the resolve in relation to the flag of the thirteen United States, June 14, 1777, it also "*Resolved*, That Paul Jones be appointed to the command of the Ranger;" and soon after he hoisted the new flag on board of that vessel at Portsmouth. The Ranger, however, did not get to sea until the 1st of November, nearly five months later. Her battery of sixteen 6-pounders, throwing only forty-eight pounds of shot from a broadside, excites a smile of contempt in these days of heavy guns; otherwise, she was poorly equipped. Among her deficiencies Jones laments having only thirty gallons of rum for the crew to drink on their passage to Nantes. He also represented her as slow and crank, but nevertheless managed to capture two prizes on his passage to Europe, and reached Nantes in thirty days from Portsmouth, N. H.

From Nantes Jones sailed to Quiberon Bay, convoying some American vessels, and placing them under the protection and convoy of the French fleet commanded by Admiral La Motte Piquet. From him, after some correspondence, Jones succeeded in obtaining the first salute ever paid by a foreign naval power to the stars and stripes. The story is best told in Jones's letter to the Naval Committee, dated Feb. 22, 1778:—

"I am happy," he says, "to have it in my power to congratulate on my having seen the American flag, for the first time, recognized in the fullest and completest manner by the flag of France. I was off this bay on the 13th inst., and sent my boat in the next day to know if the admiral would return my salute. He answered that he would return to me as the senior American continental officer in Europe the same salute as he was authorized to return to an admiral of Holland or any other republic, which was four guns less than the salute given. I hesitated at this, *for I had demanded gun for gun.*

"Therefore I anchored in the entrance of the bay at a distance from the French fleet; but after a very particular inquiry on the 14th, finding that he really told the truth, I was induced to accept his offer, the more *as it was an acknowledgment of American Independence.*

"The wind being contrary and blowing hard, it was after sunset before the Ranger¹ was near enough to salute La Motte Piquet with thirteen guns, which he returned with nine. However, to put the

¹ Jones, in his letter to the American commissioners at Paris, dated Brest, May 27, 1778, mentions that in the action between the Ranger and the Drake on the 24th of

matter beyond a doubt, I did not suffer the Independence to salute until the next morning, when I sent word to the admiral that I would sail through his fleet in the brig, and would salute him in open day. He was exceedingly pleasant, and returned the compliment also with nine guns." ¹

As if Providence delighted to honor Jones over all others in connection with our flag, and was determined to entwine his name with its early history, was assigned to him the honorable duty of displaying it for the first time on board the first ship of the line built for the United States, and fitly named '*The America*.'

This ship, like the *Ranger*, was built at Portsmouth, N. H., and Jones appointed to command her. Before she could be launched, the *Magnifique*, one of the finest ships of the line of the French navy, was stranded near Boston harbor, and to replace her, the *America*, by a resolve of the American Congress, was presented to our ally, the sovereign of France. Jones, however, was retained in command, and superintended her construction; and on the 5th of November, 1782, displaying the French and American flags from her stern, he launched her into the waters of Portsmouth harbor, and delivered her to the Chevalier Martigne, who had commanded the *Magnifique*. It seems probable that Jones hoisted the stars and stripes over her the preceding summer, when, at his own expense, he celebrated the birthday of the Dauphin of France, as it is recorded the ship on that occasion was decorated with the flags of different nations, that of France being in front, and that salutes were fired, and at night the ship brilliantly illuminated, &c.

April preceding, when the latter hoisted the English colors, "the *American stars* were displayed on board the *Ranger*."—*Sherburne's Life of Jones*. This is the first recorded action under the new flag.

The *Ranger* was taken with other vessels in the port of Charleston, S. C., on the surrender of that city to the British.—*Charnock's Biographie Navale*, vol. vi. p. 5.

"The continental colors" borne on the *General Mifflin*, Captain William McNeil, had been saluted at Brest, August, 1777, much to the indignation of the English ambassador, Lord Stormont, and had been saluted at St. Eustatia by the Dutch governor, De Graff, Nov. 16, 1776, in acknowledgment of a salute from the brig *Andrea Doria*, Captain Robertson. See *ante*, p. 244. The evidence of the pamphlet proves the striped continental flag was saluted at St. Eustatia.

¹Dr. Ezra Green, the surgeon of the *Ranger*, mentions the salute in his diary, under date "Saturday, 14th. Feb. Very squally weather, came to sail at 4 o'clock P.M. Saluted the french Admiral, & rec'd nine guns in return. This is the first salute ever pay'd the American flagg.

"*Sunday*, 15th Feb'y. Brig Independence saluted the french Flag, which was returned."

The first military incident connected with the new flag occurred on the 2d of August, 1777, when Lieutenants Bird and Brant invested Fort Stanwix,¹ then commanded by Colonel Peter Gansevoort. The garrison was without a flag when the enemy appeared, but their patriotism and ingenuity soon supplied one in conformity to the pattern just adopted by the Continental Congress. Shirts were cut up to form the white stripes, bits of scarlet cloth were joined for the red, and the blue ground for the stars was composed of a cloth cloak belonging to Captain Abraham Swartwout, of Dutchess County, who was then in the fort. Before sunset, this curious mosaic standard, as precious to the beleaguered garrison as the most beautiful wrought flag of silk and needle-work, was floating over one of the bastions. The siege was raised on the 22d of August, but we are not told what became of the improvised flag.

The narrative of Colonel Marinus Willett presents a different version of this story. He says, "The fort had never been supplied with a flag. The necessity of having one, upon the arrival of the enemy, taxed the invention of the garrison, and a decent one was soon contrived. The white stripes were cut out of ammunition shirts furnished by the soldiers; the blue out of the caplet cloak taken from the enemy at Peekskill; while the red stripes were made of different pieces of stuff procured from one and another of the garrison."

In his statement to Governor Trumbull, Aug. 21, 1777, of the occurrences at and near Fort Stanwix, Colonel Willett mentions as one of the results of his sally from the fort on the 6th, preceding, that he captured and brought off five of the enemy's colors, the whole of which on his return to the fort were displayed on the flag-staff under the impromptu made continental flag.²

Mr. Haven, in a paper read before the New Jersey Historical Society, says: "From traditional reports in circulation here, the first time that our national flag was used after the enactment concerning it by Congress was by General Washington, in the hurried and critical stand made by him on the banks of the Assanpink, when he repulsed Cornwallis, Jan. 2, 1777. As this conflict was the turning-point, in connection with what succeeded at Princeton, of the struggle for independence, and the glorious consequences which followed, does

¹ Fort Stanwix was built in 1758 by an English general of that name, and was renamed 'Schuyler' by Colonel Dayton in 1777. In 'Harper's Magazine' for July, 1877, there is a picture of the site of Fort Schuyler, and portraits of Colonels Gansevoort and Willett. The present town of Rome covers the site of Fort Schuyler.

² Lossing's Field-Book of American Revolution, vol. 1. p. 242.

not this signal baptism of the stars and stripes, with the hope and confidence regenerated by it, seem providential? Freedom's vital spark was then rekindled, and our own country and the whole civilized world are now illumined with its beams."

But this occurrence took place six months before the stars and stripes were adopted, and tradition must be mistaken. It is true, Leutze, in his great picture of Washington crossing the Delaware, has painted Colonel Munroe in the boat holding the stars and stripes, but it is with an artist's license.¹

Beyond a doubt, the thirteen stars and thirteen stripes were unfurled at the battle of Brandywine, Sept. 11, 1777, eight days after the official promulgation of them at Philadelphia, and at Germantown on the 4th of October following; they witnessed the operations against and the surrender of Burgoyne, after the battle of Saratoga, Oct. 17, 1777; and the sight of this new constellation helped to cheer the patriots of the army amid their sufferings around the camp fires at Valley Forge the ensuing winter. They waved triumphant at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Sept. 19, 1781; looked down upon the evacuation of New York, Nov. 25, 1783; and shared in all the glories of the latter days of the Revolution.

A monument which is to be erected in commemoration of the battle of Saratoga will cover the exact spot where the marquee of General Gates was situated, which witnessed the formal surrender of Burgoyne, and the formal unfurling of the stars and stripes.

On the 28th of January, 1778, the stars and stripes for the first time waved over a foreign fortress. About eleven o'clock the night previous, the American sloop-of-war Providence,² Captain John Rathburne, mounting twelve 4-pounders, with a crew of fifty men, landed twenty-five of her crew on the island of New Providence. They were joined by about eighteen or twenty Americans escaped from British prison-ships, and who were waiting an opportunity to return home. This small body of men took possession of Fort Nassau, with the cannon, ammunition, and three hundred stand of small-arms, and hoisted the stars and stripes.

In the port lay a 16-gun ship, with a crew of forty-five men, and five vessels, all prizes to the British sloop Grayton. At daybreak, four men were sent on board the 16-gun ship to take possession of her, and send the officers and crew into the fort. Her prize captain was shown the American flag hoisted on the fort, and informed his ship would be

¹ See *ante*, p. 198.

² The Providence was captured when Charleston was taken, 1780.

instantly sunk should he hesitate to surrender. Thus intimidated, he gave her up, and the five prize vessels were secured in a similar manner. Possession was also taken of the western fort, its cannon spiked, and its powder and small-arms removed to Fort Nassau. About twelve o'clock, some two hundred armed people assembled and threatened to attack the fort; but, on being informed if they fired a single gun the town would be laid in ashes, they dispersed. Soon after the Providence had anchored, the British ship Grayton hove in sight. The American colors were immediately taken down, and the guns of the Providence housed, hoping the Grayton would come to anchor. But the inhabitants signalled to her the state of affairs, and she stood off. The fort opened fire upon her, but she made her escape.

About three o'clock the next morning, some five hundred men with several pieces of artillery marched within sight of the fort, and summoned it to surrender, threatening at the same time to storm the place and put all to the sword without mercy. The Americans, however, in the presence of the messenger, nailed their colors to the flag-staff, and returned answer that, while a man of them survived, they would not surrender.

The following morning the prizes were manned, the guns of the fort spiked, the ammunition and small-arms conveyed on board the Providence, and the whole American garrison was embarked and put to sea, after having held possession of the fort two days. Two of the prizes, being of little value, were burnt, the others were sent to the United States.

When the news that the treaty of alliance with France (the first treaty of our new republic with a foreign power) which had been signed at Paris, Feb. 6, 1778,¹ was received, General Washington, from his head-quarters at Valley Forge, ordered, on May 2d, that the following day should be set apart "for gratefully acknowledging the divine goodness and celebrating the important event which we owe to his benign interposition." Accordingly, the army was reviewed by the commander-in-chief, with banners waving, and at given signals, after the discharge of thirteen cannon and a running fire of infantry, the whole army huzzaed, "Long live the King of France!" then, after a like salute of thirteen guns and a second general discharge of musketry, "Huzza! long live the friendly European powers!" then a final discharge of thirteen pieces of artillery, followed by a general running fire and "Huzza for the American States!"²

¹ Pennsylvania Packet, March 28, 1778.

² The French alliance was looked upon as a wonderful interposition of Provi-

The officers approached the place of entertainment thirteen abreast and closely linked in each other's arms, thus signifying the thirteen American States, and the interweaving of arms a complete union and most perfect confederation.¹

The next interesting incident connected with the new constellation occurred on the 7th of March, 1778, when the continental ship Randolph, 32, Captain Nicholas Biddle, was blown up in an engagement with the Yarmouth, 64, Captain Vincent.

dence, and every measure that could be, was taken to extend a sentiment of confidence in the result of the struggle after this happy event. As one means of effecting this end, the following curious statement was published throughout the United States:—

“Wonderful Appearances and Omens.

“1. After the surrender of Burgoyne, and while the treaty of alliance with France was on the carpet, the American heavens were illuminated at intervals for whole months together. The aurora borealis, or northern lights, were the greatest ever seen in America.

“2. When the fleet of his most Christian majesty, twelve ships of the line, and by the capture of a British ship of force, *thirteen*, and commanded by the admiral, the illustrious D’Estaing, hove in sight of our cape, the artillery of the skies was discharged, and *thirteen* thunders were distinctly heard on the coast of the Delaware.

“3. On the morning after the arrival of his plenipotentiary, the illustrious Gerard, being the *thirteenth* of the month, an aloe-tree—the only one in this State—immediately shot forth its spire, which it never does but once in its existence, and in some other climates only once in a hundred years. It has been planted forty years in the neighborhood of this city, and previously only produced four leaves a year, until this year, when it produced *thirteen*. The spire is remarkable, being *thirteen* inches round, and having grown *thirteen* feet in the first *thirteen* days. The Scotch talk much of the thistle, and the South Britons of the Glastonbury thorn. Much finer things may be said of the aloe of America and the fleur-de-lis of France.”—*Westcott’s History of Philadelphia*, published in Sunday Dispatch, April, 1872.

In 1781, on the occasion of Washington’s visit to Philadelphia, among other devices was a painting representing the British lion lying exhausted, wounded with thirteen arrows, a cock, emblem of France, standing on his body, with the motto, “*Gallus victa super leonem cantet.*” At another window was the Genius of America trampling on discord, clothed in white, covered by a purple mantle strewn with stars, a fillet on her head with the word “*Perseverance.*” In one hand a banner of thirteen stripes, with the words, “*Equal Rights.*”

On the left-hand corner of the membership certificate of the Society of the Cincinnati, issued in 1785, is represented a strong armed man, bearing in one hand a union flag, and in the other a naked sword. Beneath his feet are British flags, a broken spear, shield, and chain. Hovering by his side is the eagle, our national emblem, from whose talons the lightning of destruction is flashing upon the British lion, and Britannia, with the crown falling from her head, is hastening to make her escape in a boat to the fleet.

The union flag of this certificate is composed of *thirteen alternate red and white stripes* and a *white* union, in which is painted the present arms of the United States, adopted in 1782. A flag of this kind may have been in use in the army earlier.

¹ A full account of this joyful occasion can be found in the ‘New Jersey Gazette,’ May 13, 1778, ‘New York Journal,’ June 15, and is copied in Frank Moore’s ‘Diary of the Revolution,’ vol. II. pp. 48-52.

The Randolph, built in Philadelphia in 1775-76, sailed from Charleston, S. C., on her last cruise, early in February, 1778. On the afternoon of March 7, when about fifty leagues to the eastward of Barbadoes, being in company with the General Moultrie, of 18 guns, she discovered a ship, which proved to be the Yarmouth, 64. The Randolph and Moultrie hove to and allowed the stranger to come within hail about eight P.M., when several questions and answers passed between the vessels. Lieutenant Barnes, of the Randolph, at last called out, "This is the Randolph," hoisted her colors, and gave the Yarmouth a broadside. The action was continued about twenty minutes, and the surgeon was engaged in examining Captain Biddle's wound when the Randolph blew up. The two ships were in such close action that many fragments of the Randolph struck the Yarmouth, and among other things an American ensign, rolled up, was blown in upon the forecastle of the Yarmouth.¹ The flag was not singed. Cooper, in his novel, '*Le Feu Follet*,' seizes upon this incident, when he describes the flag of that rover after her sudden disappearance as washed upon the forecastle of the ship in chase.

Five days after the engagement, the Yarmouth discovered a piece of the wreck with four men on it, the only survivors of a crew of three hundred and fifteen who had so gallantly sustained the action.

A model of the Randolph has been preserved, and in 1842 was to be seen in the hall of the Naval Asylum at Philadelphia.

In the agreement (June, 1779) between John Paul Jones, captain of the *Bon Homme Richard*, Pierre Landais, captain of the *Alliance*, Dennis Nicolas Cottineaux, captain of the *Pallas*, Joseph Varage, captain of the *Le Cerf*, and Philip Nicolas Recot, captain of the *Vengeance*, it was stipulated the Franco-American squadron should fly "the flag of the United States," and that it should be commanded by the oldest officer of the highest grade, and so in succession in case of death or retreat. The frigate *Alliance*, named in honor of the treaty with France, and commanded by the obstinate, ill-tempered Frenchman, Landais, was the only American-built vessel of the squadron.

At a meeting of the New Jersey Historical Society, January, 1872, Mr. C. C. Haven made some interesting remarks concerning the origin

¹ It was fortunate for us that we were to windward of her; as it was, our ship was in a manner covered with parts of her. A great piece of a top timber, six feet long, fell on our poop; another piece of timber stuck in our foretop-gallantsail (then upon the cap); an American ensign, rolled up, blown upon the forecastle, not so much as singed."—*Captain Vincent to Admiral Young*, March 17, 1778.

of our flag, and said that, in the conflict between the Bon Homme Richard and Serapis, "James Bayard Stafford was cut down by a British officer, but rescued and rehoisted her flag, which probably had *no stars or stripes*." As that action was fought Sept. 23, 1779, two and a half years after their establishment, and the agreement above recited stipulates that the American squadron should fly "the flag of the United States," Mr. Haven was evidently in error. Moreover, Freneau, in his poem on "that memorable victory of Paul Jones," thus alludes to the flag:—

"Go on, great man, to scourge the foe,
And bid the haughty Britons know
They to our *thirteen stars* shall bend:
The stars that, clad in dark attire,
Long glimmered with a feeble fire,
But radiant now ascend."

And Jones, when in command of the Ranger, had received a salute to the stars and stripes on the 14th of February, 1778.

Placing the matter beyond a doubt, Miss Sarah Smith Stafford, of Trenton, N. J., has in her possession the following letter: ¹—

Phil^a
Monday December 13th 1784

James Bayard Stafford

Sir, am directed, by the Marine Committee to inform you, that on last Thursday the 9th they decided to bestow upon you for your meritorious services thro' the late war. — "Paul Jones' Starry Flag, of the Bon Homme Richard" which was transferred to the Alliance — On boarding board of said ship & a musquet captured from the Serapis,

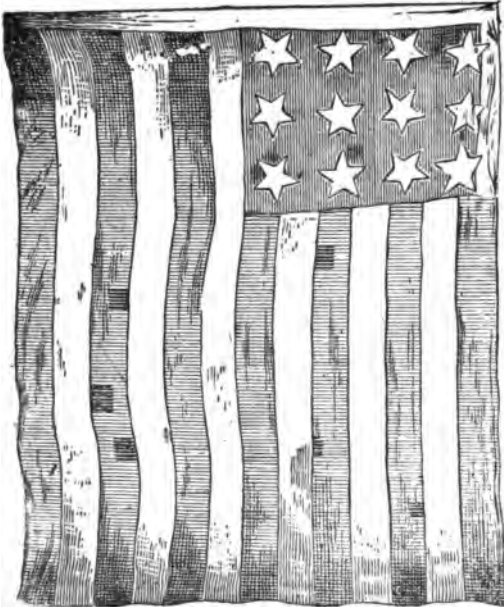
If you write to Captain John Brown at the yard, what ship you wish them sent by to N. J. — they will be forwarded to you,

Your humble serv^t
James Neyle
Secretary, Protem

¹ Miss Stafford died at Trenton, N. J., Jan. 8, 1880, and the flag was willed by her to her brother, Samuel Bayard Stafford. The autography is half the size of the original.

Our illustration showing *twelve stars* and thirteen stripes, is from a photograph of the flag taken in 1872. Miss Stafford's story of the flag is this:—

“About ten days before the battle between the *Bon Homme Richard* and *Serapis*, Paul Jones captured a British vessel of war and her prize, an armed ship called the *Kitty*, commanded by Captain Philip Stafford. The Englishman had put the *Kitty*'s crew in irons, which were now transferred to them. The crew of the *Kitty* volunteered to serve on board the *Serapis*. Among these volunteers was James Bayard Stafford, a nephew of the captain of the *Kitty*, and the father of the present owner of the flag. Being educated, he was made an officer on board the *Richard*. During the battle, her flag was shot away, and young Stafford jumped into the sea and recovered it, and was engaged in replacing it when he was cut down by an officer of the *Serapis*. When the *Bon Homme Richard* was sinking, the flag was seized by a sailor and transferred by Jones to the *Serapis*, and accompanied him to the *Alliance*, when he assumed the command of that frigate at the *Texal*. After the sale of the *Alliance*, the flag



Flag of the *Bon Homme Richard*, said to have been worn during her Action with the *Serapis*, Sept. 23, 1779.

was sent to Stafford, as the letter we have given shows. This relic was preserved by Lieutenant Stafford, and by his widow until her death, Aug. 9, 1861, when it came into the possession of their daughter, whose death has been recently announced. Miss Stafford states that her father exhibited this cherished flag to several of the crew of the *Bon Homme Richard* who called upon him, for which they expressed the deepest reverence. Miss Stafford's earliest recollection of the flag is in 1806, when she

was not quite four years old, when, on the occasion of a family moving, as a great favor she was permitted to carry it across the street.

Why so small a flag was used—scarcely larger than a boat ensign of the present day—may perhaps be explained by the action having been fought at night, and because of the high cost of the English material and the difficulty in procuring it. The flag has been loaned to fairs and festivals. It was exhibited at the sanitary fairs in Philadelphia and New York, and at the great fair in Trenton in 1862, and was at the Centennial Exhibition. A piece (shown in the illustration) cut from the head of it at the beginning of our civil war, was, by direction of Mrs. Stafford, sent to President Lincoln.

The flag is of English bunting, and about eight and one-half yards long and one yard five inches wide. It is sewed with flax thread, and contains twelve white stars in a blue union, and thirteen wide stripes, alternately red and white. The stars are arranged in four horizontal lines, three stars in each line.

Why its union has only twelve stars, unless they could find no symmetrical place for the odd star, is a mystery. It has been suggested that only twelve of the colonies had consented to the confederation at the date of its manufacture; but all the colonies had confederated before the adoption of the stars in 1777, and the consent of Georgia, the last to assent, was symbolized in the flag of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, at Cambridge, as early as Jan. 1, 1776. In the agreement signed by Jones and the captains of his Franco-American squadron, June, 1779, it was stipulated the squadron should fly the "flag of the United States." So we may be sure the stars and stripes were flown in the fight between the *Richard* and *Serapis*, as they had been in the fight between the *Ranger* and *Drake* six months before, as Jones himself stated. The remarkable action between the *Bon Homme Richard* and the *Serapis*, fought within sight of the shores of England, exercised as important an influence upon our affairs in Europe as did the fight between the *Kearsarge* and *Alabama* in recent times.

At the 4th of July celebration in Philadelphia, 1788, consequent upon the adoption of the Federal Constitution, there was in the procession a Federal ship called "the Union," thirty-three feet in length, the bottom of which was made from the barge of the frigate *Alliance*, and which was also the barge of *Serapis* when she was captured by the *Bon Homme Richard*. This little vessel is described in the newspaper of the day "as a masterpiece of elegant workmanship, perfectly proportioned and complete throughout, and decorated with emblematical carving," and, what was "truly astonishing, she was begun and fully completed in less than four days, fully prepared to join the

grand procession. She was subsequently placed in the State House yard, and, later, removed to Gray's Ferry. Her ultimate fate is unknown."

How slowly the new flags came into general use is shown by the following notices: A manuscript written by an officer on board the privateer Cumberland, Captain John Manly, early in 1779, says, alluding to the flag, in particular, of that vessel, "At this time we had no national colors, and every ship had the right, or took it, to wear what kind of fancy flag the captain pleased."¹ The diary of a surgeon of the British forces in Charleston harbor, under date 1780, April 3, says: "In the evening I walked across James Island to the mouth of Wapoo Creek, in Ashley River; saw the American thirteen-striped flag displayed on the works opposite the short redoubts commanded by Major Mackleroth, and two other flags displayed in their new works opposite our forces on Charleston Neck,—while there they cannonaded our working party on the Neck,—their great battery fronting Charleston harbor had the American flag of thirteen stripes displayed. *This, up to this day, had been a blue flag with field and thirteen stars. The other flag never hoisted until to-day.*"²

The striped flag then hoisted was destined soon to come down, for in a private letter dated "Broad Street, Charlestown, May 22, 1780," the writer says: "On the memorable 12th of this month I had the pleasure to see the thirteen stripes with several white pendants levelled to the ground, and the gates of Charlestown opened to receive our conquering heroes, General Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot." And another letter, dated "May 19, 1780," says: "May 7, they [the continentals] marched out, and Captain Hudson of the navy marched in [to Fort Moultrie], took possession, levelled the thirteen stripes with the dust, and the triumphant English flag was raised on the staff."³

The 'Pennsylvania Gazette' of April 23, 1783, contains the resolve respecting the flag of June 14, 1777, and requests that the printers insert the resolution in their respective newspapers in order that it

¹ I. J. Greenwood, on Revolutionary Uniforms and Flags, in Potter's *American Monthly*, 1876, vol. vi. p. 34.

² Extract from the MS. diary of Dr. John Jeffries, now in the possession of his grandson, Dr. B. Joy Jeffries, of Boston, Mass. Dr. John Jeffries was a graduate of Harvard, and, Jan. 7, 1785, in furtherance of his experiments in atmospheric temperature, made a remarkable balloon voyage from Dover Cliffs over the English Channel, alighting in the forest of Guienne, France. In 1789, he returned to Boston, where he was born in 1744, and where his descendants reside.

³ From the *Siege of Charleston*, S. C., published by J. Munsell, 1867.

may be generally known. The same paper states that "at a meeting of the respectable inhabitants of Pittsgrove and the town adjacent, in Salem County, State of New Jersey, for the celebration of peace, the day was introduced with the raising of a monument of great height, on which was displayed the ensign of peace with thirteen stripes."

Another number of the 'Gazette'¹ says: "It is positively asserted that the flag of the thirteen United States of America has been grossly insulted in New York, and not permitted to be hoisted on board any American vessel in that port. Congress should demand immediate reparation for the indignity wantonly offered to all America, and, unless satisfactory concessions are instantly made, the British flag, which now streams without interruption in our harbor, Philadelphia, should be torn down, and treated with every mark of indignation and contempt."

The 25th of November, 1783, is memorable in the history of our flag as the day of the evacuation of New York by the British troops. On the morning of that day,—a cold, frosty, clear but brilliant morning,—General Knox marched to the Bowery Lane, and remained until one P.M., when the British left their posts and marched to Whitehall. The American troops followed, and before three P.M. General Knox took possession of Fort George. The British claimed the right of possession until noon. Mr. Day, who kept a tavern at the lower end of Murray Street, run up the American flag in the morning, the first displayed in the city. Cunningham, the British provost-marshal, ordered it down, and, on the man's refusal to take it down, attempted to pull it down himself. He was met at the door by the proprietor's wife, a stout woman, fair, fat, and forty, who came at and beat Cunningham so vigorously over the head with her broomstick, that he was obliged to decamp amid the jeers and laughter of the few spectators, and leave the star-spangled banner waving. Dr. Alexander Anderson, well known as the first wood engraver in America, and who died in 1870, remembered seeing the powder fly from Cunningham's wig, and related the story to Mr. Bushnell in 1863, when eighty-nine years of age.²

The flag hoisted on the evacuation of the city was for a long time preserved in the American Museum at New York, and was destroyed when that building was burnt. Mr. Barnum informs me that the flag was well authenticated when presented to Mr. Scudder, founder of the Museum, in 1810. The flag was of bunting, about nine or ten

¹ Pennsylvania Gazette, May 28, 1783.

² Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Levi Hanford, a soldier of the Revolution. By Charles J. Bushnell, New York. 8vo. Privately printed, 1863, p. 72.

feet wide by twelve or fifteen in length, and had the thirteen stars and stripes; the arrangement of the stars is not remembered. It was always run out in front of the Museum on the anniversaries of Evacuation Day and 4th of July, and was always saluted by the military when passing.¹

The British left their flag nailed to its staff on the battery, and removed the halyards and greased the pole. There are several stories as to how the flag was removed, but it is generally believed John Van Orsdell, or Arsdale, a sailor, procuring a number of cleats, climbed the pole, nailing the cleats as he went, and tearing down the British flag, nailed up the stars and stripes in its place. He died in 1836, and was buried with military honors by the veteran corps of artillery, of which he was the first lieutenant. His son, David Van Arsdale, Nov. 25, 1879, aged eighty-four, hoisted the stars and stripes over the battery,—a ceremony he had performed for many years. After raising the flag, the veteran proposed “three cheers for our flag, three cheers for the day we celebrate, and three more for the wives and daughters of our country!” which were given with a will. The old gentleman was then presented with a portrait of himself, elegantly framed, and in his endeavor to reply broke down completely.

At the conclusion of the revolutionary struggle on the 28th of February, 1784, the officers of the line of the Rhode Island continental battalion presented to the assembly the colors they had so gallantly borne, with the following address:—

“To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations:

“The officers of the line of this State beg liberty to approach this honorable assembly with the warmest gratitude, upon exchanging their military employment for the rank of citizens; the glorious objects of the late controversy with Great Britain being happily accomplished, they resume their former conditions with a satisfaction peculiar to freemen. If they have deserved the approbation of their country; if they have gained the confidence of the States; if they have endured hardships and encountered difficulties,—they feel themselves still indebted for your constant attention in every period of the war. If their conduct in the field; if their wounds, and the blood of their companions who have nobly fallen by their side,—have entitled them to any share in the laurels of their countrymen, they are fully rewarded in surrendering to your Honors, upon this occasion, the standards of their corps, which have often been distinguished by the bravery of your soldiers upon the most critical and important occasions. They beg you will be pleased

¹Letter of P. T. Barnum, Nov. 22, 1871.

to accept them with their most cordial acknowledgments, and be assured of the profound deference with which they have the honor to be

“Your most obedient humble servants,

“JEREMIAH OLNEY.

“Providence, Feb. 28, A.D. 1784. In behalf of the officers.”

The committee to whom this address was referred prepared the following answer, which the assembly voted should be engrossed in a fair copy by the secretary, and signed by his excellency the governor and the honorable the speaker in behalf of the assembly, and presented by the secretary to Colonel Jeremiah Olney; and that the standards should be carefully preserved under the immediate care of the governor, to perpetuate the noble exploits of the brave corps:—

“GENTLEMEN,—The governor and company, in general assembly convened, with the most pleasing sensations receive your affectionate and polite address. They congratulate you upon the happy termination of a glorious war, and upon your return to participate with citizens and freemen in the blessings of peace. With peculiar satisfaction, they recollect the bravery and good conduct of the officers of the line of this State, who, after suffering all the toils and fatigues of a long and bloody contest, crowned with laurels have reassumed domestic life.

“They are happy in receiving those standards, which have been often displayed with glory and bravery in the face of very powerful enemies, and will carefully preserve the same, to commemorate the achievements of so brave a corps.

“We are, gentlemen, in behalf of both houses of assembly,

“With respect and esteem, your very humble servants,

“WILLIAM GREENE, *Governor.*

“Feb. 28, A.D. 1784.

WILLIAM BRADFORD, *Speaker.*

“To the Officers of the Line of this State's late Continental Battalion.”¹

These colors are preserved in the office of the Secretary of State of Rhode Island, and from a recent examination of them I obtain the following description:²—

No. 1 is of white silk, ninety inches long and sixty-five inches wide, and contains thirteen gilt stars in the corner, on a very light blue ground (probably faded with time). The outline of each star is marked with a darker shade of blue, with a shadow on the left side, thereby making the gilt star more prominent. The relative position of the stars in parallel lines is shown in Fig. 15, Plate V. In the

¹ Rhode Island Colonial Records, vol. x. pp. 14, 15.

² Letters from Hon. J. R. Bartlett, Secretary of State of Rhode Island, Dec. 26, 1871, and Jan. 4, 1872.

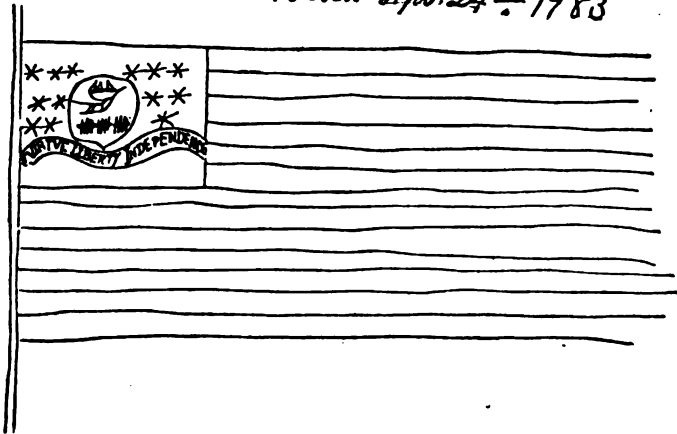
centre of the flag is an anchor and a piece of rope twining around it, of light blue silk, the same shade as the blue union, sewed on. Above the anchor is a scroll painted in oil colors, inscribed "Hope," the motto of this State. The oil and paint have so rotted the silk that this part of the flag is gone; otherwise, save a little of the edge which is torn and worn away, the flag is entire. At the commencement of the War of the Rebellion, this flag was taken to Washington by the Second Rhode Island Regiment, but was soon returned.

Flag No. 2 is of white silk, fifty-one inches in width, and its present length forty-five inches; but a portion of the fly is gone, and the flag is much torn.

It contains a light blue corner or canton of silk sewed on to a white field of silk. The canton contains thirteen white five-pointed stars or mullets painted on the silk and arranged in parallel lines as in No. 1, though not so well formed. In the centre of the field of the flag, painted on both sides, there is a scroll upon which was painted "R. ISLAND REGT." Both these flags are regimental, and not blazoned with stripes. The date of their presentation to the regiments has not been preserved.

It has been asserted that Madame Wooster and Mrs. Roger Sher-

*Silk Flag displayed at the Rejoicing for
PEACE in New Haven Apr. 24th 1783*



man gave to the Connecticut troops the first national flag ever used in that State, and that it was composed of portions of their dresses. Mrs. Ellet¹ says that they made the flag is certain, but it could not have

¹ Ellet's Women of the American Revolution.

been the first one, nor did they heroically rob their own persons to furnish it. The flag made by them was displayed at New Haven on the public rejoicing for the peace, and is thus described and illustrated in the Diary of President Ezra Stiles, of Yale College, preserved in the college library:—

“April 24, 1783. Public Rejoicing for the Peace in New Haven. At sunrise 13 cannon discharged in the Green, and the continental flag displayed, being a grand silk flag presented by the ladies, cost 120 dollars. The stripes red and white, with an azure field in the upper part charged with 13 stars. On the same field and among the stars was the arms of the United States, the field of which contained a ship, a plough, and 3 sheaves of wheat; the crest an eagle volant; the supporters two white horses. The arms were put on with paint and gilding. It took — yards. When displayed it appeared well.”

It will be seen that the good man's drawing is a rude attempt to depict the flag, and that it has the Pennsylvania motto, “VIRTUE, LIBERTY, INDEPENDENCE,” not mentioned in his description. The fact being, according to Mrs. Ellet, that the ladies, unacquainted with the arms of the United States adopted the year before, turned in unsuspecting confidence to a family Bible published in Philadelphia, and took as their guide the arms emblazoned on its title-page, which were those of Pennsylvania. The mistake was rectified when Roger Sherman returned from Congress.

Dr. Rodney King, of Roxboro, Philadelphia, wrote me, in 1875, that he had in his possession a bill, found among the papers of his grandfather, the Hon. Daniel Rodney, ex-Governor of the State of Delaware, dated 1783, for “materials for a Continental Flag,” one of the items of which was “for a piece of *Green* silk.” Was green, excepting for the branches of a pine-tree, ever any part of a ‘continental flag’? According to the ‘Port Folio,’ on the 4th of July, 1807, the Volunteer Company of Rangers of Georgia were presented with an elegant standard, the field of which was of white lustring, with the accustomed devices, the stripes formed of alternate green and white, affording a charming contrast. The words “*E Pluribus Unum*” above, the “Augusta Volunteer Rangers” below, the eagle, which was incomparably finished, as well as the stars.

THE STARS AND STRIPES, FROM THE PEACE OF
1783 TO 1795.

And everywhere
The slender, graceful bands
Boise aloft in the air,
And at the mast-head,
White, blue and red,
A flag unfolds the stripes and stars
Ah, when the wanderer, lonely, friendless
In foreign harbors shall behold
That flag unrolled,
'Twill be as a friendly hand,
Stretched out from his native land,
Filling his heart with memories
Sweet and endless.

H. W. LONGFELLOW.

The independence of the United States of America having been recognized by Great Britain, the stars and stripes became henceforward the recognized symbol of a new nation, and their history is an exhibit of its military, naval, civil, and commercial progress. Many incidents personal to its history, however, it will be interesting for us to narrate. It will also be our pleasant duty to chronicle its first appearance in various places, and its progress in peace as well as its triumphs in war.

The treaty of peace with Great Britain was no sooner announced than the white wings of our commerce began to expand all over the

watery globe, under the genial union of the stars and stripes, displaying them everywhere to the wondering gaze of distant nations and the furthestmost isles of the seas.

The honor of having first hoisted the stars and stripes after the treaty of peace in a British port has been claimed for several vessels, and been the occasion of a controversy, in which claimants for Newburyport, Philadelphia, Nantucket, and New Bedford have taken part. After a careful examination of the conflicting accounts, I am clearly of opinion that to the ship *Bedford*, of Nantucket, Captain William Mooers, and owned by William Rotch, of New Bedford, must be assigned the honor.¹

A London periodical, published in 1783, thus speaks of her arrival in the Thames: ¹—

“The ship *Bedford*, Captain Mooers, belonging to Massachusetts, arrived in the Downs on the 3d of February, passed Gravesend the 3d, and was reported at the custom-house on the 6th inst. She was not allowed regular entry until some consultation had taken place between the Commissioners of the Customs and the Lords of Council, on account of the many acts of Parliament in force against the rebels of America. She was loaded with four hundred and eighty-seven butts of whale oil, is American built, manned wholly by American seamen, wears the rebel colors, and belongs to the island of Nantucket, in Massachusetts. This is the first vessel which has displayed the thirteen rebellious stripes of America in any British port. The vessel is at Horsledown, a little below the Tower, and is intended to return immediately to New England.”

In the summary of parliamentary debates in the same magazine, under date February 7,—

“*Mr. Hammet* begged leave to inform the House of a very recent and extraordinary event. There was, he said, at the time of his speaking, an American ship in the Thames, with the thirteen stripes flying on board. The ship had offered to enter at the custom-house, but the officers were all at a loss how to behave. His motive for mentioning the subject was that ministers might take such steps with the American commissioners as would secure free intercourse between this country and America.”

¹The *Political Magazine*. *Barnard's History of England* (p. 705), a somewhat rare book, contains the same account. The *American and British Chronicle of War and Politics*, under date “Feb. 7, 1783,” also records, “First American ship in the Thames, from Nantucket.”

Another London newspaper of the same date reports the Bedford "as the first vessel that has entered the river belonging to the United States." And an original letter from Peter Van Schaack, dated London, Feb. 19, 1783, contains this paragraph: "One or two vessels with the thirteen stripes flying are now in the river Thames, and their crews caressed."

The 'Gentleman's Magazine' for 1783 corroborates these statements, and says: "Monday, Feb. 3, 1783: *Two* vessels were entered at the custom-house from Nantucket, an American island near Rhode Island; a *third* ship is in the river. They are entirely laden with oil, and come under a pass from Admiral Digby, the inhabitants having agreed to remain neutral during the war.

In further confirmation of the Bedford's being the first to display the stars and stripes in the Thames, we have the following letter from William Rotch, Jr., one of her owners. There is a discrepancy as to the date of her arrival; but as his letter was written nearly sixty years after the event he narrates, it may be presumed the contemporaneous accounts are right in that respect, and that he is wrong.

"NEW BEDFORD, 8th mo. 3d, 1842.

"DEAR FRIEND, — In my reply to thy letter of the 21st ult., received last evening, according to the best of my recollection, my father had a vessel built by Ichabod Thomas, at North River, just before the Revolution, for himself and Champion & Dickason, of London, for the London trade. After the war commenced, she laid at Nantucket several years, until a license was procured for her to go to London with a cargo of oil, Timothy Folger, commander. Several gentlemen from Boston took passage in her, among whom were the late Governor Winthrop, Thomas K. Jones, . . . Hutchinson, and some others whose names I do not recollect.

"In 1781, Admiral Digby granted thirty licenses for our vessels to go after whales. I was then connected with my father and I. Rodman in business. Considerable oil was obtained in 1782. In the fall of that year, I went to New York, and procured from Admiral Digby licenses for the Bedford, William Mooers, master, and, I think, the Industry, John Chadwick, master. They loaded. The Bedford sailed first, and arrived in the Downs on the 23d [3d] of February, the day of the signing of the preliminary treaty of peace between the United States, France, and England! and went up to London, and there displayed for the first time the United States flag. The Industry arrived afterwards, and was, I suppose, the second to display it. The widow of George Hayley, who did much business with New England, would visit the old Bedford, and see the flag displayed. She was the sister of the celebrated John Wilkes.

"We sent the sloop Speedwell to Aux Cayes (St. Domingo). She was taken and carried into Jamaica, but her captain was released one day after.

By the treaty, the war ceased in that latitude, and she was released when she showed the first United States flag there. On her return home, every thing was very low by the return of peace. We put on board two hundred boxes of candles, and with William Johnson (whose widow, I learned, lives at Quassi) as supercargo, sent her to Quebec, where hers was the first United States flag exhibited.

"Should thee wish any further information within my recollection, I will freely communicate it.

"I am, with love to thy wife,

"Thy affectionate friend,

"WM. ROTCH, Jun."

The London papers of the 6th notice the Bedford's arrival on the 3rd.

Thomas Kempton, of New Bedford, who was living in 1866, said the Bedford was built at New Bedford, before the year 1770, probably by James Lowden, as he was the proprietor of the only ship-yard there at that time. She was first rigged as a schooner, afterwards changed to a brig, and finally rebuilt, raised upon, furnished with an additional deck, and rigged as a ship. After all these alterations, she measured only 170 or 180 tons.¹ No portrait of her has been preserved, and her history, after this notable cruise, is unknown.

The coinciding testimony of these contemporary English periodicals, the discussion in Parliament, the evidence of 'Barnard's History,' and the statement of one of her owners, make it conclusive that the Bedford was the first vessel to hoist the stars and stripes in a British port. The honor has, however, been claimed for the ship United States, of Boston, owned by John Hancock; for a Newburyport ship, the Comte de Grasse, Nicholas Johnson, master; for the ship William Penn, of Philadelphia, Captain Josiah;² and for the bark Maria, belonging to the owners of the Bedford.

In 1859 there were three veterans living in Nantucket who remembered the Bedford, and who were deeply impressed with her

¹ The Bedford returned to Nantucket and entered at the custom-house, May 31, 1783, from London. She made a voyage to the Brazils, 1773-76.

The tea-ships whose cargoes were turned into Boston harbor, Dec. 16, 1773, were freighted by the Rotches for the East India Company, and "a few years since the freight for that tea was paid for, every dollar of it, to the said Rotches by the East India Company, of London."—*Letter of F. C. Sanford, of Nantucket*, Oct. 29, 1871. William Rotch, Jun., died at New Bedford, April 17, 1850.

² A correspondent of the 'Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch,' December, 1871, says, that when Captain Josiah displayed the American flag in England, he commanded the Andrea Doria.

departure for England, which, after the sufferings of the long and distressing war, seemed like sending out a harbinger of peace.

The preliminaries of peace were signed on the last of November, 1782, but up to the 21st of January, 1783, it was only known as a rumor in the British capital.

The first publication of the terms of the treaty was Jan. 28, 1783, in a postscript of the London papers, about a week before the arrival of the Bedford. The king's proclamation was not published until the 15th of February, twelve days after her arrival. The news was first received in Boston, April 23d, but the treaty was not signed until September. It is no wonder, then, when the master of the Bedford appeared and demanded to enter his vessel at the custom-house, with her cargo of oil, coming from a country and people who were still considered rebels, his appearance created some consternation. That, under the circumstances, there should have been hesitancy in entering her was as natural as that her arrival should be noted and remembered.

Captain William Mooers, the master of the Bedford, is traditionally reported as one of nature's noblemen, and his prowess as a whaler is familiar to all who have made themselves acquainted with that hazardous branch of our national enterprise. Erect and commanding in appearance, standing over six feet, and weighing more than two hundred pounds, he would have been a marked man out of a thousand.

The Madame Hayley, alluded to in Mr. Rotch's letter, was a sister of John Wilkes, and a valuable friend to Boston and America during the Revolution. Both she and Mr. Rotch were passengers in the United States (one of the claimants for the Bedford's honors), on her return from London to Boston, as I found on her log-book, which I saw and examined in 1865. She was a woman of much energy and great mercantile endowments. While in Boston, she gave £100 towards building Charlestown Bridge, and was privileged to be the first person to pass over it when completed.¹

¹ The first pier of this bridge was laid on the 14th of June, 1785, and the bridge was thrown open for travel June 17, 1786. It was considered at the time the greatest enterprise ever undertaken in America. It was the longest bridge in the world, and, except the abutments, was entirely of wood. The architect of the bridge was Captain John Stone, of Concord; and Lemuel Cox, an ingenious shipwright, its constructor. The opening of this structure upon the anniversary of the battle of Bunker's Hill, and only eleven years after that event, attracted upwards of twenty thousand spectators. A public procession was formed, consisting of both branches of the Legislature, the proprietors and artisans of the bridge, military and civil societies. Salutes were fired from the Castle, Copp's and Breed's Hill; and two tables, each three hundred and twenty feet long, were laid on Breed's Hill, at

The *Maria*, a claimant of the Bedford's honors, belonged to the same owners. Mrs. Farrar, a granddaughter of William Rotch, in her 'Recollections of Seventy Years,' says, "I have often heard the old gentleman [William Rotch] tell, with pride and pleasure, that the *Maria* was the first ship that ever unfurled the flag of the United States in the Thames."¹ Mrs. Farrar has certainly confounded the *Maria* with the Bedford, for the *Maria* was not built until the autumn of 1782, and was lying at Nantucket when the Bedford was at anchor in the Downs. Mr. Rotch's letter was in reply to inquiries respecting the *Maria*.

The *Maria* was built at Pembroke, now called Hanson, for a privateer. According to her register, she was eighty-six feet long, twenty-three feet one inch wide, eleven feet six and a half inches deep, and measured 202 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons. She was purchased by Mr. Rotch, and brought by Captain Mooers to Nantucket, previous to his sailing thence in the Bedford. On his return from that voyage he took the *Maria* to London with a cargo of oil, and on a subsequent voyage he made in her the passage from Nantucket to Dover in twenty-one days. His owner was a passenger on board.² It is narrated that on the passage Mr. Rotch, during a storm, became alarmed, and, venturing part way out of the cabin gangway, said, "Captain Mooers, it would be more conducive to our safety for thee to take in some sail, *thee had better do so!*" To which Captain Mooers replied, "Mr. Rotch, I have undertaken to carry you to England; there is a comfortable cabin for you; I am commander of the ship, and will look to her safety!" He could not brook directions even from his owner.

The *Maria*, under the name of "Maria Pochoco" and the Chilian flag, continued her cruising in the Pacific until 1870, when a notice of her springing aleak and foundering at sea was published in the San Francisco newspapers. At the time of her loss she was in such good condition she bade fair to outlast her century. The flag she first wore,

which eight hundred guests sat down, and prolonged the festivities until evening.— See *Snow's History of Boston*; *Drake's Ancient Landmarks of Boston*, and his *Fields and Mansions of Middlesex*; also *Columbian Centinel*, and the *Independent Chronicle*. Doubtless the stars and stripes were flying, though no mention is made of them.

¹ Mrs. P. A. Hanaford, in her 'Field, Gunboat, Hospital, and Prison,' perpetuates Mrs. Farrar's erroneous statement, and makes the further mistake of calling William Rotch the father of Mrs. Farrar, and the *Maria* a whale-ship at the time of her voyage to England. The pride and pleasure of the venerable owner of the *Maria* were all right, as he was the owner of the Bedford, and both ships were commanded by Captain Mooers.

² The *Maria*, William Mooers, master, sailed from Nantucket for London, 7th mo. 4th, 1785. William and Benjamin Rotch, the father and brother of William Rotch, Jun., on board as passengers, going to establish the whale fishery from an English port.





Your Affectionate Brother
Edmund Watson

States which had at that time ratified the Constitution. On the centre of the floating bridge at Grey's Ferry was raised an American ensign; and on another part of the bridge was a high pole, which bore a striped liberty cap ornamented with stars, and beneath it a blue flag, with the device of a rattlesnake, and motto, "*Don't tread on me.*"

Amid many conflicting claims, there seems little doubt that to the ship *Empress*, of China, 360 tons, Captain John Green, the honor belongs of being the first vessel to carry our flag into the Chinese sea. She sailed from New York on the 22d of February, 1784, touched at Cape de Verde on her outward voyage, arrived at Macao August 23, and at Whampoa August 28, where she saluted the shipping with thirteen guns. On the 13th of September she was visited with great ceremony by Hoppo, or chief of customs, who was saluted with nine guns on his arriving on board, and thirteen guns on his leaving the ship. She returned to New York the 11th of May, 1785, having made the round voyage in less than fifteen months.¹ She was wrecked off Dublin Bay, Feb. 22, 1791, then bearing the name of '*Clara.*'²

When the thirteen stripes and stars first appeared at Canton much curiosity was excited among the people. News was circulated that a strange ship had arrived from the farther end of the world, bearing a flag as beautiful as a flower. Everybody went to see the *Kaw-kee-cheun*, or flower-flag ship. This name at once established itself in the language, and America is now called *Kaw-kee-koh*, the flower-flag country, and an American, *Kaw-kee-koch-yin*, flower-flag country man, — a more complimentary designation than that of red-headed barbarian, the name first bestowed on the Dutch.

Foreign names, however unmeaning originally, when written in Chinese acquire a significance which is often strikingly curious. Thus, the two Chinese characters, *Yong-kee* (Yankee), signify the flag of the ocean, and Washington, or *Wo-shing-tung*, as it would be written, signifies rescue and glory at last.³

The young prefect of I-ton-hien said: "We call the *In-ki-li* (English) '*Houng-mao-jin*,' that is, 'men of red hair,' because it is said they have hair of that color; and we give to the *Ya-mely-kien* (Americans) the name of the 'men of the gaudy banner,' because it is said that they carry at the masts of their vessels a flag striped with various colors."⁴

The ship *Franklin*, of Salem, Captain James Devereaux, is believed to have been the first to carry our flag to Japan. She sailed from Boston Dec. 11, 1798, arrived at Batavia April 28, 1799, reached

¹ Shaw's Journal.

² American newspaper.

³ New York Evening Gazette of April 2, 1791.

⁴ M. Huc's Journey through the Chinese Empire.

Japan July 19, 1799, and arrived home May 20, 1800. Her log-book is preserved in the library of the Essex Institute at Salem.

The second vessel to carry our flag direct to Eastern seas was the appropriately named sloop *Enterprise*, Captain Stewart Dean, a little sloop-rigged vessel of eighty tons, built at Albany, N. Y., and like the ordinary North River craft. She sailed in 1785, and returned home within the year. The English factory at Canton, notwithstanding the jealousies and interests of trade, struck with the boldness of the experiment, received these adventurers with kindness and hospitality.

The next vessel to make the adventure to China was the *Canton*, of Philadelphia, Captain Thomas Truxton, which sailed from that port early in 1786, and returned to the same port May, 1787, after a successful voyage. Congress granted a sea-letter to this vessel, which was addressed to the "Most serene and most puissant, high, illustrious, noble, honorable, venerable, wise, and prudent emperors, kings, republics, princes, dukes, earls, barons, lords, burgomasters, counsellors, as also judges, officers, justiciaries, and regents of all the good cities and places, whether ecclesiastical or secular, who shall see these presents or hear them read,"—which would seem to be sufficiently comprehensive for her protection.

The frigate *Alliance*, the last of the continental frigates retained by government, was sold at Philadelphia, June, 1785, and converted into an Indiaman. She sailed from Philadelphia for Canton in June, 1785, owned by Robert Morris, and under command of Captain Thomas Reed, and was the second vessel from Philadelphia to China. She returned to Philadelphia Sept. 17, 1788. The *Alliance*, taking soundings off the Cape of Good Hope, steered southeast and encircled all the eastern and southern islands of the Indian Ocean. Passing the south cape of New Holland in the course northward to Canton, between the latitudes of 7° and 4° S., and between longitudes 156° and 162° E., they discovered a number of islands, the inhabitants of which were black, and had woolly, curled hair. The islands were also inhabited by brown people, with straight black hair. Captain Reed believed himself to be the discoverer of these islands, and named the principal one Morris Island, and another *Alliance Island*.¹

The honor of being the first to carry our flag around the world is assigned to the auspiciously and appropriately named ship *Columbia*,

¹In 1786, at an entertainment given to the Americans by the Portuguese residents of Macao, at dessert the tables were ornamented with gilded paper castles, pagodas, and other Chinese edifices, in which were confined numerous small birds. The first toast was "*Liberty*," and at the word the doors of these paper prisons were set open and the little captives released, and, flying about in every direction, seemed to enjoy their liberty.—*Shaw's Journal*.

which, under command of Captains Kendrick and Gray, circumnavigated the globe in 1789-90.¹

The Columbia, Captain John Kendrick, and sloop Washington, Captain Robert Gray, sailed from Boston Sept. 30, 1787, and proceeded to the Cape de Verde, and thence to the Falkland Islands. January, 1788, they doubled Cape Horn, and immediately after were separated in a violent gale. The Washington, continuing her course through the Pacific, made the northwest coast in August near latitude 46° N. Here Captain Gray thought he perceived indications of the mouth of a river, but was unable to ascertain the fact, in consequence of his vessel grounding and his being attacked by savages. With the loss of one man killed and the mate wounded, the Washington arrived at Nootka Sound on the 17th of September, where, some days later, she was joined by the Columbia.

The two vessels spent the winter in the Sound; and the Columbia lay there during the following summer, while Captain Gray, in the Washington, explored the adjacent waters. On his return to Nootka, it was agreed by the two captains that Kendrick should take command of the sloop and remain upon the coast, while Captain Gray, in the Columbia, should carry to Canton the furs which had been collected by both vessels. This was done; and Gray arrived on the 6th of December at Canton, where he sold his furs, and took a cargo of tea, with which he entered Boston on the 10th of August, 1790, having carried the thirteen stars and thirteen stripes for the first time around the world.²

Kendrick, immediately on parting with the Columbia, proceeded with the Washington to the Straits of Fuca, which he sailed through to its issue in the Pacific in latitude 51° N. To him belongs the credit of ascertaining that Nootka and the parts adjacent are an island, to which the name of 'Vancouver Island' has since been given. Vancouver was the British commander who followed in the track of the Americans a year later. The injustice done to Kendrick is but one of many similar instances,—the greatest of all being that our continent bears the name, not of Columbus or Cabot, but of a subsequent navigator.

Captain Kendrick, during the time occupied by Gray on his return voyage, besides collecting furs, engaged in various speculations, one of which was the collection and transportation to China of sandal-wood,

¹ Bulfinch's Oregon and Eldorado.

² "I find the ship Columbia has been arrived some days. The concerned in that enterprise have sunk fifty per cent of their capital. This is a heavy disappointment to them, as they calculated every owner to make an independent fortune."—*MS. Letter, General Henry Jackson, dated Boston, 22d August, 1790.*

which grows on many of the tropical islands of the Pacific, and is in great demand throughout the Celestial Empire for ornamental fabrics and medicinal purposes.

Captain Kendrick was killed in exchanging salutes with a Spanish vessel at the Sandwich Islands. The wad from one of the Spaniard's guns struck him as he stood on the deck of his vessel in dress-coat and cocked hat, as the commander of the expedition, and was instantly fatal.

The Columbia, as has been stated, returned to Boston under the command of Gray. Her cargo of Chinese articles did not cover the expense of the voyage; nevertheless, her owners refitted her for a similar cruise. Again, under the command of Gray, she sailed from Boston on the 28th of September, 1790, and arrived at Clioquot, near the Straits of Fuca, June 5, 1791. There and in neighboring waters she remained through the following summer and winter, trading with the natives and exploring. Early in 1792, Gray sailed on a cruise southward along the coast, bent on ascertaining the truth of the appearances which on his former voyage led him to suspect the existence of a river discharging its waters at or about the latitude of 46°. During this cruise he met with Vancouver. On the 29th of April, Vancouver writes in his journal: "At four o'clock, a sail was discovered at the westward, standing in shore. This was a very great novelty, not having seen any vessel but our consort during the last eight months. She soon hoisted American colors, and fired a gun to leeward. At six we spoke her. She proved to be the ship Columbia, commanded by Captain Robert Gray, belonging to Boston, whence she had been absent nineteen months. I sent two of my officers on board to acquire such information as might be serviceable in our future operations. Captain Gray informed them of his having been off the mouth of a river, in latitude 46° 10 north, for nine days; but the outset or reflux was so strong as to prevent his entering."

Vancouver gave no credit to Captain Gray's statement, and remarks: "I was thoroughly persuaded, as were most persons of observation on board, that we could not have passed any safe navigable opening, harbor, or place of security for shipping, from Cape Mendocino to Luca's Strait."

After parting with the English ship, Gray sailed along the coast southward, and on the 7th of May, 1792, "saw an entrance which had a very good appearance of a harbor." Passing through this entrance, he found himself in a bay, "well sheltered from the sea by long sandbars and spits," where he remained three days trading with the natives, and then resumed his voyage, bestowing on the place thus discovered

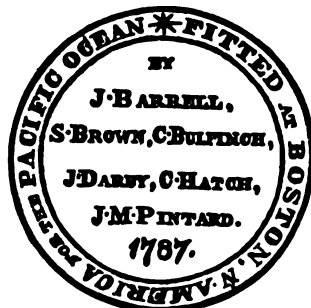
the name of 'Bulfinch's Harbor,' in honor of one of the owners of the ship. This is now known as 'Gray's Harbor.'

At daybreak on the 11th, after leaving Bulfinch's Harbor, Gray observed the entrance of his desired port, bearing east-southeast, distant six leagues, and running into it with all sails set, between the breakers, he anchored at one o'clock in a large river of fresh water ten miles above its mouth. At this spot he remained three days, engaged in trading with the natives and filling his casks with water; and then sailed up the river about twelve miles along its northern shore, where, finding he could proceed no farther, from having taken the wrong channel, he came to anchor. On the 20th, he recrossed the bar at the mouth of the river and regained the Pacific.

On leaving the river, Gray gave it the name of his ship, the Columbia, the name it still bears. He called the southern point of land at the entrance 'Cape Adams,' and the northern, 'Cape Hancock.' The first of these retains its name on our maps, but the latter promontory is known as 'Cape Disappointment,' a name given to it by Lieutenant Meares, an English navigator, who, like Captain Gray, judged from appearances there was the outlet of a river at that point, but failed finding one, and so recorded his failure in the name of this conspicuous headland, which marked the place of his fruitless search.

From the mouth of Columbia, Gray sailed to Nootka Sound, where he communicated his discoveries to the Spanish commandant, Quadra; to whom he also gave charts, with descriptions of Bulfinch's Harbor and the mouth of the Columbia. He departed for Canton in September, and sailed thence for the United States.

The following medal was struck in commemoration of these events.



The voyages of Kendrick and Gray were not profitable to the adventurers, yet of benefit to the country. They opened the way to enterprises in the same region which were eminently successful. In another

point of view, these expeditions were fraught with consequences of the utmost importance. Gray's discovery of the Columbia was the point most relied upon by our negotiators for establishing the claim of the United States to the part of the continent through which it flows; and it is in a great measure owing to his discovery that the State of Oregon is now a part of the American Republic.

From the date of the discovery of the Columbia River to the war of 1812-14, the direct trade between the American coast and China was almost entirely in the hands of citizens of the United States. The British merchants were restrained from pursuing it by the opposition of their East India Company; the Russians were not admitted into Chinese ports, and few ships of any other nation were seen in that part of the ocean.¹

The whaling-ship *Washington*, of Nantucket, under command of Captain George Bunker, was the first to show the American flag in a Spanish Pacific port.

About a year after the *Columbia* had completed her voyage around the world, in the summer of 1791, six ships, three of them new and three old, were sent out from Nantucket to cruise for whales in that ocean. All sailed under the new-born "Flag of the free." The new ships were the *Bearce*, *Hector*, and *Washington*; the old, the *Rebecca*, *Favorite*, and *Warren*. None of them exceeded two hundred and fifty tons in burthen, and all were heavy, dull sailers, without copper on their bottoms, and poorly and scantily fitted; but they were manned by men of an iron nerve and an energy that knew no turning. They all passed around Cape Horn, and a part went down the coast while the others remained on the coast of Chili.

The *Washington* went to Callao, on the coast of Peru, and on the 4th of July, 1792, two months after the discovery of the Columbia River by Gray, displayed the stars and stripes in that port. Lying there was an English whaling vessel, and a French brig, both manned by Nantucket men, who assisted Captain Bunker in his commemoration of the day.²

In 1790, a rather singular incident in connection with the stars and stripes happened at Londonderry, in Ireland. Mr. Lemuel Cox, who had gained considerable reputation as the builder of the bridge connecting Boston with Charlestown, Mass.,³ went to England, where he

¹ Bulfinch's *Oregon and Eldorado, and Vancouver's Voyage*. The Spanish silver dollars with which the trade was conducted received the name of 'Boston dollars' from the natives, a name they are still known by.

² Letter, F. C. Sanford, of Nantucket.

³ See *ante*, p. 293.

contracted for and built several bridges on the same general plan; among others, for a bridge across the Foyle, at Londonderry, where the river was near one thousand feet wide, and the water forty feet deep at high water,—an engineering feat which had been pronounced by English engineers impracticable. However, with twenty Bostonians and a few laborers Mr. Cox set to work and completed this bridge, consisting of fifty-eight arches, all of American oak, in four months. Not a log of the wood was imported before the 1st of May, and the bridge was completed in November. The cost was about £15,000.¹

“The bridge being completed, or nearly so, on the 22d of November, 1790, Mr. Cox gave the people leave to pass over free, in order to save them the expense of ferriage; and the first day that persons were admitted to pass over, with the consent of the authorities he hoisted the American flag in the midst of it, without the smallest intention of giving the least offence. This proceeding was looked upon by every person in an innocent point of view, until about four o'clock in the afternoon, when detachments from the Fortieth Regiment, under the command of the mayor, marched to the bridge, and a desperate affray ensued, the American flag flying all the time. The workmen were all Bostonians, who, in the very teeth of the magistracy and soldiery, cut, with their axes, the entrance to the bridge open, in order to let the people pass. Three men, viz. — Cunningham, of Dollartown, a master weaver, Alexander Reed, weaver, and — McLaughlin, a laborer, were killed, and several severely wounded. During the whole action the army fought under the thirteen stripes; and, what is very extraordinary, an officer fired the first shot.”²

This was undoubtedly the first action fought in Ireland under the stars and stripes, and probably the last. Mr. Cox was taken to the jail for safe-keeping from the fury of the populace, and that the disturbance lasted several days is evident from the following notice issued by the mayor three days later:—

¹ British Chronicle or Union Gazette, Kelso, Oct. 15, 1790.

Murray's Handbook of Ireland says: “It was a great curiosity, being 1,068 feet long and 40 feet wide, and laid on oak piles, the pieces of which were 16 feet asunder, bound together by thirteen string pieces equally divided and transversely bolted. It is now superseded by a new bridge, costing £100,000, which serves both for the Northern Counties Railway and a public road. In Hall's Ireland, vol. III. p. 212, Cox's bridge is described, and a view of it given.

² Independent Chronicle and Universal Advertiser, March 17, 1791, and Columbian Centinel, March 19, 1791, under heading 'Londonderry,' Nov. 23, 1790.

"COMMON HALL.

"The mayor requests the citizens of 'Derry may meet him this day at twelve o'clock, in the town-hall, in order to consider of such measures as may be deemed necessary to maintain the laws, and preserve the public tranquillity.

"TUESDAY MORNING, NOV. 25, 1790."

The cause of the riot is not so clear, as there are several versions of it, though all agree that the American flag was hoisted over the bridge, and in the number of killed and wounded. It seems to have been an Irish shindy. The 'Columbian Centinel,' in commenting upon it, says: "Upon inquiry, we find Mr. Cox received orders from the mayor and corporation of 'Derry to open the bridge on the day mentioned, for the benefit of the people, and, as the workmen and timber were American, permitted him to display upon the bridge the American flag. The novelty of these circumstances drew together a large concourse of people. The watermen who were thus thrown out of business, collected in numbers to oppose the passing and repassing of the people; this occasioned a fracas," &c.¹

Later, the Centinel contains extracts from an English paper, assigning the following as the causes of the disturbances, and which probably is a correct account of them. "From the day that the communication was opened by means of the bridge, an idea prevailed among the lower orders of the people that the passage was to be entirely free, and that no toll would be exacted. . . . For the first week, the corporation did not think it necessary to assert their right, and permitted a free passage. Unfortunately, this indulgence was misconstrued, and the populace confirmed in their opinion that there was no power to oblige them to pay toll. Under this idea, when the gate was erected for the purpose of collecting toll, the multitude, as they came to market, were discontented, and many, heated with liquor, refused to pay any toll. The mayor, sheriff, and several magistrates endeavored to persuade them from their illegal opposition; but the numbers increased, and they boldly proceeded down the toll-gate in spite of the magistrates, who were obliged to call for a guard of soldiers, and, the riot increasing, to bring to their support nearly the whole of the Fortieth Regiment. The military, charging their bayonets, drove the rioters across the bridge to the water-side, but they had no sooner got upon the street than they turned about and gave battle to the soldiers with repeated volleys of stones and brickbats. Again the magistrates entreated the rioters to disperse, and warned them of the fatal consequences of their

¹ Columbian Centinel, March 19, 1791.

outrages; but they continued the attack. At first, the military were ordered to fire in the air, then at the tops of houses; but the desperation of the mob increasing, the soldiers were ordered to level their muskets. About five in the evening the mob dispersed.”¹

Mr. Cox returned to the United States, where he pursued his mechanical tastes, and in 1796 was granted one thousand acres of land in Maine by the legislature of Massachusetts, for his various inventions, and died at Charlestown, Mass., Feb. 18, 1806. The rude woodcut at the head of the ‘broadside’ circulated at the opening of the Charlestown bridge was executed “by that masterpiece of ingenuity, Mr. Lemuel Cox.”²

On Monday, May 2, 1791, H. B. M. ship Alligator, 28, Isaac Coffin, Esq., commander, from Halifax, arrived at Boston, and on passing the Castle saluted the flag of the United States with thirteen guns, which was immediately returned by the fortress. “This mutual attention in powers,” says the ‘Columbian Centinel,’ “who were lately hostile to each other, shows the superior liberality of the age in which we live, and proclaims to the world the verification of that memorable instrument, the Declaration of Independence, in which our political fathers declared that they ‘should hold the king and subjects of Great Britain as they did the rest of the world,—enemies in war; in peace, friends.’”³

This was probably the first salute in Boston to our flag by a British vessel of war, and it will be observed her commander was an American by birth. The vessel had recently left England, only stopping at Halifax on her passage out.

FIFTEEN STARS AND FIFTEEN STRIPES.

1795-1818.

Early in 1794, in consequence of the admission of Vermont, March 4, 1791, and Kentucky, June 1, 1792, into the sisterhood of the Union, an act was passed increasing the stars and stripes on our flag from thirteen to fifteen, but not to take effect until May, 1795.

The act for this alteration originated in the Senate, and when it

¹ Columbian Centinel, April 2, 1791. Letter from Londonderry, Nov. 30, 1790.

² See Francis S. Drake's American Biographical Dictionary, and Samuel Adams Drake's Historic Fields and Mansions of Middlesex.

³ Columbian Centinel, May 3, 1791.

came down to the House was the occasion of considerable debate and opposition, illustrating the temper of the time as well as the design of the flag.

"Jan. 7, 1794. The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole House on the bill sent from the Senate, entitled, 'An Act making an alteration in the flag of the United States.'

"Mr. Goodhue thought it a trifling business, which ought not to engross the attention of the House, when it was its duty to discuss matters of infinitely greater consequence. If we alter the flag from thirteen to fifteen stripes, and two additional stars, because Vermont and Kentucky have been added, we may go on adding and altering at this rate for one hundred years to come. It is very likely before fifteen years elapse we shall consist of twenty States. The flag ought to be permanent."

In almost literal fulfilment of this opinion, when the flag was remodelled, in 1818, twenty-four years later, the new union contained twenty stars, representatives of as many States.

"Mr. Lyman differed in opinion with Mr. Goodhue. He thought it of the greatest importance not to offend new States.

"Mr. Thatcher ridiculed the idea of being at so much trouble on a consummate piece of frivolity. At this rate, every State should alter its public seal when an additional county or township was formed. He was sorry to see the House take up their time with such trifles.

"Mr. Greenup considered it of very great consequence to inform the rest of the world we had added two additional States.

"Mr. Niles was very sorry such a matter should for a moment have hindered the House from going into more important matters. He did not think the alteration either worth the trouble of adopting or rejecting, but he supposed the shortest way to get rid of it was to agree to it; and for that reason, and no other, he advised to pass it as soon as possible."

The committee having agreed upon the alteration, the chairman reported the bill, and the House took it up.

"Mr. Boudinot said he thought it of consequence to keep the citizens of Vermont and Kentucky in good humor. They might be affronted at our rejecting the bill.

"Mr. Goodhue, continuing his opposition, said he felt for the honor of the House when spending their time in such sort of business;¹ but since it must be passed, he had only to beg as a favor that it might not

¹ What would he say to the business habits of our modern Congresses, and the time wasted in frivolous debates and buncombe speeches.

appear upon the journal and go into the world as the first bill passed this session.

“ Mr. Madison was for the bill passing.

“ Mr. Giles thought it proper that the idea should be preserved of the number of our States and the number of stripes corresponding. The expense was but trifling, compared with that of forming the government of a new State.

“ Mr. Smith said that this alteration would cost him five hundred dollars, and every vessel in the Union sixty dollars. He could not conceive what the Senate meant by sending them such bills. He supposed it was for want of something better to do. He should indulge them, but let us have no more alterations of the sort. Let the flag be permanent.”

The bill thus debated was finally passed and approved on the 13th day of January, 1794. It was the first bill completed at that session of Congress, and reads as follows:—

“ *Be it enacted, &c.*, That from and after the first day of May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, the flag of the United States be fifteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be fifteen stars, white in a blue field.”

The same Congress, on the 27th of March, 1794, authorized the building of the frigate Constitution and five other frigates, the commencement of a new navy. The new flag floated over her and all of our vessels of war throughout the war of 1812-14.

When Mr. Monroe, the United States minister, presented his credentials on the 14th of August, 1794, to the French Republic, and communicated to the National Convention the wish of his fellow-citizens for the prosperity of the nation, the convention, on the report of the Committee of Public Safety, to whom his credentials had been referred, decreed that he should be introduced into the bosom of the convention, and the president should give him the fraternal embrace, as a symbol of the friendship which united the American and French people.

In the National Convention, Aug. 15, 1794, the discussions on the organization of the several committees were commenced, but the deliberation was soon after interrupted by the arrival of the minister plenipotentiary from the United States. He was conducted into the centre of the hall, and the secretary read the translation of his discourse and credential letters, signed by George Washington, President of the United States, and Edmund Randolph, Secretary of State, at Philadelphia, May 28. The reading of this was accompanied by

repeated shouts of "*Vive la Republique! Vive les Republiques!* and unusual acclamations of applause." The discourse was ordered to be printed in the French and American languages, and was, in part, as follows:—

"Among other things, Mr. Monroe observed that as a certain proof of the great desire of his countrymen for the freedom, prosperity, and happiness of the French Republic, he assured them that the Continental Congress had requested the President to make known to them this sentiment, and while acting agreeably to the desire of the two Houses, the President enjoined him to declare the congeniality of his sentiment with theirs."

The secretary then read the letter of credentials, and the president of the convention replied:—

"The French people have never forgotten that they owe to the Americans the imitation of liberty. They admired the sublime insurrection of the American people against Albion of old, so proud and now so disgraced. They sent their armies to assist the Americans, and in strengthening the independence of that country, the French, at the same time, learned to break the sceptre of their own tyranny, and erect a statue of liberty on the ruins of a throne founded upon the corruption and the crimes of fourscore centuries."

The President proceeded to remark "that the alliance between the two republics was not merely a diplomatic transaction, but an alliance of cordial friendship." He hoped that this alliance would be indissoluble, and prove the scourge of tyrants and the protection of the rights of man. He observed how differently an American ambassador would have been received in France six years before, by the usurper of the liberty of the people; and how much merit he would have claimed for having graciously condescended to take the United States under his protection. "At this day," he said, "it is the sovereign people itself, represented by its faithful deputies, that receives the ambassador with real attachment, while affected *mortality* (?) is at an end." He longed to crown it with the fraternal embrace. "I am charged," said he, "to give it in the name of the nation. Come and receive it in the name of the American nation, and let this scene destroy the last hope of the impious coalition of tyrants."

The President then gave the fraternal kiss and embrace to the minister, and declared that he recognized James Monroe in this quality.

"It was then decreed, on the motion of Mons. Bayle, that the colors of both nations should be suspended at the vault of the hall, as a sign

of perpetual alliance and union." The Minister took his seat on the mountain on the left of the President, and received the fraternal kiss from several deputies. The sitting of the convention was suspended.

On the 25 Fructidor (September 25th), about a month after this scene, the President "BERNARD of Saints" announced to the convention the receipt of a stand of colors by the hands of an officer of the United States from the minister plenipotentiary of the United States, to be placed in the hall of the National Convention at the side of the French colors, accompanied by the following letter:—

*"The Minister of the United States of America to the President of the
National Convention:*

"CITIZEN PRESIDENT,—The convention having decreed that the colors of the American and French republics should be united and stream together in the place of its sittings, as a testimony of the union and friendship which ought to subsist for ever between the two nations, I thought that I could not better manifest the deep impression which this decree has made on me, and express the thankful sensations of my constituents, than by procuring their colors to be carefully executed, and in offering them in the name of the American people to the representatives of the French nation.

"I have had them made in the form lately decreed by Congress [fifteen stripes and fifteen stars], and have trusted them to Captain Barney, an officer of distinguished merit, who has rendered us great services by sea, in the course of our revolution. He is charged to present and to deposit them on the spot which you shall judge proper to appoint for them. Accept, citizen president, this standard as a new pledge of the sensibility with which the American people always receive the interest and friendship which their good and brave allies give them; as also of the pleasure and ardor with which they seize every opportunity of cementing and consolidating the union and good understanding between the two nations."

Captain Barney being ordered to be admitted, entered the bar with the standard, amidst universal shouts of applause, which also accompanied the reading of Mr. Monroe's letter.

In delivering the standard, Captain Barney said:—

"CITIZEN PRESIDENT: Having been directed by the minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America to present the National Convention the flag asked of him,—the flag under the auspices of which I have had the honor to fight against our common enemy during the war which has assured liberty and independence,—I discharge the duty with the most lively satisfaction, and deliver it to you. Henceforth, suspended on the side of that of the French Republic, it will become the symbol of the union which subsists between the two nations,

and last, I hope, as long as the freedom which they have so bravely acquired and so wisely consolidated."

A member said: "The citizen who has just spoke at the bar is one of the most distinguished sea-officers of America. He has rendered great service to the liberty of his country, and he could render the same to the liberty of France. I demand that this observation be referred to the examination of the Committee of Public Safety, and that the fraternal embrace be given to this brave officer."

This proposition was received with applause. Several voices cried, "The fraternal embrace!" which was decreed; and Barney went up to the chair of the President and received the fraternal embrace, amidst unanimous acclamation and applause. The fraternal embrace consisted of a *hug*, and a kiss upon each cheek. A member arose in his place (a *Matthieu*) and proposed that their new brother, *citoyen* Barney, should be employed in the navy of the republic. The resolution passed unanimously; but Barney was at the time, from his other engagements, obliged to decline the honor. Subsequently he received and accepted the rank of *capitaine de vaisseau du premier*, and a commission as *chef de division des armées navales*, answering to the rank of commodore in our service.

When the grand ceremony decreed by the National Convention in honor of Jean Jacques Rousseau, on depositing his remains in the Pantheon, took place, Mr. Monroe and all the Americans at Paris were especially invited to be present. The population of Paris united in one moving mass to honor them. The urn containing the ashes of Jean Jacques was placed on a platform erected over the centre of the basin of the principal *jet d'eau* in the Garden of the Tuileries, where it remained until the procession was formed and prepared to advance; it was then taken down, and, surrounded by the trappings of mourning, removed to the place assigned it in the procession. The American minister, and the citizens of the United States who accompanied him, were placed immediately in front of the members of the National Convention, who appeared in official costumes. The American flag, so recently presented to the convention by Mr. Monroe, borne by Captain Joshua Barney and a nephew of Mr. Monroe, preceded the column of Americans, an honor which the National Convention appointed to them. A tricolored cordon, supported by the orphan sons of revolutionary soldiers, "*les élèves de la nation*," crossed the front, and led down each flank of the two columns composed of Americans and the members of the National Convention. These youths were dressed in blue jackets and trousers, and scarlet vests, and were several hundreds in number. The procession moved from the Palace of the

Tuileries down the principal avenue of the garden, to the Place de la Révolution, thence, by the boulevards, through Rue St. Honoré and other principal streets to the Pont Neuf, and thence to the Pantheon. The windows of every house from top to bottom, on either hand, throughout the whole extent of the march, were crowded with full-dressed females waving handkerchiefs and small tricolored flags, while from every story of each house a large flag of the same description permanently projected. The distance from the Palace of the Tuileries to the Pantheon, computing the meandering of the procession, was about two miles. Arrived at the Pantheon, Mr. Monroe and his suite were the only persons permitted to enter the National Convention, to witness the conclusion of the ceremony.¹

It is a little singular that, after all these ceremonies, Mr. Monroe omitted to make any mention of them in his official despatches. In a postscript to a despatch to the Secretary of State, dated March 6, 1795,² six months after these occurrences, he says he had "forgotten to notify him officially of his having presented the French National Convention with our flag," and adds: "It was done in consequence of an order of its body, for its suspension in its halls, and an intimation from the President himself that they had none, and were *ignorant of the model*."

In return, on the 1st of January, 1796,³ the minister of the French Republic to the United States presented the colors of France⁴ to the United States, and addressed the President as follows:—

"MR. PRESIDENT: I come to acquit myself of a duty very dear to my heart. I come to deposit in your hands, and in the midst of a

¹ Life of Commodore Joshua Barney.

² American State Papers, vol. 1. 1832 edition, p. 698.

³ Washington received a communication from the French minister on the 22d of December, and proposed to receive the colors on the first day of the new year, a day of general joy and congratulation.

⁴ These colors were the tricolor which had been established by the following decree, and succeeded the colors, &c., decreed by the National Assembly, Oct. 21, 1790, and were hoisted over the fleet at Brest with ceremonies and festivity, Jan. 11, 1791.

Feb. 15, 1793. The National Convention of France, in consequence of the report of St. André, passed the following decree:—

"1st. The maritime flag decreed by the National Constitutional Assembly is suppressed.

"2d. The national flag shall henceforth be formed of the three national colors disposed in three equal bands, put in a vertical direction, in such a manner that the blue be affixed to the staff of the flag, the white in the middle, and the red floating in the air.

"3d. The flag called the 'jack,' and the flag on the stern of the ships, shall be disposed in the same manner, observing the usual proportion of size.

"4th. The streamers (pennants) shall likewise be formed of three colors; of which one-fifth shall be blue, one-fifth white, and three-fifths red.

"5th. The national flag shall be hoisted in all the ships of the republic on the 20th of May; and the minister of marine shall give the necessary orders for that purpose."

people justly renowned for their courage and their love of liberty, the symbol of the triumphs and of the enfranchisement of my nation. . . . The National Convention, the organ of the will of the French nation, have more than once expressed their sentiments to the American people; but, above all, these burst forth on that august day, when the minister of the United States presented to the national representation the colors of his country. Desiring never to lose recollections so dear to Frenchmen, as they must be to Americans, the convention ordered that these colors should be placed in the hall of their sittings. They had experienced sensations too agreeable not to cause them to be partaken of by their allies, and decreed that to them the national colors should be presented.

“MR. PRESIDENT: I do not doubt their expectations will be fulfilled, and I am convinced that every citizen will receive, with pleasing emotion, this flag, elsewhere the terror of the enemies of liberty, here the certain pledge of faithful friendship; especially when they recollect that it guides to combat men who have shared their toils, and who were prepared for liberty, by aiding them to acquire their own.”

General Washington, in his reply the same day to this address, after expressing his congratulations on the formation and establishment of the French Republic, said: “I receive, sir, with lively sensibility, the symbol of the triumphs and of the enfranchisement of your nation, the colors of France, which you have now presented to the United States. The transaction will be announced to Congress, and the colors will be deposited with those archives of the United States which are at once the evidence and the memorial of their freedom and independence. May these be perpetual! and may the friendship of the two republics be commensurate with their existence!”¹

The House proceeded at once to consider the above, and

“*Resolved, unanimously,* That the President be requested to make known to the representatives of the French people that this House had received with the most sincere and lively sensibility the communication of the Committee of Public Safety, dated the 21st of October, 1794, accompanied by the colors of the French Republic; and to assure them that the presentation of the colors of the French Republic to the Congress of the United States is deemed the most honorable testimonial of the existing sympathies and affections of the two republics founded upon their solid and reciprocal interests; and that this House rejoices in the opportunity thereby afforded to congratulate the French nation upon the brilliant and glorious achievements which

¹ American State Papers, 3d ed., vol. II. p. 100.

have been accomplished under their influence during the present afflicting war, and confidently hopes that those achievements will be attended with the perfect attainment of their object,—the permanent establishment of the liberties and happiness of a great and magnanimous people.”

Mr. Giles and Mr. Smith were appointed a committee to wait upon the President with this resolution.¹

Mr. Adet, the French minister to the United States, was not satisfied with this disposition of the tricolor, and nine days later writes to Mr. Pickering, Secretary of State, thus: “When the National Convention decreed that the French flag should be presented by its minister to the United States, there was but one opinion as to the place in which it should be deposited. A decree had placed yours in the hall of the legislative body. Every one thought that the French flag would with you receive the same honor; all my fellow-citizens have, one after another, contemplated that pledge of your friendship, and each one believed that the Americans would also have the same eagerness to view the symbol of the enfranchisement of a friendly nation, who, like them, had purchased their liberty at the price of blood. This expectation has not been fulfilled, and it has been decided that the French flag shall be shut up among the archives. Whatever may be the expression of friendship in the answer of the President, however amicable, also, are the resolutions of the House of Representatives, I cannot doubt, sir, that the order made for preserving a flag which the republic sent only to the United States will be looked upon by it as a mark of contempt or indifference. Pride, sir, you know, is the portion of a free people; and it is never wounded but at the expense of friendship. The present circumstances are extremely delicate; and when I am convinced the American government had no intention of leading the French Republic to think that the gift of her flag is worth nothing in its eyes, should it not give her authentic proof of it? Would it not be convenient to fix this flag in a similar place to that which yours occupies in France, and where the national honor expected to see it?”

Mr. Pickering, in his reply, dated Jan. 15, 1796, regrets that the real and essential friendship of two free people should be wounded by a circumstance of this kind, resulting from the different ideas they entertain of the mode most proper for preserving the sign of their lib-

¹ American State Papers, 3d ed., vol. II. p. 100. It would be interesting to know the further history of these colors thus officially received, as also of the stars and stripes presented to the National Convention by Mr. Monroe. Is the French flag still “shut up among the archives” of the State Department?

erty, and of the victories and triumphs by which it was acquired, and calls to mind that the representatives of the French people assembled in one room, and that their own colors were exhibited there when it was decreed the colors of the United States should be. That, on the contrary, the people of the United States were represented by the President or Executive, the Senate, and the House of Representatives, the President being the *sole constitutional organ* of communication with foreign nations. "When, therefore, the colors of France were delivered to the President, they were in the only proper manner presented to the people of the United States of America, for whom the President is the only constitutional depository of foreign communications. Of these, the President transmits to the two Houses of Congress such as he thinks proper for their information; and thus the colors of France were exhibited to their view. But the United States have never made a public display of their own colors, except in their ships and in their military establishments." "Under these circumstances, what honor could be shown to the colors of France more respectful than to deposit them with the evidences and memorials of our own freedom and independence? If to the United States only the colors of France had been presented, I answer that the colors of France alone have been deposited with our national archives, that both may be preserved with equal care." He closes with this dignified rebuke to the minister for dictating the proper place for the deposit of the French flag: "I must also remark that the people of the United States have exhibited nowhere in their deliberative assemblies any public spectacles as the tokens of their victories, the symbols of their triumphs, or the monuments of their freedom. Understanding in what true liberty consists, contented with its enjoyment, and knowing how to preserve it, they reverence their own customs, while they respect those of their sister republic. This I conceive, sir, is the way to maintain peace and good harmony between France and the United States, and not by demanding an adoption of the manners of the other: in these we must be mutually free." "This explanation, sir, I hope will be satisfactory to you and to your government, and in concurrence with the manner of receiving the French colors, and the unanimous sentiments of affection and good wishes expressed on the occasion by the President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives, effectually repel every idea that could wound the friendship subsisting between the two nations."¹

¹ American State Papers, 1832, vol. 1. p. 656. This captious Frenchman, a few months later, made official complaint that the 'Philadelphia Directory' for 1796 gave precedence on its list of foreign ministers to the minister of Great Britain over

In 1797, the little ship-rigged boat *Betsey*, of only ninety tons, Captain Edmund Fanning, sailed from New York, and carried the stars and stripes around the world; she returned at the end of two years with a valuable cargo of silks, teas, china, and nankeens, and with a healthy crew of young fellows all decked in China silk jackets and blanched chip hats trimmed with blue ribbons. The ship presented a daily sight at the Flymarket wharf, where hundreds were daily visitors to see a ship of war in beautiful miniature, with a battery tier of guns fore and aft. The voyage was a successful one, and resulted in one thousand dollars apiece to the seamen, and gifts of silk, nankeen, &c. The *Betsey* was at first intended for a New York and Charleston packet, and rigged as a brig. She was built in New York, in 1792, and so far up town as to be launched across three streets, her master-builder having a fancy to build her before his own door in Cheapside Street. She is probably the smallest ship that ever completed the circumnavigation of the globe.

Every thing connected with the frigate *Constitution*, of glorious memories and victories, still existing to stimulate the patriotism of our naval aspirants, is of interest, and we are happy to be able to record the name of the person who first hoisted our flag over her, with no conception of the glorious history she would make for it. Her keel was laid in 1794, but she was not launched until October 21, 1797. It was intended she should be the first vessel of the new and permanent navy. But two of the six frigates ordered to be built under the same law were launched before her; viz., *The United States*, launched July 10, 1797, and destroyed at Norfolk, April 20, 1861; and the *Constellation*, launched Sept. 7, 1797, broken up in 1854, and now represented by a razeed ship of the same name.

The *Constitution*, better known as 'Old Ironsides,' often repaired and rebuilt, remains of the same model, and is of the same tonnage and general appearance as when launched. She was modelled by Joshua Humphries, and built by George Claghorne and Mr. Hartt, of Boston.

When ready to be launched, Commodore Samuel Nicholson, who had the superintendence of her construction, left the ship-yard to get his breakfast, leaving express orders not to hoist any flag over her until his return, intending to reserve that honor to himself. Among the workmen upon her was a shipwright and caulker named Samuel Bentley, who, with the assistance of Harris, another workman, bent

those of France and Spain. Mr. Pickering, of course, replies that the United States has no control over the publication of almanacs and directories.

on and hoisted the stars and stripes during the commodore's absence. When the commodore returned and saw the flag floating over her, he was very wrathful, and expressed himself to the offending workmen in words more strong than polite. Could he have foreseen the future of the noble frigate, he would have been still more excited at Bentley's little *coup d'état*. He had, however, the satisfaction of being the first to command her, and she was the first of the new frigates to carry the fifteen stars and fifteen stripes under canvas upon the deep blue sea. Bentley died in Boston, in 1852.

The fifteen stars and fifteen stripes were worn by the Constitution before Tripoli, and throughout the war of 1812. It was the flag worn by the Constellation in her actions with *L'Insurgente* and *La Vengeance*; the flag that waved over *Derne*; the flag of Lake Erie, Fort McHenry, and New Orleans, and of our naval victories on the Atlantic; and which was carried around both Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope in the *Essex*, the first United States vessel of war to show a pennant beyond either.

On the 6th of January, 1800, the *Essex*, Captain Edward Preble, sailed from New York for Batavia, in company with the Congress. When six days out, the Congress was dismasted, and the *Essex*, knowing nothing of the disaster, proceeded on her voyage alone.

On the 28th of March, 1800, she doubled the Cape of Good Hope on her outward voyage, and on the 27th of August, 1800, repassed it after a tempestuous passage on her return home, and thus was the first vessel of the United States navy to pass and repass that stormy barrier, rightly named by its discoverer "Cabo de las Tormentas." It was also the good fortune of the *Essex*, under Commodore David Porter, on her last and most celebrated cruise, to be the first vessel of our navy to pass around Cape Horn. The *Essex* left St. Catharine's, Brazil, on the 26th of January, 1813, passed the Cape on the 14th of February, and, after a most stormy and tempestuous time in weathering it, encountered a pleasant southwest breeze in the Pacific Ocean on the 5th, and arrived off Valparaiso on the 13th of March, where she anchored on the 15th of the same month.

The Cape was made on the 14th of February under the promising auspices of a tolerable clear horizon, a moderate wind from the westward, and a bright sun. Every man was exulting in their escape from the dreaded terrors of Cape Horn, when suddenly a tempest burst upon the ship which raised an irregular and dangerous sea, and reduced her flowing canvas to storm staysails. Storm succeeded storm, with intervals of deceitful calm, which encouraged the making

of sail, and added to the labor of the hard-working crew, who were immediately forced to reef again, to meet the coming blast.

On the last day of February, being in latitude 50° S., Captain Porter, as his ship glided on a smooth sea before a moderate breeze, congratulated himself upon the cheering prospect, and made preparations for fine weather, thinking the dangers and disagreeable attendants of a passage around the Cape all over. The wind, however, soon freshened to a gale, and blew with a fury exceeding any thing before experienced during the voyage. It was hoped, from the excessive violence of the wind, that it would soon blow out its strength. This hope failing, all on board, worn out with fatigue and anxiety, alarmed by the terrors of a lee-shore, and in momentary expectation of the loss of the masts and bowsprit, began to consider their safety hopeless. The ship, with her water-ways gaping and her timbers separating widely from the heavy and continued straining to which she had been so long exposed, now made a great deal of water, and, to add to the fearfulness of the danger, the pumps had become choked. The sea meantime had arisen to a great height, threatening to swallow the ship at every roll. For two days the storm continued unabated, but as the good ship had resisted its violence, "to the astonishment of all, without receiving any considerable injury," it was hoped from her excellent qualities she might be able to weather the storm. Before the third day had passed, however, an enormous sea broke over the ship, and for an instant destroyed all hope. The gun-deck ports were burst in, both boats on the quarter stove, the spare spars washed from the chains, the head-rails swept away, the hammock stanchion crushed, and the ship perfectly deluged and water-logged. One man, an old sailor, the boatswain, who had been taken from an English packet, was so appalled that he cried out in his despair that the ship's broad-side was stove in, and that she was sinking. The alarm ran throughout the vessel from the spar-deck to the gun-deck, and was caught up by those below on the berth-deck, who, deluged by the torrents of water rushing down the hatchways, and swept by huge seas out of their hammocks, believed that the *Essex* was about to plunge for ever into the depths of the ocean. The men at the wheel, however, who were only able to keep to their post by clinging with all their might, distinguished themselves by their cool intrepidity, and were rewarded by Captain Porter after the storm by advancement in rank, while others, who shrank from the terrors of the scene, were rebuked for their timidity.

Leaving this tempestuous weather behind, the Essex quickly passed the inhospitable coasts of Patagonia and Lower Chili, and sailed into smoother seas and pleasant weather.

The Essex cruise furnishes one of the most remarkable chapters in our naval history. On the 19th of November, 1813, Captain Porter hoisted our flag and took possession of Nukahiva, one of the Marquesas Islands in the South Pacific, setting forth his claims to its possession in the following declaration, which was signed by himself and attested by fifteen of his officers as witnesses:—

“DECLARATION.

“It is hereby made known to the world, that I, David Porter, a captain in the navy of the United States of America, and now in command of the United States frigate ‘Essex,’ have, on the part of the said United States, taken possession of the island called by the natives ‘Nookahiva,’ generally known by the name of ‘Sir Henry Martin’s Island,’ but now called ‘Madison Island.’ That by the request and assistance of the friendly tribes residing in the valley of Tienhoi, as well as of the tribes residing on the mountains, whom we have conquered and rendered tributary to our flag, I have caused the village of Madison to be built, consisting of six convenient houses, a rope-walk, bakery, and other appurtenances, and for the protection of the same, as well as for that of the friendly natives, I have constructed a fort, calculated for mounting sixteen guns, whereon I have mounted four, and called the same ‘Fort Madison.’

“Our right to this island, being founded on priority of discovery, conquest, and possession, cannot be disputed; but the natives, to secure to themselves that friendly protection which their defenceless situation so much required, have requested to be admitted into the great American family, whose pure republican policy approaches so near their own; and, in order to encourage these views to their own interest and happiness, as well as to render secure our claim to an island valuable on many considerations, I have taken on myself to promise them that they shall be so adopted; that our chief shall be their chief, and they have given assurances that such of their brethren as may hereafter visit them from the United States shall enjoy a welcome and hospitable reception among them, and be furnished with whatever refreshments and supplies the island may afford; that they will protect them against all their enemies, and that, as far as lies in their power, they will prevent the subjects of Great Britain (knowing them to be such) from coming among them until peace shall have taken place between the two nations.

“Presents, consisting of the produce of the island to a great amount, have been brought in by every tribe in the island, not excepting the most remote, and have been enumerated as follows: [Here follows the enumeration of thirty-one tribes.] Most of the above have requested to be taken under the protection of our flag; and all have been willing to purchase, on any terms, a friendship which promises them so many advantages.

"Influenced by these considerations of humanity, which promise speedy civilization to those who enjoy every mental and bodily endowment which nature can bestow, and which requires only art to perfect, as well as by views of policy, which secures to my country a fruitful and populous island, possessing every advantage of security and supplies for vessels, and which of all others is most happily situated as respects climate and local position, I declare that I have, in the most solemn manner, under the *American flag displayed in Fort Madison*, and in the presence of numerous witnesses, taken possession of said island, called 'Madison Island,' for the use of the United States, whereof I am a citizen, and that the act of taking possession was announced by a salute of seventeen guns from the artillery of Fort Madison, and returned by the shipping in the harbor, which is hereafter to be called 'Massachusetts Bay.' And that our claim to this island may not hereafter be disputed, I have buried in a bottle at the foot of the flag-staff in Fort Madison a copy of this instrument, together with several pieces of money, the coin of the United States.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature, this 19th day of November, 1813.

"DAVID PORTER."

As the Marquesas Islands were discovered by the American captains, Ingraham and Roberts, we had an undoubted claim to them from priority of discovery, and Porter, in taking possession as he did of Nukahiva, only followed the custom of other maritime powers.

The revenue flag of the United States was created by an act of Congress approved March 2, 1799, which reads as follows:—

"SECTION 102. *And be it further enacted*, That the cutters and boats employed in the service of the revenue shall be distinguished from other vessels by an ensign and pendant, with such marks thereon as shall be prescribed and directed by the President of the United States; and in case any ship or vessel liable to seizure or examination shall not bring to, on being required, or being chased by any cutter or boat having displayed the pendant and ensign prescribed for vessels in the revenue service, it shall be lawful for the captain, master, or other person having command of such cutter or boat to fire at or into such vessel which shall not bring to, after such pendant and ensign shall be hoisted, and a gun shall have been fired by such cutter or boat as a signal, and such captain, master, or other person as aforesaid, and all persons acting by or under his directions, shall be indemnified from any penalties or actions for damages for so doing; and if any person shall be killed or wounded by such firing, and the captain or master or other person aforesaid shall be prosecuted and arrested

therefor, such captain, master, or other person shall be forthwith admitted to bail. And if any ship, vessel, or boat *not* employed in the service of the revenue, shall, within the jurisdiction of the United States, carry or hoist any ensign or pendant prescribed for vessels in the service aforesaid, the master or commander of the ship or vessel so offending shall forfeit and pay one hundred dollars."

In accordance with this act, the Secretary of the Treasury, Aug. 1, 1799, prescribed the revenue flag as follows:—

"The ensign and pendant directed by the President under the act of 2d March, 1799, consists of *sixteen* perpendicular stripes alternate red and white, the union of the ensign bearing the arms of the United States in dark blue on a white field."

The stripes represent the number of States admitted to the union when the flag was adopted, and the ensign has undergone no change since. In 1871, thirteen blue stars in a white field were substituted for the eagle in the union of the pendant.

Whenever revenue vessels are employed beyond our coast, or in conjunction with the navy, they are allowed to wear the national in place of the revenue ensign.

The revenue ensign is always displayed over the custom-houses of the United States, and over the other buildings appertaining to the Treasury Department of the United States.

Our stars and stripes were first displayed in a Japanese port in 1797. The annual ship sent that year by the Dutch from Batavia to trade with Japan flew our flag, to avoid capture by the British. The vessel was named the *Eliza*, of New York, and her captain was an Englishman. All the so-called Dutch traders to Japan from 1799 to 1809 were really American.

In 1807, the Boston ship *Eclipse*, chartered at Canton by the Russian American Company, entered the harbor of Nagasaki under Russian colors.

Mr. John Lee claims the honor of having first displayed our flag in the Oriental city of Smyrna. In a letter to a naval friend, dated 1837, he says: "In 1797, I caused to be waved on board the American vessel *Ann*, of Boston, Captain Daniel Sawyer, the American starry flag, the first that appeared in Smyrna, and just after a greater part of the city, my house among the rest, had been burnt. She came hither in 127 days from the Danish settlement of Tranquebar, on the Coromandel Coast, and brought to my house a valuable cargo, which I sold to a good profit."

Our flag was, however, so little known at Smyrna, that nineteen years after, in August, 1812, two American vessels arriving in that port, and the United States having no treaty with the Porte, they were obliged to hoist English colors in order to obtain admission. The English factors were displeased on seeing a foreigner use their flag and obtain privileges under it, and by their representation the British consul forbade the Americans using it, and informed the custom-house the vessels were not of his nation. This subjected the Americans to six per cent additional duty; but on their threatening to leave without breaking bulk, they were permitted to land their cargo by paying a duty of four per cent,—one per cent more than was paid by English vessels. After they had cleared their holds, however, the custom-house officers seized six barrels of indigo, for which they could obtain no redress.¹

Up to Oct. 20, 1795, the State of Mississippi had been a Spanish province. On that day, a treaty was signed at Madrid relinquishing the Spanish claim to all territory above 31° north latitude, and commissioners were appointed by both governments to determine the boundary. Andrew Ellicott, of Pennsylvania, was appointed by the President commissioner on the part of the United States to determine the boundary between the United States and the territories of his Catholic Majesty, beginning at the 31° north latitude, on the Mississippi River, and running to the head of St. Mary's River in Florida. The American commissioners arrived at Natchez on the 29th of February, 1797; and the stars and stripes were then for the first time displayed.

On the 24th of April, 1797, Lieutenant Pope, U. S. A., with a company of infantry, arrived at Natchez, and the next day, attended by an escort from Bacon's Landing, with music and colors displayed, marched up and deployed in front of the town, saluted the Spanish flag, and pitched tents on the bluff in view of the fort and the governor's residence, and planted our flag on the bluff, where it now floats.

Ellicott's party landed at Natchez, then occupied and garrisoned by the Spaniards, Nov. 24, 1797, communicated his credentials to Governor Gayoss, and on the 27th proceeded from his boats to the bluff, pitched his tents, &c., at the upper end of the bluff, a quarter of a mile from the Spanish fort, and on the 29th he hoisted the flag of the United States.

¹ Select Review.

In the spring of 1797, Captain Isaac Guion, with two hundred infantry and fifteen pieces of artillery, proceeded down the Mississippi under orders, and halted at Chickasaw Bluffs, now Memphis, to deliver the Chickasaw annuity. The Spaniards had abandoned the position and destroyed their works, and Captain Guion erected a fort, called 'Fort Adams,' at the lower Chickasaw Bluff,—afterwards known as Fort Pickering,—and displayed there, for the first time, the American flag. Towards the end of 1797, Major William Hersey, Third United States Artillery, took possession of Fort Nogales (now Vicksburg), and unfurled the flag. In a few months, Colonel John F. Hamtremack, First Regiment United States Artillery, concentrated the garrisons of Nogales and Natchez at Loftus Heights, and built Fort Adams, still known by that name. There the flag was displayed, and it was seen at no point on the river below that until Dec. 20, 1803, when the standard of France was lowered on the *Place des Armées* in the city of New Orleans, and the American colors hoisted by Governor William C. C. Claiborne and General James Wilkinson, the United States commissioners.

The flag of the United States was first hoisted at the Bay of St. Louis, Biloxi, and Pascagoula, on the seaboard of Mississippi, January, 1811, by order of Governor Claiborne; in Mobile, April 15, 1813, when that place was captured by General Wilkinson from the Spaniards.¹

In 1797, a schooner was launched at Erie, Penn. She was the first vessel under our flag to invade the waters of the Great Lake, and the parent of the extensive commerce which now sails over those inland seas. She was soon lost, and the enterprise was not followed up for several years.²

¹ Letter, Hon. W. I. H. Claiborne, 1879.

² In 1678, a brigantine of ten tons was built for the use of the French on Lake Ontario.

On the 7th of August, 1679, a small vessel left her anchorage and ascended the strong rapids of the Niagara River into Lake Erie. She was a peculiar craft, of foreign model, full rigged and equipped, having many of the appointments of a man-of-war. A battery of seven small cannon, with some musketry, constituted her armament. A flag bearing the device of an eagle floated at her masthead, and her bow was ornamented with a carved griffin, in honor of the arms of Count Frontenac, Governor-General of Canada. The vessel was the *Griffon*, and her projector and builder the adventurous Chevallier de la Salle. She was named '*Le Griffon*' in compliment of Count Frontenac, on whose escutcheon two winged griffins were emblazoned as supporters. Being unable to stem the current, a dozen men were landed on the eastern shore, and drew her up the stream. A group of Senecas watched her movements and shouted their admiration. When the vessel had reached the lake, the men on shore embarked, a *Te Deum* was chanted, the artillery and firearms were discharged, and the vessel boldly ploughed, without chart or guide, the untried waters of the lake.

Three manuscript maps in the archives of the Ministère de la Marine in Paris furnish indisputable evidence that this vessel was built at the mouth of the Cayuga

In 1800, our constellation of stars was first displayed before the crescent under the walls of Constantinople by the frigate *George Washington*, Captain William Bainbridge, when she carried the tribute of the Dey of Algiers to the Sultan. When the nationality of the frigate was reported to the authorities, they returned answer that the government had never heard of the United States of America. On its being explained that the frigate came from the new world discovered by Columbus, a bunch of flowers and a lamp were sent on board,—the one as a welcome, the other as a token of amity.

Captain Bainbridge passed the forts and castles of the Bosphorus by a stratagem; as his ship approached the castles, he shortened sail, and made the usual preparations for anchoring. When nearly abreast of the anchorage, he commenced a salute, which was instantly returned from the shore. Under cover of the friendly smoke, sail was made, and before the Turks had recovered from their surprise at so unusual an occurrence the ship was beyond their batteries, pursuing her way to Constantinople.

At an entertainment subsequently given by Captain Bainbridge to the minister of the Sublime Porte, decanters of water were placed upon the table (the Mussulmans not drinking wine) from the four quarters of the globe,—some of the casks filled in America and Africa being still full, and the frigate then anchored between the shores of Europe and Asia. This incident, as unique as pleasing, attracted so much notice in the diplomatic circle of Constantinople, that the lady of the British ambassador borrowed the four decanters to grace her own table at an entertainment the following day.

Creek. When she was launched, a salute was fired and the *Te Deum* was chanted; the Frenchmen cheered as she entered the water. The Iroquois were unable to repress their astonishment, and the Senecas joined in celebrating the launch by partaking of the brandy which was liberally and freely distributed.

The *Griffon* sailed through Lakes Erie, Huron, St. Clair (which they named), and Michigan, or Illinois, as it was then called, bearing the flag of France, and started on her return well loaded with a valuable cargo of furs on the 18th of September. On the second day after she sailed, a storm arose which lasted five days. She is reported to have been seen among the islands in the northerly end of Lake Michigan two days after sailing by some Pottawatomes, who advised the pilot to wait for more favorable weather. They last saw her half a league from the shore, helplessly driven by the storm upon a sandbar, where she probably foundered. A hatchway, a cabin-door, the trunk of a flag-staff, and a few other articles were subsequently found and recognized as relics of the ill-fated ship,—the first vessel of size to traverse the Great Lakes.—*The Building and Voyage of the Griffon in 1679*, a paper read before the Buffalo Historical Society, by C. H. Marshall, in 1863, revised by the author, and printed in the publications of the Buffalo Historical Society, vol. 1. No. 7, Aug. 1879; also in pamphlet form, p. 34, 8vo.

On the 27th of April, 1805, Lieutenant O'Bannon of the marines and Mr. Mann hauled down the Tripolitan colors displayed over the fortress of Derne, and unfolded "our flag" of fifteen stars and fifteen stripes in their place,—the first American flag planted upon a fortress of the Old World.¹

On the 17th of March, 1807, a squadron of United States vessels of war, consisting of the bomb ketches Etna and Vesuvius, and gunboats Nos. 11, 12, 13, and 14, and barge Victory, under the command of Commodore Shaw, anchored in the Mississippi River opposite Natchez, and was the first naval squadron to display our flag there. They came at the request of General Wilkinson, with orders to capture or sink Burr's flotilla, said to be very formidable, and daily expected down the river.

Previous to the declaration of war, in 1812, against Great Britain, it was determined at a cabinet council that our vessels of war should be placed in ordinary, it being thought unwise to jeopardize our few frigates and sloops of war in a contest with the gigantic navy of the enemy.² Captain William Bainbridge, who was in Washington the day after war was declared, consulted with Captain Charles Stewart, who was also there, on the propriety of remonstrating against the measure. They accordingly wrote to the Secretary of the Navy, stating, in forcible language, that such a course would have a chilling and unhappy effect on the spirit of the navy. Even if we were to lose some of our vessels of war, it would be better to do so, they argued, than that they should be ingloriously laid up in harbor, while other branches of the service were gallantly contending in the field. From the high discipline of our navy, and the eagerness of the officers and crews to engage in the contest, they felt perfectly assured that if our vessels did not prove invariably triumphant, they would certainly never disgrace themselves or the nation.

Their letter had its effect: our men-of-war were permitted to cruise, and the result showed the truth of their predictions. One of the earliest triumphs for our flag was the capture of H. B. M. frigate Macedonian by the frigate United States off Madeira on the 25th of October.

When the United States and her prize arrived at New London, Decatur sent his report of the action and the colors of the Macedo-

¹ July 4, 1820, at the celebration of the day at Brimfield, Mass., this flag was displayed and toasted.—*Boston Gazette*, 1820.

² *Life of Bainbridge; Life of Stewart; Commodore Stewart's Letter to the U. S. Nautical Magazine*, 1846, vol. II, pp. 172-185.

Our entire naval force capable of going to sea consisted of but 412 guns, viz.: 274 in frigates, 62 in sloops of war, and 78 in brigs and schooners.—*Stewart's Letter*.

nian to Washington by Lieutenant Hamilton, a son of the Secretary of the Navy. With them he arrived in Washington on the evening of the 8th of December, while a ball given to the officers of the navy, and particularly to Captain Charles Stewart, of the *Constellation*, in acknowledgment of his recent civilities to the citizens of Washington, was in progress. The occasion was graced by the presence of Captain Isaac Hull, the gallant victor of the *Guerriere*, by many public functionaries, and by those most distinguished in the society of the capital. The Secretary of the Navy being present, Lieutenant Hamilton proceeded to the ball-room with his despatches. He was received with acclamations, and, having acquitted himself of his errand, was welcomed by the embraces of his father, mother, and sisters, happily present to exult in the safety and success of a beloved son and brother.

The ball-room had been decorated with the trophies of our recent naval victories. A desire was expressed that the colors of the *Macedonian* should be added to those of the *Constitution* and *Alert*. They were accordingly borne in by Captains Stewart and Hull, and presented to Mrs. Madison, the wife of the President, amidst inspiring strains of music; while acclamations of patriotic exultation broke from the lips of the fair and the brave. Enthusiasm was at its height when, at the supper-table, "the health of Commodore Decatur and the officers and crew of the *United States*" was proposed and drank with all the honors.¹

After the usual congratulations on this the third naval victory gained in a few months over the enemy, Mr. Hamilton, the secretary of the navy, said to Captain Stewart, "We are indebted to Bainbridge and yourself for these flags and victories. Had it not been for your strong remonstrance, not a vessel of war belonging to the government would have left its anchorage."

"When Yankee meets the Briton
Whose blood congenial flows,
By Heaven created to be friends,
By fortune rendered foes,
Hard must be the battle fray
Ere well the fight is o'er."²

The flag worn by the *United States* brig *Enterprise* in her action with the British brig *Boxer*, Sept. 4, 1813, and afterwards the pall

¹ McKenzie's *Life of Decatur*, pp. 181, 182.

² L. M. Sargent's ode, sung at a dinner given to Captain Hull by the citizens of Boston, after the capture of the *Guerriere*.

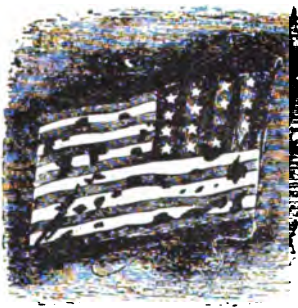
which covered the body of Captain Burrows at his funeral, had fifteen stripes and fifteen stars, the latter arranged in parallel lines. This



Flag of the United States Brig Enterprise, Sept. 5, 1813.

flag, which was an old one on the day of the engagement, and patched with a still older one, is now in the possession of H. G. Quincy, of Portland, and was exhibited at the Massachusetts Mechanics' Charitable Fair, in Boston, October, 1878. After the action, it bore the marks of fifty-nine shot-holes, chiefly musketry. The illustration is from a photograph taken in 1873, when what was left of the venerable relic was stitched on canvas, in order that it might be photographed.¹

Another interesting relic of the war of 1812 is the flag worn at Stonington when bombarded by the British fleet, Aug. 10, 1814. The bombardment was opened on that day by the Terror, Despatch, and Pactolus. The town was wholly defenceless, the supply of ammunition having given out, and at the mercy of the invader, when a timid citizen proposed a formal surrender by lowering this ensign, which was flying over a one gun 18-pounder battery.



Stonington Flag.

“No!” shouted Captain Holmes, indignantly, “the flag shall never come down while I am alive!” and when the wind died away and it hung drooping from its staff, the brave captain held it out on the point of a bayonet, that the British might see it. In that position several

shots passed through it, and a companion of Holmes was held up on his shoulders, while he nailed it to the staff.²

The engraving is a sketch of its appearance in 1860, carefully taken at the house of its owner, Captain Almy, by Mr. Lossing. It will be observed that the flag has sixteen stars and thirteen stripes, one star more and two stripes less than the legal number at that time. The flag

¹ See *Three Historic Flags and Three September Victories*, by G. H. P.

² *Lossing's War of 1812-14*.

was about three and one half yards long by three in width. The engraver, not understanding the heraldry of lines, has in our illustration made the field of the union red and the dark stripes blue, while the reverse is the case in the flag.

The close of the war with Great Britain created an interest in the trophies which had been gathered by our flag on land and on the sea; and in answer to a call from the House of Representatives inquiring into the present condition and disposition of the flags, standards, and colors taken by the forces of the United States from their enemies, John Armstrong, secretary of war, on the 14th of January, 1814, reported that of the standards and colors taken by the army of the United States during the Revolution, only six flags remained in the War Department. Others, it was understood, were deposited in Philadelphia, while Congress sat in that city, but whether they had been moved with the public offices to Washington, he did not know.¹

Mr. Seybert, chairman of the committee to whom the preservation of these flags and trophies had been referred, reported, Feb. 4, 1814, "That the collection, preservation, and exhibition of such flags, standards, and colors as have been taken by the land and naval forces of the United States from their enemies is sanctioned by the practice of European nations, and more especially by the proceedings of the Congress of our Revolution. It is believed there cannot be a difference of opinion on this subject; it is natural to rejoice at the victories and glory of our country. In Europe, the trophies which have been gained in war are preserved with uncommon care. As monuments of national power, they have ever been cherished by all civilized nations. In England they are highly prized. Not content that they should constitute the ornaments of military institutions, such standards are deemed proper subjects for the decorations of temples which have been consecrated to the purposes of religious worship. The sacred chapels, in common with the royal palaces, are the places in which the banners which the British forces have won from their enemies are displayed to every subject and traveller. It must be recollected that the standard of our Fourth Regiment of Infantry, which the enemy received at the lamentable surrender of

¹ "Four standards were taken at Trenton."—*Major-General Heath to Governor Trumbull*, Dec. 30, 1776.

Two flags out of the six which were captured from the Hessian division of the British army at Trenton, Dec. 26, 1776, are in the department on the hill at Harrisburg.—*Letter, William Buchler to G. H. P.*, Nov. 18, 1871.

Twenty-four standards of colors taken from the British army under Cornwallis arrived at Philadelphia, Saturday, Nov. 3, 1781.—*Westcott's History of Philadelphia*.

Detroit, was, in haste, conveyed to Europe.¹ Immediately after its arrival in London the public prints informed us that it was triumphantly displayed in the council chamber at Whitehall. Such is the British practice.”

“In France, the galleries of Notre Dame are blazoned with these splendid trophies; the chapel of the Hotel of the Invalids is richly embellished, and exhibits to the numerous visitors the many standards which that gigantic power has at different times taken from its enemies.² The trophies of war ornament the places of worship in Prussia, Bohemia, and Austria. It affords no common satisfaction to the disabled tar or the superannuated soldier when he informs the inquisitive stranger that he gloriously fought in the battle which may have gained some of them; for the time he forgets his former sufferings and his present disabled condition; his consolation rests upon the power and glory of his country, so fully demonstrated by the sight of numerous ensigns which have been taken from other nations. Other instances in favor of the practice could have been furnished, but your committee are persuaded that the ardor of the illustrious congress of our Revolution alone will justify the proposition which they submit for legislative consideration. As early as the 23d of June, 1778, it was *Resolved*, That the board of war be directed to collect the standards and colors taken from the enemy by the army of the United States since the commencement of the war.’ Had this order been strictly observed, and somewhat extended, the present proceedings would be unnecessary. Far from any regulation having been adopted in pursuance of the recited resolutions, your committee laments the peculiar negligence which ensued. The Secretary of War now tells us that only six remain in his office; he cannot give any information concerning others; *even their place of deposit is unknown to the department!* The Navy Department possesses no knowledge of any flags which were taken ‘anterior to the declaration of the present war.’ Such as have been captured with the public armed ships of the enemy subsequent to the 18th of June, 1812, ‘have been carefully preserved;’ thirteen of them have been already received, as will more fully appear by the annexed statement;³ of these, three belonged to the heavy frigates of the enemy, viz. the *Guerriere*, *Macedonian*, and *Java*. The Navy Department is also in possession of a *royal standard of Great Britain*, which was taken at York, and a union

¹ Now preserved in Chelsea Hospital, see p. 154.

² See page 116.

³ For the statement, see *American State Papers* (naval affairs), 1814, Doc. No. 108, 2d Session, 13th Congress, p. 299.

jack and flag, which were captured at Fort George; the flags of five small vessels which were captured have not been received. Your committee regret that the journals of Congress do not exhibit statements of all the standards and colors which were taken during our Revolution by the army and navy of the United States; the early attention of the legislature to this subject inclines them to believe they were very numerous. The capture of Earl Cornwallis alone furnished twenty-four of them! In all probability, as many were taken from General Burgoyne."¹

"By some, the exhibitions which are contemplated may be considered as too trivial for legislative provision. Your committee would coincide with them in this opinion, did the practice only afford a momentary gratification to the curious. Experience must have taught European governments that national benefits were derived from the course which they have adopted, or it would long since have been discontinued. It is presumed that essential consequences proceed from the practice, more especially when a nation shall be engaged in war, such trophies excite the spirit of a nation,—the result is national character. The arrival of an enemy's flag is sufficient to rouse the population of London or Paris. On such occasions the finest national feelings are developed; and, to the honor of our fellow-citizens be it said, they have not been found to want this species of national sensibility, when the flags of the Guerriere, Macedonian, Java, &c., were exhibited to them. It was indifferent whether they considered themselves of the war or the peace party; each was ambitious

¹ "General Riedesel commanded that the colors should not be surrendered with the arms at Saratoga, but, on the contrary, that the staffs should be burnt and the flags carefully packed up; this was done as ordered, so that each of the German regiments really kept possession of their colors."—*Memoirs Baroness Riedesel*.

On Saturday, Nov. 3, 1781, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, there arrived at Philadelphia twenty-four standards of colors taken with the British army under the command of Earl Cornwallis. The volunteer cavalry of the city received these trophies of victory at Schuylkill, from whence they escorted and ushered them into town amidst the declamations of a numerous concourse of people. Continental and French colors at a distance preceded the British, and thus they were paraded down Market Street to the State House. They were then carried into Congress and "laid at their feet." A newspaper account of this ceremony says:—

"The crowd, exulting, fills with shouts the sky;
The walls, the woods, and long canals reply.
Base Britons! Tyrant Britons! Knock under,
Taken 's your earl, soldiers, and plunder.
Huzza! what colors of the bloody foe!
Twenty-four in number at the State House door!
Look! they are British standards, how they fall
At the President's feet, Congress and all!"

to rank the victor with himself! The national taste and propensity is strongly marked by the eagerness with which all view representations of our late unparalleled naval victories! If, then, the art and the genius of the painter can thus excite our natures, may we not look for much more when we have the physical facts placed before us, instead of fancy? These flags, the trophies won by our gallant tars, demonstrate to us and the world that the invincibility of the British naval power has been very much exaggerated. In battle will the recollection of them sustain our sailors and our soldiers, and impart additional skill and valor in support of the cause of our country! The value of standards does not depend upon the gaudy colors which they exhibit, no more than upon the nature of the stuff of which they may be fabricated. They have been at all times regarded as the insignia of fame and power; their surrender is the act of submission. The last wish of the proud bearer is the preservation of his eagle; too often is the loss of it sealed with the loss of life. In Europe, where military operations are on a large scale, though the result of a battle should prove destructive to thousands of those who were engaged, the capture of a single standard constitutes a prominent feature in the details of the action, and adds much to the brilliancy of the achievement. Colors taken from the enemy were considered a present worthy of the nation to General Washington, for his signal services in the capture of Earl Cornwallis! The records of the proceedings of Congress, during our whole Revolution, mention but two instances where this highly honorable and distinguishing mark of approbation was noted! In fine, we have declared the flag shall guarantee the safety of our citizens. Can a higher value be set upon it? Can we attach more honor to it?

“It may be asked, What will be the effects of a public display of the flags which have been taken from our enemies? This view is considered important. No one can doubt that the government and the people of England would rather we had taken millions of their merchandise, than that we should have it in our power to exhibit the flag of a single sloop of war, which was gained by equal force. If the enemy will expose to the view of the British nation, and every traveller who may visit them, the one or two flags which they have captured from us, shall we conceal the many we have taken from them, and thus lead others to doubt our possessing any? Shall we permit the numerous trophies of our Revolution to moulder into dust by a voluntary concealment, without any effort for their preservation? If

this shall have happened to the proud monuments of our independence, shall the fate of those which are now perfect, and which have been so lately won on our own coast, on that of South America, off the Azores, on the lakes, in short, in all latitudes where our tars have come in contact with the enemy, be the same? Is not the preservation of these flags a duty which we owe to the people of the United States?¹ Are the achievements of that gallant little navy, which a few months ago was the object of derision with the statesmen and people of England, but now the cause of their fears, to be buried in oblivion? Shall we put at rest the inquiry which the glorious deeds of our sailors have excited in the Parliament of Great Britain? Shall we, at our expense, approve the labored calculations of the enemy? with her, confound reason and common sense, and attribute simple truths to fallacious causes, or shall we give in to a practice so generally cherished by other nations? Our successes on the ocean constitute the pride of our country; they have secured to us the respect of foreign nations. In Europe we again hold that rank which our ancestors had obtained by their many hard-fought conflicts, which we had nearly forfeited. Have we not accomplished more than Spain did with her 'invincible armadas;' than did Holland with her De Witts, Van Tromps, and De Ruyters; than France could achieve, when she was in the zenith of her naval power; than did Great Britain with her Nelsons, Rodneys, Howes, and St. Vincents? The naval annals of England furnish no instance in which every vessel belonging to a hostile fleet was captured."

"Some may doubt our possessing a number of standards sufficient to warrant their public exhibition. Had we but few of them, we should not deny our sanction to the principle. Your committee regret that special order had not been taken by Congress immediately after the receipt of the first present of this kind: we alluded to the colors which were taken by General Montgomery from the Seventh British Regiment at Chamblee, on the 18th of October, 1775.

"The French pride themselves on their ability to exhibit the two which they have taken from our present enemy; for so lately as the

¹The flags of the following British vessels of war are preserved in the gunnery-room of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, viz.: Alert, 20; Beresford, 1; Boxer, 14; Chippaway, 1; Chubb, 11; Constance, 37; Cyane, 24; Detroit, 20; Dominica, 16; Duke of Gloucester, 14; Epervier, 18; Frollic, 22; Guerriere, 38; Hunter, 10; Java, 18; Lady Provost, 13; Levant, 20; Little Belt, 3; Linnet, 16; Macedonian, 38; Peacock, 20; Penguin, 18; Reindeer, 18; St. Lawrence, 15; and a royal standard captured at York, Canada. There is also preserved there the flags of the French vessels of war: La Berceau, 24; L'Insurgente, 40; Algerine frigate Mezoura, 46; and brig Estudis, 22 guns; also several flags captured from the Mexicans in 1845-48.

year 1800 they had only two of the naval flags of Great Britain! Though the War and Navy Departments can immediately furnish but twenty or twenty-five of these flags, it is probable the place of deposit will be ascertained, so as to put within our power many of those which were gained during our Revolution. Where are those which were won during the dispute with France in 1798?¹ The same may be asked of those which the defeats of Derne and Tripoli should furnish.

“The only project which now remains for consideration is the place most proper for their exhibition. This should be public, and easy of access; at the same time, it should be properly secure from villainous attempts. These flags should be placed so as to be seen by every citizen who might wish to observe them. It will be of advantage that they should be noticed by every foreigner who may visit the United States. Can any objection be made to the spacious national apartments which are devoted to legislative purposes? What ornaments can be more suitable? Go abroad, and you may see the walls of the British House of Lords decorated with representations of some of the celebrated battles which were fought by the troops of Great Britain. At home we find the principle already established by one branch of the legislature of the United States. In the senate chamber observe engravings of some of the battles of our Revolution; and, had time allowed the execution of the original design of the architect, the precedent would have had existence in the chamber of the representatives of the United States. It was contemplated that the frieze over the capitals of the Corinthian columns which sustain the dome should present, *in relief*, a regular series of battles which secured our independence. Such decorations might gratify the artist, and afford an opportunity to display his talents; but, in a national point of view, little or no effect would be produced. It must be conceded that much more will be communicated to the spectators by the display of the captured standards.

“No one can pretend that any difference exists between the representations which we have noticed, and the standards which have been taken from the enemy, as will warrant the public exhibition of the one, and preclude that of the other; these subjects are most intimately connected, and their tendency must be the same. The public exhibition of these trophies is due to the very superior skill and valor which achieved them. The sight of them will bring to recollection every circumstance of cause and effect. They will constitute valuable

¹ The colors of the *Berceau* and *Insurgente* are (1880) in the gunnery-room of the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

records of illustrious portions of our history; they will form a collection of the proudest monuments to commemorate the brilliant deeds of a rising nation.”¹

The result of this exhaustive and interesting paper was the enactment of the following law, approved April 18, 1814, a fortnight after the report:—

*“An Act to provide for the collection and preservation of such flags, standards, and colors as shall have been or may hereafter be taken by the land and naval forces of the United States from their enemies.”*²

“SECTION 1. That the secretaries of the War and Navy Departments be, and they are hereby, directed to cause to be collected and transmitted to them, at the seat of the government of the United States, all such flags, standards, and colors as shall have been or may hereafter be taken by the army and navy of the United States from their enemies.

“SECT. 2. That all the flags, standards, and colors of the description aforesaid, and such as may be hereafter transmitted to them, be, with all convenient despatch, delivered to the President of the United States, for the purpose of being, under his direction, preserved and displayed in such public place as he shall deem proper.

“SECT. 3. [\$500 appropriated].”

Forty years later, on the 3d of March, 1855, the subject was revived, and one of the provisions of an act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government directed the Secretary of War “to cause to be constructed in a central position on the public grounds in Washington a suitable building for the care and preservation of the arms, &c., of the militia of the District of Columbia, and for the care and preservation of the military trophies of the Revolutionary and other wars, and for the deposit of newly invented and model arms,” &c., and thirty thousand dollars was appropriated for carrying the act into effect.

Neither of these laws have been very strictly enforced; for, on inquiry of the War Department, I learn that “no building has been erected as a place of general deposit for flags, and that all the flags captured by the army prior to the War of the Rebellion have been sent to West Point, including *one or two British flags*.” No printed list of them is in the possession of the War Department.³

All flags captured by the navy which have been preserved are now deposited in the gunnery-room of the Naval Academy, Annapolis.

¹ American State Papers, folio 1832, vol. i. pp. 488-490.

² Laws of the United States, vol. III. p. 133.

³ Letter from Secretary of War, Dec. 21, 1871, enclosing memorandum from the Adjutant-General U. S. Army.

Hon. William L. Marcy, afterwards governor of the State of New York and Secretary of State for the United States, but in the war of 1812-14 a young lieutenant in Captain Lewis's company of militia, on the 14th of October, 1812, captured the first British flag taken in the war,—the flag that waved over a block-house at St. Regis, in Canada. He bore it in triumph to French Mills, and it was presented to the people of the State of New York in the Capitol at Albany.

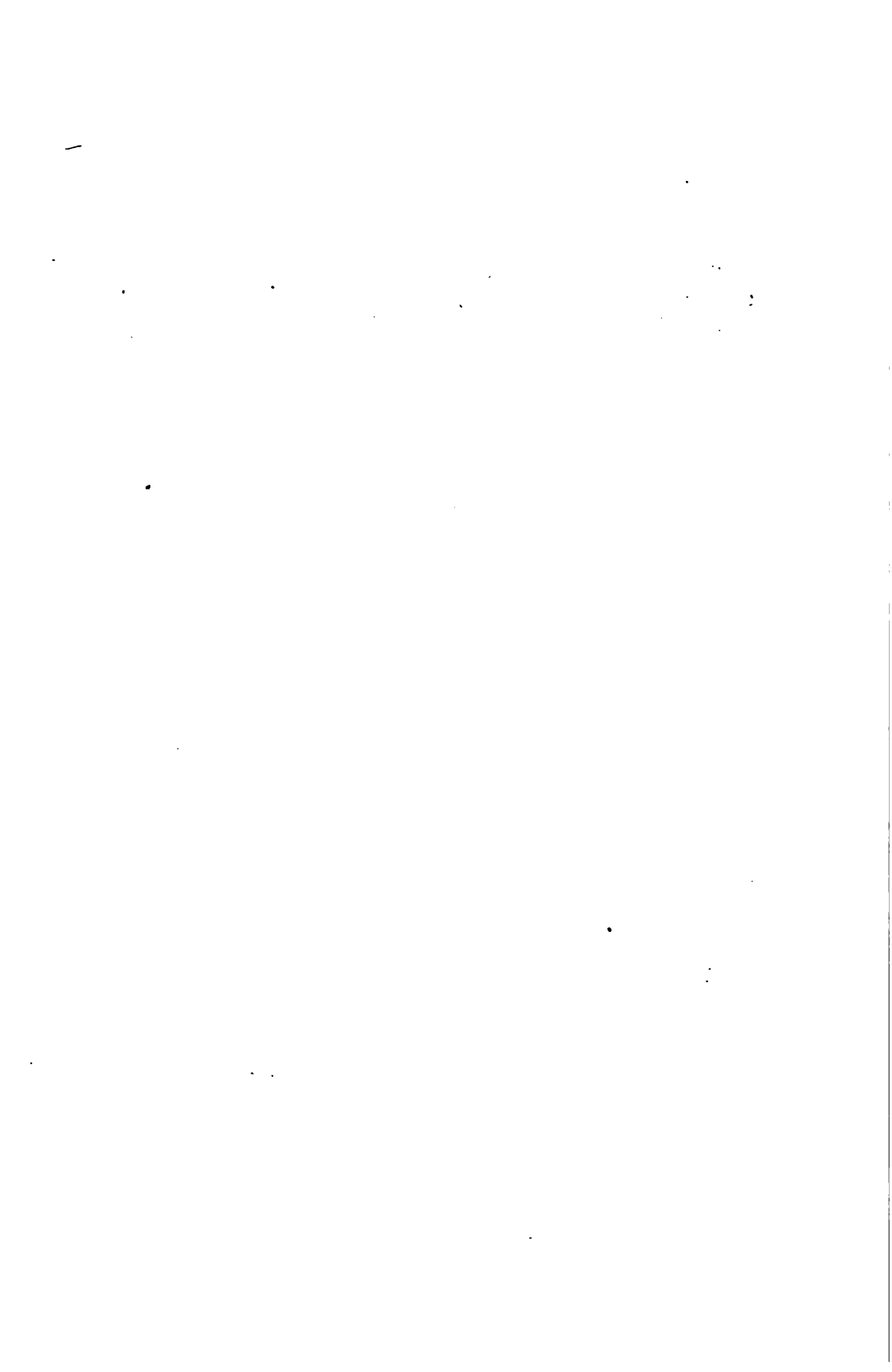
In June, 1815, a few days before the corner-stone of the Washington monument at Baltimore was laid, Mr. Custis, accompanied by Messrs. Lewis and Grymes, sailed from Alexandria for Pope's Creek in the *Lady of the Lake*, a small vessel belonging to Mr. Custis, for the purpose of placing a freestone slab over the birthplace of Washington, with this simple inscription,—

"HERE THE 11TH OF FEBRUARY [O. S.] 1732,
GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS BORN."

Arrived at the hallowed spot, they proceeded to deposit the inscribed tablet in the proper place.

"Desirous of making the ceremonial as imposing as circumstances would permit," says Mr. Custis, "we enveloped the stone in the STAR SPANGLED BANNER of our country, and it was borne to its resting-place in the arms of the descendants of four revolutionary patriots and soldiers,—Samuel Lewis, a captain in Baylor's regiment of horse, and a nephew of Washington; William Grymes, the son of a gallant and distinguished officer of the Life Guards; the captain of the vessel, the son of a soldier wounded in the battle of Guilford; and George Washington Park Custis, the son of John Parke Custis, aide-de-camp to the commander-in-chief before Cambridge and Yorktown. We gathered the bricks of the ancient chimney which once formed the hearthstone where in infancy Washington had played, and constructed a rude kind of pedestal, on which we reverently placed the first stone, commending it to the respect and protection of the American people in general, and the citizens of Westmoreland in particular."¹

¹ Lossing's *Field-Book*, vol. II. p. 218, which has an engraving of the monumental stone.



PART IV.

THE STARS AND STRIPES.

A.D. 1818-1861.

**THE FLAG OF THIRTEEN STRIPES, AND A STAR FOR
EACH STATE OF THE UNION.**

CHRONICLES OF THE FLAG.

1818-1861.

THE HERALDRY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG.

By CHARLES J. LUKENS, of Philadelphia.

- " When kingly presumption loosed war's desolation,
To sweep o'er Columbia and sully her charms,
Our fathers united, to found a new nation,
And symbol'd it well in our blazon of arms.
Their homes were thirteen, so they followed that number,
Seven red and six white, in a series of bars;
And—painting love's vigilance, foreign to slumber—
They chose a blue quarter with thirteen white stars.
- " Thirteen blaz'd at once in their new constellation,
The Daughters of Freedom, a star for each mate:
A new silver star is the fine augmentation
Of honor they granted for every new State.
They nam'd no abatement, in view of secession,
But bound us, their children, to foster the trust.
- " The white of the field prov'd their hate of oppression,
Their passion for peace and abhorrence of war;
The red, in excess, warn'd o'erweening aggression
It eye should be met and repuls'd from their shore.
Truth shines in the quarter thus tinctur'd of Heaven;
Youth and strength light the stars, that have ne'er paled or set:
Year by year they increase—*may God grant that their levin,
Extending, shall re-youth the continents yet!*
- " So fashion'd our fathers the FLAG OF THE UNION,
Which glads every wave of the world-lashing seas,—
Revered by each man in our patriot communion,—
The handsomest banner that rides on the breeze.
With this sign they conquer'd. 'Midst cannon and mortar,
Sword, musket, and rifle, still glitters this shield;
A quarter that stoops to no nation for quarter,
A field present ever where foes are afield.
- " As the stars and the stripes are our States interwoven,
Having grown thus from weakness to far-spreading might,
Then perish the villain who, wanting them cloven,
Would quench their resplendence in treachery's night!"

Newburyport Daily Evening Union, March 11, 1850.

PART IV.

THE STARS AND STRIPES.

1818-1861.

THE FLAG OF THIRTEEN STRIPES, AND A STAR FOR EACH STATE OF THE UNION.

"Hail to our banner brave,
All o'er the land and wave,
To-day unfurled!
No folds to us so fair,
Thrown on the summer air,
None can with thee compare,
In all the world."—*W. P. Tilden.*

THE admission of the States of Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, and Indiana made some change in the flag desirable. Accordingly, on the admission of Indiana, in 1816, the Hon. Peter Wendover, of New York, offered a resolution "that a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of altering the flag of the United States."



S. C. Reid

Consequently a committee was appointed, and reported a bill on the 2d of January, 1817, which was not acted upon. While this committee had the matter under consideration, Mr. Wendover called upon Captain S. C. Reid, then in Washington, and famous for his defence of the privateer General Armstrong, in Fayal Roads, and asked him to make a design for our flag, which would represent the increase of the States,

without destroying its distinctive character, the committee being disposed to increase both stars and stripes to twenty, the whole number of States then existing in the Union.

Captain Reid, thus called upon, recommended reducing the stripes to thirteen, to represent the original States, and the stars to be increased to the number of all the States, formed into one great star, whose brilliancy should represent their union, and thus symbolize in the flag the origin and progress of the country, and its motto, '*E Pluribus Unam*.' He also proposed there should be the addition of a star for each new State admitted. The flag thus designed he intended for merchant vessels, and proposed as a distinction that the stars on the ensigns of vessels of war should be placed in parallel lines.

Conformably to Captain Reid's suggestions, the committee reported:—

“That they have maturely examined the subject submitted to their consideration, and we are well aware that any proposition essentially to alter the flag of the United States, either in the general form or in the distribution of its parts, would be as unacceptable to the legislature and to the people, as it would be uncongenial with the views of the committee.

“Fully persuaded that the form selected for the American flag was truly emblematical of our origin and existence as an independent nation, and that, as such, it has received the approbation and support of the citizens of the Union, it ought to undergo no change that would decrease its conspicuity or tend to deprive it of its representative character. The committee, however, believe that a change in the number of States in the Union sufficiently indicates the propriety of such a change in the arrangement of the flag as shall best accord with the reason that led to its adoption, and sufficiently points to important periods in our history.”

“The original flag of the United States was composed of thirteen stripes and thirteen stars, and was adopted by a resolution of the Continental Congress on the 14th of June, 1777. On the 13th of January, 1794, after two new States had been admitted into the Union, the national legislature passed an act, that the stripes and stars should, on a day fixed, be increased to fifteen each, to comport with the then independent States. The accession of new States since that alteration, and the certain prospect that at no distant period the number of States will be considerably multiplied, render it, in the opinion of the committee, highly inexpedient to increase the number of stripes, as every flag must, in some measure, be limited in its size, from the circumstance of convenience to the place on which it is to be displayed, while such an increase would necessarily decrease their magnitude, and

render them proportionally less distinct to distant observation. This consideration has induced many to retain only the general form of the flag, while there actually exists a great want of uniformity in its adjustment, particularly when used on small private vessels.

“The national flag being in general use by vessels of almost every description, it appears to the committee of considerable importance to adopt some arrangement calculated to prevent, in future, great or extensive alterations. Under these impressions, they are led to believe no alteration could be made more emblematical of our origin and present existence, as composed of a number of independent and united States, than to reduce the stripes to the original thirteen, representing the number of States then contending for and happily achieving their independence, and to increase the stars to correspond with the number of States now in the Union, and hereafter to add one star to the flag whenever a new State shall be fully admitted.

“These slight alterations will, in the opinion of the committee, meet the general approbation, as well of those who may have regretted a former departure from the original flag, as of such as are solicitous to see in it a representation of every State in the Union.

“The committee cannot believe that, in retaining only thirteen stripes, it necessarily follows they should be distinctly considered in reference to certain individual States, inasmuch as nearly all the new States were a component part of, and represented in, the original; and inasmuch, also, as the flag is intended to signify numbers, and not local and particular sections of the Union.

“The committee respectively report a bill accordingly.”¹

The bill, through pressure of other business before Congress, remained unacted upon; but on the reassembling of Congress, on the 16th of December, 1817, Mr. Wendover renewed his resolution, “that a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of altering the flag of the United States, and that they have leave to report, by bill or otherwise.” Mr. Wendover said he would make but few remarks, the subject not being a novel one, a bill relative thereto having been submitted at the last session. Had the flag never undergone alteration, he should not propose to make a further alteration now. Having once been altered, he thought it could be improved. It was his impression, and he thought it was generally believed, that the flag never would be essentially injured by an alteration on the same principle of increasing *both* stripes and stars.

¹ The ‘British Naval Chronicle’ for 1817 publishes this report in full, and calls it “a curious historical document.”

Mr. Wendover then stated the incongruity of the flags in general use (except those of the navy) not agreeing with the law, and generally greatly varying from each other. He instanced the flags then flying over the building in which Congress sat, and that at the navy-yard, one of which contained only *nine* stripes, the other *eighteen*, and neither conforming to the law.

It was of some importance, he conceived, that the flag of the nation should be designated with precision, and that the practice under the law should be conformed to its requisitions.

On the 6th of January, 1818, the committee of which Mr. Wendover was chairman reported that, having maturely considered the subject referred to them, they have adopted substantially the report of the committee on the same subject at the last session.

The committee are fully persuaded that the form selected for the American flag was truly emblematical of our origin and existence as an independent nation; and that, as such, it having met the approbation and received the support of the citizens of the Union, it ought to undergo no change that would decrease its conspicuity or tend to deprive it of its representative character.

The committee believe, however, that an increase in the number of States in the Union since the flag was altered by law sufficiently indicates the propriety of such a change in the arrangement of the flag as shall best accord with the reasons that led to its original adoption, and sufficiently point to important periods in our history.

The original flag of the United States was composed of thirteen stripes and thirteen stars, and the committee cannot view the proposed inconsiderable addition of a star for each new State, in the light of a departure from the permanency of form which should characterize the flag of the nation.

In connection with this alteration of the flag, Mr. Wendover wrote to Captain Reid:—

“WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 1817.

“DEAR SIR, — . . . The flag is yet on the table. I know not when it will get to the anvil. I received the flag from Mr. Jarvis, and would have presented him my thanks for his polite attention to my request, but I am so oppressed with letter writing that I have no time to take exercise, and but little to sleep. Please present my thanks to Mr. Jarvis for his kindness to me and the standard addressed to you accompanying it.

“I find the flag proposition is almost universally approved of, but fear the *standard* will have to lie over until next session.”

His letter refers to a design for a national standard, which, however, was not adopted, composed of the emblematic representations of our escutcheon quartered upon it: viz., the stars, white on a blue field on the upper left-hand quarter; the Goddess of Liberty on a white field under the stars; the eagle in the upper right-hand quarter or fly of the standard on a white field; and the thirteen alternate stripes of red and white under the eagle.



A Design for a National Standard.

He proposed this standard should be hoisted over the halls of Congress, at our navy-yards and arsenals, and at other public places visited by the President of the United States, during his presence.

On the 17th of January, 1818, Mr. Wendover wrote Captain Reid:—

“As I am not a military man, I leave to others to regulate the cockade. I shall attend to the ‘star-spangled banner,’ though I wish the other changed from British to American.”

He wrote again,—

“WASHINGTON, March 24, 1818.

... “This day the first call on the docket was the star-spangled banner. I moved to go in committee on the bill. General Smith moved to discharge the committee of the whole, and postpone the bill indefinitely. I appealed to that gentleman and the House, if they were willing thus to neglect the banner of freedom.

“General Smith’s motion was negatived by almost a unanimous vote, and we hoisted the striped bunting in committee of the whole. After I had made a few observations, and sat down, Mr. Poindexter moved to strike out *twenty stars* and insert *seven*, with a view to have stripes for the old and stars for the new States. Motion rejected nearly unanimously. Mr. Folger then moved to strike out *twenty* and insert *thirteen*, to restore the original flag; his motion was also negatived by a similar vote. Mr. Roberston then expressed a wish to fix an arbitrary number of stripes, say nine or eleven; but no one seemed to approve of his idea, and the committee rose and reported the bill without amendment, and the House ordered it to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow by almost a unanimous vote. It was remarked by many that the subject came up in good time, as our flag almost blew away with the severe storm which on Saturday was almost a hurricane. It is now completely ‘ragged bunting,’ and I fear we shall

have to sit a part of the session without the 'star-spangled banner' over our heads.

"Yours,

"Pr. H. WENDOVER.

"P. S. March 25th. Having written the within after the close of the last mail, I kept this open to inform you further as to the 'star-spangled banner.' The bill had its third reading this day, a little before twelve o'clock, and passed with perhaps two or three noes; after which Mr. Taylor moved to amend the title of the bill, and instead of *alter*, it is now 'a bill to *establish* the flag of the United States,' which goes so much further in approbation of your plan, as the bill is now considered by our House as fixing permanently the flag, except so far as to admit in every new planet that may be seen in our political horizon.

"I this day had our flag measured up and down the staff. It is fourteen feet and four inches, but it ought to be eighteen feet hoist, and floating in the air in proportion say twenty-seven feet; all this you know better than I do. Now, Jack, I ask as a favor that you will be pleased to inform me, as soon as convenient, what a flag of that size will cost in New York, made for the purpose, with *thirteen stripes*, and *twenty stars forming one great luminary*, as per *pasteboard plan you handed me*. And if the bill passes the Senate soon, it is probable I shall request the captain of the late General Armstrong to have a flag made for Congress Hall under his direction. Please inquire as to the cost of materials, &c., and write me soon, that Congress, for their firm support of the bill, may, before they adjourn, see the banner raised."

He wrote again,—

"WASHINGTON, HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES,

"April 9, 1818, 2 P.M.

... "This morning a message was received from the President that on the 4th inst., among other bills, he approved and signed the '*bill to establish the flag of the United States*,' so that, notwithstanding the cant and flings of Coleman, Hanson, &c., in the 'Evening Post' and 'Baltimore Telegraph,' the proposition for the alteration of the flag has met the support of the House of Representatives, and passed as first suggested. In the Senate the bill passed unanimously. . . . On the subject of the standard, and distinctions between public and private vessels, we will have a confabulation when I see you."

Again he wrote,—

"WASHINGTON, April 13, 1818.

"DEAR SIR,—I have just time to inform you that the new flag for Congress Hall arrived here per mail this day, and was hoisted to replace the old one at two o'clock, and has given much satisfaction to all who have seen it, as far as I have heard. I am pleased with its form and proportions, and have no doubt it will satisfy the public mind.

“Mr. Clay (the speaker of the House) says it is wrong that there should be no charge in your bill for making the flag. If pay for that will be acceptable, on being informed I will procure it. Do not understand me as intending to wound the feelings of Mrs. Reid, nor others who may have given aid in the business, and please present my thanks to her and them, and accept the same for yourself.

“In haste, yours with esteem,

“PR. H. WENDOVER.”

The law which, agreeably to Captain Reid's suggestion and the reports of the committees, was by Mr. Wendover's exertions enacted, reads as follows:—

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES.

“SECT. 1. *Be it enacted, &c.*, That from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union have twenty stars, white in a blue field.

“SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That on the admission of every new State into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag; and that such addition shall take effect on the fourth of July next succeeding such admission.”

Approved April 4, 1818.

A newspaper of the time¹ says: “By this regulation the thirteen stripes will represent the number of States whose valor and resources originally effected American independence; and the additional stars—the idea of which has been borrowed from the science of astronomy—will mark the increase of the States since the adoption of the present constitution.

“This is the second alteration which has taken place in the flag of the United States, and we trust it will be the last. There is a manifest inconvenience in altering a national flag; and in the present instance it may, in some degree, prove injurious to our navigation, considering the number of licentious privateers that are abroad. Our merchants and navigators would do well to attend to the alteration in time.

“The time allowed for the alteration contemplated by the act of the 4th inst. is, we fear, too short. It does not allow three months to persons interested to prepare themselves for the change; and it will take one month at least before the provisions of the act will be known at New Orleans.²

¹ Washington Gazette, also the American Daily Advertiser, Philadelphia, April 10, 1818.

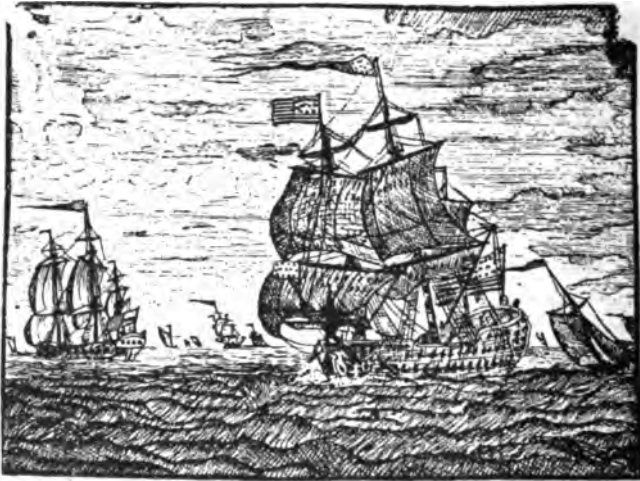
² One month, sixty years ago, was required to convey news to New Orleans that is now flashed over the wires in one second.

“In the case of the first alteration, nearly sixteen months were allowed, so that American vessels employed in distant parts of the world had an opportunity of providing themselves with a proper flag.”

Under this law, rather more than half a century ago, our present flag was established, during which cycle its constellation of twenty has increased to a glorious galaxy of thirty-eight stars, and the borders of its dominion have been extended across the continent.

It was certainly an omission that the law did not designate the manner of placing the stars in the union, as, in consequence, its simplicity and uniformity have been frequently destroyed by the conceits of ship-owners and others. Captain Reid suggested that for the halls of Congress and for public buildings and on land the stars should be arranged to form one large star; and on the flag made by Mrs. Reid the stars were so placed, while for the flags of our ships of war he proposed they should be set in parallel lines.

For the sake of uniformity, it will not be disputed the law of 1818 should in this respect be amended. Yet when, in 1859, Congress voted its thanks to Captain Reid, the designer of the flag, although a friend of his wrote to a prominent member from New York, requesting a clause might be inserted which would fix by law the mode



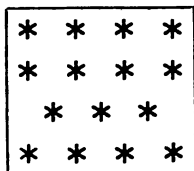
Philadelphia Printed in the Year of our Lord 1785. Pr

of arranging the stars in their blue firmament, the resolutions were passed without the desired addition. The early custom, as shown by numerous engravings, undoubtedly was to insert the stars in parallel rows.

In the illustration,—the fac-simile of a copper-plate published in 1785,—the stars, thirteen in number, are arranged in the ensigns of the ships in parallel lines.

An engraving of New York in the 'British Naval Chronicle,' 1805, has in the foreground a pilot-boat carrying at her main a union jack studded with thirteen stars, arranged in three parallel lines.

I have also seen a water-color painting of the frigate United States, when commanded by Commodore John Barry, which represents the ship dressed in the flags of all nations, duly numbered and indexed in ovals and diamonds on the surrounding border. Many of these flags are obsolete. The ship carries an American ensign of fifteen stars and fifteen stripes on a staff at the stern, and has a blue jack with fifteen



white stars at the bowsprit. A white jack with fifteen red stars at the fore, and a red jack with fifteen blue stars at the mizzen masthead. At the mainmast, under the coach-whip pennant, is displayed a white flag bearing the United States arms,—evidently designed to represent the stand-

ard of the United States. The stars in the ensign and jacks are arranged as in the diagram.¹

On the 4th of July, 1857, a gentleman² amused himself by noting the various designs displayed on vessels, hotels, and public buildings in New York. The majority of the ships had the stars arranged in five horizontal rows of six stars each, making thirty stars in all,—thirty-one being the proper number at that date. Most of the foreign vessels, including the Cunard steamers, had them arranged, as heraldists would say, *semée*, that is, strewn over the union. Some had one large star formed of thirty-one small stars, and this style prevailed at places of public amusement and over the hotels of New York and Jersey City. Other vessels had them in a lozenge, a diamond, or a circle. One vessel had one large star composed of smaller ones, within a border of the latter; another carried the thirty-one stars in the form of an anchor; and yet another had this anchor embellished with a circle of small stars.

Here were nine specimens of the flag alike in the thirteen stripes, but varying in the design of the union. In addition to these forms,

¹ This interesting drawing was painted by Midshipman Thomas Hayes, a son of Captain Patrick Hayes, who presented it to Commodore George C. Read, July 4, 1852, and in 1876 it was in the possession of William C. Parsons, mail-messenger at the League Island Navy Yard. On the back is written, in the handwriting of Captain Hayes, "Six copies for Captain Patrick Hayes."

² Mr. S. Alosen.

I have seen the stars arranged in the letters 'U. S.,' and in the initials of the owner or company to which the vessel belonged.

It was such a dissimilarity that led the Dutch government, twenty years earlier, to inquire, "What is the American flag?"

The act of 1818 was approved of by the President on the 4th of April, and the new flag hoisted over the House of Representatives on the 13th of the same month, though the law provided the act was not to take effect until the 4th of July.

Yesterday, says the 'National Intelligencer' of April 14th, about two o'clock, the new flag of the United States was hoisted on the flag-staff of the House of Representatives. This is the first flag that has been made since the passage of the act for altering the banner of the nation. It was made in New York, under the direction of the gallant Captain Reid, late commander of the privateer General Armstrong. The stars are *twenty* in number, and so disposed as to form one great star in the centre of a blue field. The stripes are *thirteen*. The law on this subject goes into operation the 4th of July next.¹

This, the first flag of the kind put together or hoisted, was made at New York by Mrs. S. C. Reid, under the direction of her gallant husband, and the twenty stars in its union, representing as many States (Mississippi having been admitted Dec. 16, 1817), were arranged to form one great star.

The unions of the flags which wave over our fortresses, and in use by the Military Department of the government, are generally, if not always, so arranged. In the navy flags, the stars have always been set in parallel lines.

This had been the custom long before the flag of 1818 was adopted, as has been shown; but after that law they were officially directed to

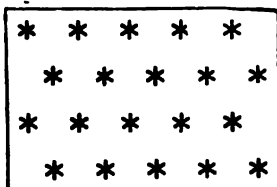
¹ "On the 21st of February, 1866, the Hon. Benjamin F. Butler, of Massachusetts, introduced to the officers of the Senate Mr. D. W. C. Farrington, agent of the United States Bunting Company at Lowell, Mass., who presented to them, for the use of the Senate, a flag manufactured by that company, twenty-one feet fly by twelve feet hoist. It is believed to be the first real American flag ever raised over the Capitol of the United States. Heretofore all our flags have been manufactured from English bunting, and every effort made to substitute a domestic texture capable of resisting the wind and the air has signally failed. General Butler having ascertained this fact at the Navy Department, and having an interest in the United States Bunting Company in his own town, informed Captain Fox that he believed that company had produced a fabric that would be superior to the foreign article. A test was accordingly ordered by the Navy Department, fully realizing the confident anticipations of General Butler, and proving the American bunting to be better in color and in quality than the English product. The General wrote to the secretary of the Senate for authority to make a present of one of these flags, to be raised over that body. That officer having consulted Mr. Forster, president *pro tempore*, the General's proposition was accepted, and to-day the flag was placed in the hands of the sergeant-at-arms. To-morrow morning it will be hoisted to the senatorial flag-staff, and unfurled to the breeze."—*Philadelphia Press*, Feb. 28, 1866.

be so placed by the following order, issued by direction of the President of the United States:—

[Circular.]

“NAVY COMMISSIONERS’ OFFICE, May 18, 1818.

“SIR,—The Navy Commissioners have to inform you that agreeably to the act of Congress of the 4th of April, 1818, entitled, ‘An Act to establish the Flag of the United States,’ our national flag is, from and after the 4th day of July next, to be: Thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white. The union to be twenty stars, white in a blue field, one star to be added on the admission into the Union of every new State; such addition to be made from and after the 4th of July next succeeding the date of such admission.



“The size of the flag must be in the proportion of fourteen feet in width and twenty-four feet in length, the field of the union must be one-third of the length of the flag, and seven-thirteenths of its depth, so that from the top to the bottom of the union there will be seven stripes, and six stripes from the bottom of the union to the bottom of the flag. The manner of arranging the stars you will perceive by the subjoined sketch.

“The upper and the lower stripes to be red.

“Respectfully,

“JNO. RODGERS, *President.*

“To the officer commanding,

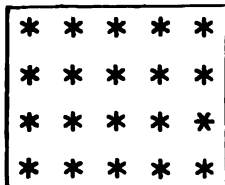
“NAVY YARD, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.”

This was amended by the following circular:—

[Circular.]

“NAVY COMMISSIONERS’ OFFICE, Sept. 18, 1818.

“SIR.—Since our circular of the 18th of May last, relatively to the flag to be worn by the vessels of the United States and at our naval stations, it has been determined by the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES that the arrangement of the stars shall correspond with the pattern stated below, and the relative proportions of the flag to continue as stated in our circular. You will govern yourself accordingly.



“On the first hoisting the flag, you are to fire a salute of twenty guns.

“I am, respectfully,

“Your obedient servant,

“JNO. RODGERS,

President of the Navy Board.

“CAPTAIN MORRIS, Portsmouth.”

It will be noticed that although the new flag had a legal existence on the 4th of July preceding, yet up to the date of this circular, Sept. 18, it had not been hoisted at our naval stations, the circular directing "it shall be saluted when first hoisted."

Captain S. C. Reid, who designed "Our Flag," was the commander of the privateer General Armstrong, and his gallant defence of her in Fayal Roads, against the attack of a British squadron of boats, in breach of the neutrality of that port, is a matter of history. He died in 1861, a master in the United States navy, aged seventy-seven. In the Rebellion, his son proved recreant to the flag which his father had so gallantly served and defended, and was so successful to establish in a permanent form.

The first State to add a star to the constellation of the new flag was Illinois, admitted Dec. 3, 1818; then followed Alabama, admitted Dec. 14, 1819; Maine, March 15, 1820; Missouri, Aug. 10, 1821; Arkansas, June 15, 1836; Michigan, Jan. 26, 1837; Florida, March 3, 1845; Texas, Dec. 29, 1845; Iowa, Dec. 28, 1846; Wisconsin, May 29, 1848; California, Sept. 9, 1850; Minnesota, Feb. 12, 1858; Oregon, April, 1859; Kansas, March, 1861; West Virginia, February, 1863; Nevada, Oct. 31, 1864; Nebraska, March 1, 1867; Colorado, July, 1876.¹ The last increasing the brilliancy of the original constellation to thirty-eight stars, its present number; and there are ten Territories waiting admission, viz. New Mexico, Washington, Utah, Dakota, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Indian Territory, Wyoming, and Alaska. When all these and others yet to come are admitted, it will render some change in the union, or disposition of its constellation, necessary, as even now the stars, from their number, are indistinct and confusing. It has been proposed to enlarge the union by extending it to the bottom of the flag; but that would be objectionable, since the flag could not be reversed as a signal of distress.

¹The 'Colorado Miner,' of Aug. 21, 1876, with big head letters, "COLORADO IN THE UNION," surmounted by a rooster, thus exulted in doggerel:—

"Colorado, youngest, fairest State
In the union cluster, Number 38!
Step to the front, assume your station,
Equal to that of any in the nation!

Robed in golden vesture grand
As any sister in the land;
Silver chaplets crown her head,
As she walks with gately tread
To assume her proper place,—
Peer of any in the race!"

CHRONICLES OF THE FLAG.

1818-1861.

“ Ne'er waved beneath the golden sun
 A lovelier banner for the brave
 Than that our bleeding fathers won,
 And proudly to their children gave.

“ Its glorious stars in azure shine,
 The radiant heraldry of heaven;
 Its stripes in beauteous order twine,
 The emblems of our Union given.

“ Around the globe, through every clime
 Where commerce wafts or man hath trod,
 It floats aloft, unstained with crime,
 But hallowed by heroic blood.” — *Anonymous*.

When the Hon. Joel R. Poinsett, of South Carolina, was the United States Minister to Mexico, 1825-29, the power of our flag to protect its citizens abroad was strikingly illustrated, as related by Mr. Poinsett himself.¹

The election of Gomez Pedraza to the presidentship of Mexico was not acquiesced in by the people, and from discontent and murmurs they proceeded to open revolt. At night they took possession of the Artillery Barracks, and established batteries along the streets. One of these was situated about three hundred yards from Mr. Poinsett's house. After several ineffectual attempts to carry this work by infantry in front, a squadron of cavalry succeeded in turning the flank of the battery, and sabred the men at their guns. The convent of St. Augustine, situated in the rear of Mr. Poinsett's house, was the last to yield to the besiegers. While the firing was going on at St. Augustine, Madame Yturigaray, widow of the viceroy of Mexico, who lived in the adjoining house, rushed in frantic with fear, and implored Mr. Poinsett to protect her house. While giving her assurances of protection, a shot was fired at him which passed through his cloak and buried itself in the shutter of the balcony window. He retired into the house, and soon the besiegers were heard approaching. When they reached the house, one wild shout arose, and desperate efforts were made to burst open the door.

¹ Mr. Poinsett's speech at Charleston. The illustration on the next page is a fac-simile of one in an old magazine. A fine painting of the scene, by White, was made for the State of South Carolina, it is believed.

The massive gates resisted; a cry arose to fire in the window; to bring cannon; to burst open the gates; and imprecations were uttered against the owner of the house for sheltering their enemies, the Euro-



J. Poinsett

pean Spaniards, many of whom had sought refuge under Mr. Poinsett's roof. At this moment Mr. Poinsett directed Mr. Mason, the secretary of the legation, to throw out the flag of the United States and they both stood on the balcony beneath its waving folds. The shouts were hushed, and the soldiers slowly dropped the muzzles of their guns, which were levelled at the balcony and windows. Mr. Poinsett seized this opportunity to tell them who he was, and what flag waved over him, and to claim protection for those who had sought security under it. Perceiving the crowd was awed and began to consult together, he retired to write and despatch a note to the commander of the besieging force. The servant intrusted with the note returned

and reported the crowd was so great that the porter was afraid to open the gate, for fear the mob of insurgents would rush in. Mr. Poinsett then resolved to go himself, and was joined by Mr. Mason. They proceeded to the door, which the porter was ordered to open, and as they stepped over the threshold the crowd rolled back like a wave on the ocean. They were accompanied by a native servant, who mingled with the mob, and before it had recovered from its astonishment the two gentlemen had returned to the court-yard, and the door was closed by the porter. Before they reached the front of the house they heard the advance of the cavalry, commanded by a friend of the legation. The gates were thrown open, and the horsemen rode into the court-yard. Their commander stationed sentinels before the door, and Mr. Poinsett had the satisfaction to redeem his promise of protection to Madame Yturriagaray. His house was respected amidst the wildest disorder,

and those who sought an asylum under the flag of the United States remained in safety until tranquillity was restored.¹

In 1820, N. B. Palmer, in a little sloop of forty tons, called the *Hero*, of Stonington, Conn., discovered the island south of Cape Horn, known as Palmer's Land. While coasting along its shore in a dense fog, he fell in with a Russian squadron under Admiral Krusenstern, who was felicitating himself on his discovery of the same land. Palmer hailed and told him if he pursued the course he was steering he would be on shore in less than an hour. He was asked who *he* was. I am the sloop *Hero*, from the United States of America, was his reply. The admiral at first doubted, but, convinced by Palmer's papers that he had before him a real live Yankee, suffered himself to be piloted by him into an anchorage in this island which he had discovered. Captain Palmer was then twenty-one years of age. He died a few years since in California.

Aug. 24, 1824, the stars and stripes were raised for the first time over the cupola of the Massachusetts State House on Beacon Hill, on the occasion of the visit of Lafayette to Boston, and under them he received the citizens, who thronged to do him homage, in the lower hall.²

In 1826, Captain Tyler Parsons arrived at Quebec from New York in the auspiciously named ship *Washington*, and was the first to display our flag in that harbor.

In 1836, previous to what is known as "the Aroostook War," a Mr. Baker, who lived on the disputed territory, hoisted the stars and stripes over his house on the 4th of July. The flag was made by his wife. Mr. Baker was indicted for high treason, carried to Fredericton, and tried; after being imprisoned ten months, he was fined two hundred dollars, and allowed to go free on payment of the fine.

Mr. Baker's neighbors, when he was in prison, concluding his property would be confiscated, put themselves in possession; but Mrs. Baker, with a broomstick, drove them from the premises.

During the Nullification excitement of 1832-33, in South Carolina, happily repressed by the firmness of the President, Andrew Jackson,

¹ A similar incident occurred a few years later in Portugal. Upon the capture of Lisbon by Dom Pedro, his brother, Dom Miguel, encamped with his army before the capital. The residence of Mr. Brent, the American Chargé d'Affaires, was situated upon the banks of the river Tagus. During the absence of Mr. Brent, a company of the troops of Dom Miguel having appeared on a height near by, a battle ensued with some armed boats of Dom Pedro's, and the shot endangered the safety of the family; whereupon Mrs. Brent rushed forward, and with her own hands unfurled "the star-spangled banner," and waved it from the window. The firing on both sides instantaneously ceased, and Mrs. Brent retired from the window, satisfied of her security while under the protection of the American flag.—*American Daily Advertiser*, Philadelphia, Jan. 12, 1836.

² Drake's Landmarks of Boston.

in January, 1833, the ensign of the steamer William Seabrook, with Governor Hamilton on board, was accidentally hoisted union down on her leaving Augusta for Charleston, S. C. It was seen from shore, and great was the indignation of the people, until her commander, Captain Dubois, explained that "the blunder was committed by one of the men in hoisting the flag, and was immediately corrected on discovery, before the boat was out of sight of the city. Neither myself nor any one connected with that boat are capable of offering an indignity to the American flag." The 'Augusta (Ga.) Courier,' in speaking of the event previous to the captain's explanation, said: "The indignation we feel in common with an insulted community does not allow us to speak another word concerning such an outrage."

Jackson's opinion of nullification is best shown in the following memorandum furnished Amos Kendall, in his own handwriting:—

Nullification is revolution and if a State attempts to nullify the laws of the United States, it is an rebellion, and if she refuses the physical power to resist successfully then she has the right to establish her own government, and if the balance of the States have the physical power, they have a perfect right to deny this rebellion. A declaration of independence, previous to going out of the union peacefully she must obtain the consent of that number of the States in the United States the constitution gives the power to other, and said of the people of the Union, the fountain of all power, and have a right to alter or abolish their government, and the confederated, perpetual union formed by themselves, and the confederated upon which, the more perfect union, the the constitution of the United States, is based, and it can be altered or dissolved in any other mode, or, revolution p. 200-1

¹ The autography is one-half the size of the original. The original manuscript is in the possession of the Ohio Historical Society. It reads: "Nullification is revolution—and if a State attempts to nullify the laws of the United States by force, it is

The following extract from a letter dated Richmond, Va., Feb. 23, 1833, shows something of the spirit of the time: "The Governor of Virginia had, at some trouble and expense, caused a superb State flag to be prepared and painted, with the intention of having it hoisted at the quarters of the State Guard on the 22d. Knowledge of its existence and of his intention was obtained on Thursday, the 21st, and a good deal of excitement manifested itself among the representatives and the people. Either dissuaded by his party friends, or prompted by his own fears of the consequences that would issue from displaying the flag, his Excellency determined to let it remain in the painter's shop; and fortunate it was that he did so, for, had the banner been exposed to public gaze, it would have been torn down and prostrated by the people, and in all probability with some bloodshed. Scarce a voice was heard in favor of raising it; and numbers were heard to express their determination to rally under the *star-spangled banner of the Union*. It was supposed by some that, had the State flag been hoisted on the day, the flag of the Union would not have been, at least by order of the commanding chief. As it was, the union flag, fixed on a pole, was poked out of a hole in the southern end of the Capitol loft, and in this half-erect and awkward situation, flapping on the end of the ridge of the building, and repeatedly hooked on the point of one of the lightning-rods, it was torn in many places, and pieces were flying in every direction over the heads of the military and citizens assembled on the public square."¹

"The citizens of Savannah celebrated the inauguration of General Jackson on the 4th of January, 1833, in the most patriotic style. The citizens formed a procession, the military paraded, Judge Charlton delivered an appropriate oration, the flag we all delight to honor streamed from every masthead, and the evening was closed by a splendid ball. The ball-room was tastefully ornamented, and over each window was a silver star, with the name of one of the States in gold

rebellion, and if she possesses the physical power to resist successfully, then she has the right to establish her own government, and if the balance of the States have the physical power, they have a *perfect right* under this confederation of perpetual & perfect Union, to coerce her to obedience. For a State to go out of the Union peaceably she must obtain the consent of that number of the States which the Constitution gives the power to alter & amend it. The people being the fountain of all sovereign power have a right to alter & change their government; and the confederated and perpetual union formed by themselves, upon which the more perfect union, the Constitution of the United States, is based, provides how it can be altered or dissolved—any other mode to alter it, is, *revolution & war*."

¹ Philadelphia Newspaper.

letters on a handsome scroll, and the curtain was the flag of the Union. We counted them,—*all the States were there.*"¹

On the suppression of the Nullification heresy, and the restoration of the star-spangled banner to its honors in Charleston, S. C., June 28, 1833, a correspondent of the 'Boston Centinel' (J. E. D.) wrote:—

"Hail, banner of glory! Hail, banner of light!
Whose fame lives in story, whose folds cheer my sight;
Not a star is supprest, not a stripe has been torn
From the flag of the West, which our fathers have borne.
Our Union is fast, and our homes ever sure,
Our freedom shall last while the world shall endure.
Then hail to the banner whose folds wave in glory,
Let the free breezes fan her, and whisper her story.
The tumult has ended, the storm's died away,
The fiend has descended that led us astray,
The sons of the West are our brothers again,
And the flag of the blest floats from Texas to Maine."

In 1839, the pilot-boat Flying Fish, of ninety tons, Lieutenant W. M. Walker, attached to the Wilkes United States Exploring Expedition, carried our flag farther south than any other vessel of the expedition, and penetrated the Antarctic Circle farther than the keel of any other nation had furrowed it, excepting that of Captain Weddell's vessel, in 1823, which attained the latitude of 73° S.

This little vessel had been a New York pilot-boat, and was sent on the expedition without any addition to the strength of her frame; so that her security among the ice was dependent on her good qualities as a sea boat. After some necessary repairs at Orange Harbor, Cape Horn, she put to sea, with a complement of thirteen souls, under command of Lieutenant William M. Walker, U. S. N.,² whose friends took leave of him, with the ominous congratulation that "she would at least make him an honorable coffin."³

Encountering a variety of stormy and tempestuous weather, during which "the very creatures of the brine seemed to know the vessel's helpless plight; for a large whale came up from the deep and rubbed his vast sides against her, while the albatross flapped his wings in their faces and mocked them with his bright black eyes." On the 10th of March, which was spent at the pumps, the sea toppled over

¹ Georgia Courier.

² William M. Walker died at New York, Nov. 19, 1866, a captain in the United States navy. A sister pilot-boat, the Sea Gull, put to sea from Orange Harbor, and was never heard from.

³ I am indebted to a diary appended to 'Thulla, a Tale of the Antarctic,' by J. C. Palmer, Surgeon U. S. N., for the graphic description which follows.

the schooner and threatened to engulf her. Every seam leaked, every stitch of clothes was wet, and every bed inundated. The men had to swathe their feet in blankets lest they should freeze; and as the driving sleet fell on their garments, it congealed there, and incased them in ice. When the gale abated, after a dark and dismal night, they found the foresail split, and the jib washed from its gaskets, hanging to the stay by a single hank. They had now made the second rendezvous, in lat. 64° S., lon. 90° W.; but as there was no sign of the Peacock, advantage was taken of the fair wind to proceed on their course. The condition of the men forbade all delays. Five out of a crew of ten were almost disabled by ulcerated hands and swollen limbs, while the rest suffered cruelly from rheumatics and catarrh.

On the 13th, a mild and sunny day,—the second in that bright succession,—the theatre of their ambition opened to their view. Two icebergs stood like warders at the gate of the Antarctic; and the little



The Warders of the Antarctic.

vessel passed between these huge columnar masses, white as the raiment that no fuller bleached, and which shone like palaces,

“With opal towers and battlements adorned,
Of living sapphire.”

Soon, however, as if Nature, incensed to be

tracked by man to her last inclement solitude, had let loose all her furies, the tempest drew a veil of snow over the frozen city, and the vessel became the centre of a little area, walled by the piling seas. It is impossible for any one to fancy the awful interest of such a scene, without the pent-up feelings of the spectators, standing where human foot never before intruded, an unwelcome guest in the very den of storms.

They waited some time at the next rendezvous, in hopes of obtaining surgical aid from the Peacock for three men who were quite disabled. This delay lost them a fair wind, but the time was well employed in repairing their boats; after which, though they despaired of rejoining their consort, Mr. Walker proceeded to the fourth and last place assigned in his orders, which were thus fulfilled to the letter. They had attained the longitude of 105° W. Ice or discovery was

to prescribe the bounds of their latitude; and with feelings in whose enthusiasm past sufferings were forgotten they turned their faces to the south. Icebergs soon accumulated fast, and the sea was studded with fragments detached from the large island. The water was much discolored during the day, and very luminous at night. Penguins appeared in prodigious numbers, and the air swarmed with birds. Whales were numerous beyond the experience of the oldest sailor on board, lashing the sea into foam with their gigantic flukes, and often in mad career passing so close to the schooner as to excite serious apprehensions for safety. A fin-back once kept them company for several hours, and a monstrous right whale, of greater size than the vessel herself, lay so obstinately in her track that the men stood by with boat-hooks to bear him off.

Every hour now increased the interest of their situation. A trackless waste lay between them and all human sympathies, and each step removed them further from society. On the 19th of March they passed between two icebergs eight hundred and thirty feet high, and hove to near one of them to fill their water-casks. Encompassed by these icy walls, the schooner looked like a mere skiff in the moat of a giant's castle; and the visions of old romance were recalled by the gorgeous blue and purple lights that streamed through the pearly fabrics. The very grandeur of the scene, however, made it joyless. The voice had no resonance; words fell from the lip, and seemed to freeze before they reached the ear; and as the waves surged with a lazy undulation, the caverns sent back a fitful roar-like moan from some deep dungeon. The atmosphere was always hazy, and the alternation of mist and snow gave the sky a leaden complexion. When the sun appeared at all, it was near his meridian height, and they called it "pleasant weather" if the stars peeped out but for a moment. Except when it blew with great violence, the ice broke off the sea; but their nights were so pitchy dark, that the officer of the deck kept his watch in the forecabin, and depended upon his ear to warn him of danger.

On the 20th of March, in lat. $69^{\circ} 5' 43''$ S., and lon. $96^{\circ} 21' 30''$ W., many appearances indicated the vicinity of land. The ice became dense and black, and much of it streaked with dirt; the water, too, was very turbid, and colder than usual, though they got no bottom at a hundred fathoms line. When the mist cleared, they found themselves near a long wall of ice. On the afternoon of the 21st, the sea was clear as far as the eye could reach, and their hopes began to brighten at the thought that they had passed the French and Russian

limits, and were on the heels of Cook.¹ As long as a glimpse of day remained, they pressed toward the goal under every rag of sail. Night set in with mist and rain, and by nine P.M. it grew so pitchy dark that they were obliged to heave to with a fair wind from the north. At midnight it blew a gale. The vessel was beset with ice, and morning found them in an amphitheatre of sublime architecture. As the icebergs changed their places like a shifting scene, the prospect beyond them seemed to reach the pole. Day came upon this boundless plain. The eye ached for some limit to a space which the mind could hardly grasp. Mountain against mountain blended with a sky whose very whiteness was horrible. The vessel looked like a mere snowbank, every rope a long icicle; the masts hung down like stalactites from a dome of mist, and the sail flapped as white a wing as the spotless pigeon above them. The stillness was oppressive; but when they spoke, their voices had a hollow sound, more painful even than silence. The schooner had become thus involved by drifting at an imperceptible rate within the

barrier, while the passage behind her was gradually closed by ice returning from the north. There was no alternative but to buffet her through, or be carried to the south; and by nine A.M. (March 22d) they reached a place of comparative safety, in lat. 70° S., lon. 100° W.



The Flying Fish beset.

On the 24th of March, the schooner was obliged to force a passage out of the ice under circumstances truly appalling. The waves began to be stilled by the large snow-flakes that fell unmelted on their surface, and as the breeze died away into a murmur, a low crepitation, like the clicking of a death-watch, announced that the sea was freezing. Never did fond ear strain for the sigh of love more anxiously than those devoted men listened to each gasp of wind, whose breath was now their life. The looks of the crew reproached their commander with having doomed them to a lingering death, and many an eye wandered over the helpless vessel to estimate how long she might last for fuel. Preparations were hastily made to sheathe the bow with planks torn up from cabin berths, but the congelation was too rapid to permit the sacrifice of time to this precaution. All sail

¹ Captain Weddell, in 1823, attained the latitude of 73° S.

was accordingly crowded on the vessel, and after a hard struggle of four hours' duration they had occasion to thank Heaven for another signal deliverance.

“ With straining oars and bending spars
They dash their icy chains asunder;
Force frozen doors, burst crystal bars,
And drive the sparkling fragments under!”

They now had attained the latitude of $70^{\circ} 14' S.$, and established the impossibility of penetrating further between 90° and $105^{\circ} W.$ The season was exhausted; the sun already declined towards the north; day dwindled to a few hours; and nothing was to be expected from moon or stars. Under these circumstances, Mr. Walker, after thanking his crew for their zealous co-operation, announced his resolution to return without delay. On the next afternoon (March 25) they descried and exchanged cheers with the United States ship Peacock. Both vessels stood northward for several days, when the Flying Fish was ordered to return to Orange Harbor, where, on the 11th of April, Lieutenant Walker gave up his command.

The vessels of Wilkes's expedition consisted of the sloops-of-war Vincennes and Peacock, brig Porpoise, pilot-boat tenders Sea Gull and Flying Fish, and store-ship Relief. On the 26th of December, 1839, the Vincennes, Peacock, Porpoise, and Flying Fish turned toward the extreme south, which forbids man's approach by the savage frown of nature and the gloomy reign of death, while enticing him by the chances of discovery and renown amid her unknown wonders. Commodore Wilkes directed each vessel to act independently of her consort when arrived in the region of the designed explorations. The Flying Fish consequently parted company on the 2d, and the Peacock on the 3d of January, 1840. The Vincennes and Porpoise remained in company until the 12th. The day previous they came in sight of the solid barrier of ice in lat. $64^{\circ} 11' S.$, long. $164^{\circ} 13' E.$ The Peacock came up with the ice on the 15th, and the Flying Fish on the 21st, both more to the westward of the former vessels.

No doubt now remains of the existence of land within the Antarctic Circle. The testimony of both French and English exploring expeditions confirms the fact which it is claimed the American expedition first established as a part of geographical knowledge. This fact is determined by repeated and continuous observations made separately on-board the Vincennes, Peacock, and Porpoise, and the discovery was made some days before the French expedition claim to have made

the same. The American vessels coasted some sixty-five degrees of longitude along the impenetrable barrier of ice, observing throughout most of this distance highlands evidently reaching thousands of feet in altitude, and covered with perpetual snow. They met, also, other decisive signs of contiguous land. All the evidence sustains the claim that these elevated points of land are not portions of mere detached islands enclosed within a frozen sea, but are visible parts of a vast Antarctic continent, the main extent undistinguishable from the resplendent snow fringe skirting its ocean boundary. No human beings inhabit these regions, and the representatives of any animal tribes are very few.

On the 30th of January, 1840, the Porpoise discovered two vessels, which proved to be the French discovery ships under Captain D'Urville, and closed with them, passing within a short musket shot, when, says Lieutenant-Commanding Ringold, "I saw, with surprise, sail made on board the flag-ship, and, without a moment's delay, I hauled down my colors and bore up on my course."¹

On the morning of the 11th of January, 1841, says Captain Ross, "when in lat. 70° 41' S., and lon. 172° 36', land was discovered at the distance, as it was afterwards proved, of nearly a hundred miles, directly in the course we were steering, and therefore directly between us and the pole." "This restored to England the honor of the discovery of the southernmost known land, which had been nobly won, and for more than twenty years possessed by Russia. Continuing our course towards this land, for many hours we seemed scarcely to approach it: it rose in lofty, mountainous peaks, of from nine thousand to twelve thousand feet in height, perpetually covered with eternal snow. The glaciers that descended from the mountain summit projected many miles into the ocean, and presented a perpendicular face of lofty cliffs. . . . Steering towards a promising-looking point to the south, we observed several islands, and on the morning of the 12th, accompanied by Commander Crozier and a number of the officers of each ship, I landed and took possession of the country in the name of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. The island on which we landed is comprised wholly of igneous rocks, numerous specimens of which, with other embedded minerals, were procured. It is in lat. 71° 56' S., and lon. 171° 7' E. Following a course along this magnificent land to the sea, on the 23d of January, 1841, we reached 74° 14' S., the highest southern latitude that had ever been attained by any preceding navigator, and on the 27th again landed on an

¹ Cooper's Naval History, ed. 1856, vol. iii. pp. 43, 44.

island, in lat. $76^{\circ} 8' S.$, lon. $168^{\circ} 12' E.$; and still steering to the southward, early the next morning a mountain of twelve thousand four hundred feet above the level of the sea was seen emitting flame and smoke in splendid confusion. This magnificent volcano received the name of 'Mount Erebus.' It is in lat. $77^{\circ} 33' S.$, and lon. $167^{\circ} E.$ An extinct crater to the eastward of Mount Erebus, of somewhat less elevation, was called 'Mount Terror.' Finally, on the 2d of February, the two vessels reached the latitude of $78^{\circ} 4' S.$, and on the 9th had traced the continuity of the land to lon. $191^{\circ} 23' E.$, in lat. 78° . This great southern land which Captain Ross traced from $70^{\circ} S.$ to $79^{\circ} S.$, and between the longitudes of 167° and $179^{\circ} E.$, he named 'Victoria Land.'¹

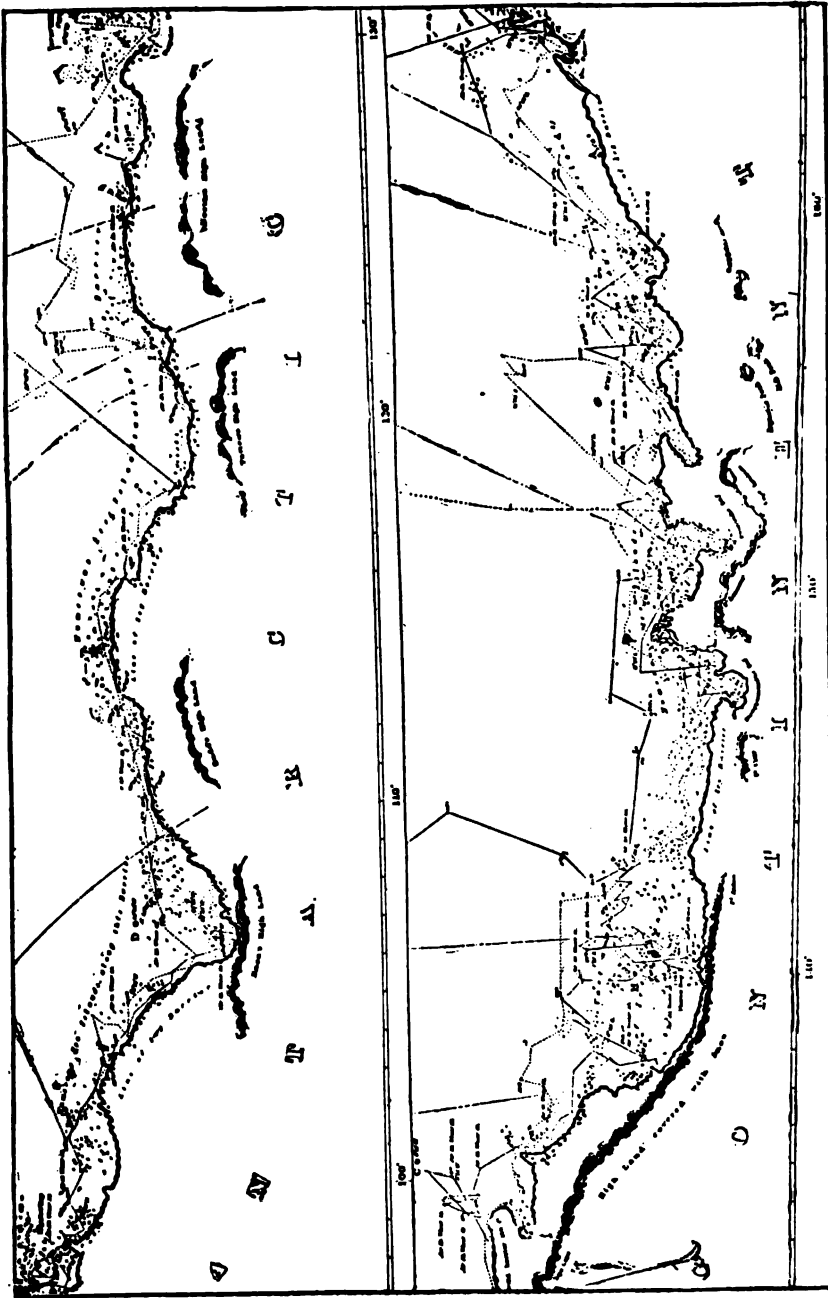
As it has been sneeringly said that Ross sailed over the continent discovered by Wilkes, it will be observed that Wilkes skirted along the land between the longitudes of 100° and $165^{\circ} E.$, on a nearly east and west course, and in about the latitude of 66° , a distance of three thousand eight hundred miles of that latitude; in other words, he discovered the northern coast of the Antarctic continent, while Ross appears to have turned its eastern cape, in 172° , three hundred miles to the eastward, and run down along its eastern coast. It is strange that, while so many Arctic expeditions have been undertaken, no subsequent attempt has been made to verify or extend these discoveries. England's flag is still in advance of all others towards both poles.

The little Flying Fish was sold in China, and became an opium trader and smuggler on that coast. She established the impossibility of penetrating farther south than lat. 70° between the lon. of 90° and $105^{\circ} E.$

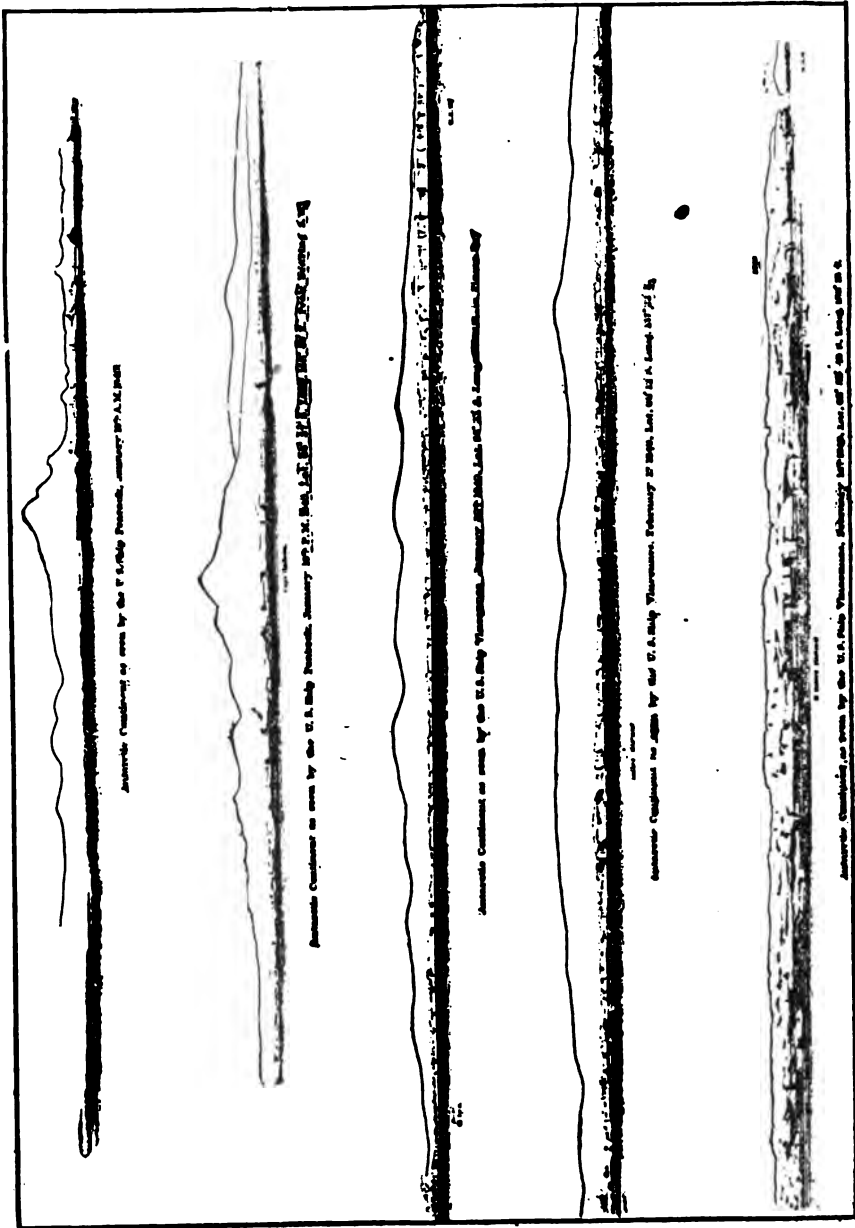
The first merchant vessel to carry the stars and stripes through the Straits of Magellan was the Endeavor, of Salem, Captain David Elwell, in 1824. He was living in Salem in 1868, being then eighty years old.

The first vessel of war to carry our flag from the Atlantic to the Pacific through the Straits of Magellan, though many little sealing schooners under our flag had preceded her, was the United States schooner Shark, Lieutenant-Commanding A. Bigelow. She passed Cape Virgin Nov. 28, 1839, and took her departure from Cape Pillar, on the west coast, Dec. 31, 1839, commencing the new year in the Pacific, having been in the Straits thirty-three days and a half, of which two hundred and forty-eight hours were passed under way, and five hundred and twenty-five at anchor.

¹ Extract from a letter from Captain Ross, dated H. M. S. Erebus, Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, 7th April, 1841.



Reduced from Map in Wilkes's United States Exploring Expedition.



Reduced from the Map of Wilkes's Exploring Expedition.

An account of her passage, officially communicated by Captain Bigelow to the Secretary of the Navy,¹ says: "I have been thus minute in describing the passage of the Shark through the Straits of Magellan, I believe the first public vessel of the United States which has passed through them, thinking that you, Sir, in common with the officers of the navy, might feel some interest in the narration. It has long been a disputed question whether it be advisable for small vessels to pass through the Straits from east to west, in preference to doubling the Cape. My experience would tend to discourage a stranger to the route from attempting it, in the month of December at least, though it is quite probable that the winds may have been as adverse to the southward of the Cape as in the Strait, and that we were peculiarly unfortunate in our weather. Steam has now made the passage through the Straits, either way, easy and common. My conclusion, from the experience of a single passage only, is that, for small vessels, the passage from west to east is preferable to going round, as wood and water can be obtained, and the distance shortened. At any time while we were in the Straits a passage to the eastward could easily have been made in four days, and sooner, were the navigator acquainted with the channel, so as not to fear being under way in the night. No vessel would be likely, however, to pass without touching to wood and water; and a week might be profitably occupied, even with a fair wind, in getting through. I should doubt the policy of making the passage either way with large vessels, though our whaling-ships frequently pass both ways. No vessel could be better calculated to pass through the Straits than the Shark, with the exception of her being a dull sailer. This, however, is in a measure compensated by her great capacity to bear sail. I doubt if a large, or even moderate-sized, square-rigged vessel could have made the passage, under similar circumstances, in double the time."²

¹ Army and Navy Chronicle, April 30, 1840.

² Fernão Magalhaens, as called in Portuguese, but known to English readers as Ferdinand Magellan, the first to pass through these Straits, which have immortalized his name, entered them on the 21st of October, 1520, and, consulting the calendar for a name, called it, in honor of the day, 'The Strait of the Eleven Thousand Virgins;' and on the 28th of November his squadron left the Strait and launched into the great south sea, to which, from the gentle winds that propelled them over waters almost unruffled, Magellan gave the name of 'Pacific.' On leaving Cabo Deseado (Wished-for Cape) at the western entrance, he re-named the strait the 'Strait of the Patagonians.' He was thirty-eight days in passing through. Cavendish, in 1587, entered the Straits early in January, and left them late in February, and was, therefore, nearly or quite two months in making their passage. In 1599, on the 6th of April, a fleet of seven ships of Holland, under the command of Admiral Simon de Cordes, after a summer spent on the coast of Africa, reached the Straits of Magellan. Five

The twin screw steam schooner *Midas*, Captain William Poor, owned by R. B. Forbes and others, was the first American steamer to carry our flag around the Cape of Good Hope for China, in 1844. She left New York on the 4th of November of that year, and was the first American steamer to ply in Chinese waters. She returned from China, under sail, to New York *via* Rio Janeiro, where she took a China cargo. Her machinery was taken out, and she ran out of Savannah for some time, owned by Messrs. Paddleford & Fay.

The bark *Edith*, four hundred tons, Forbes rig, and owned by R. B. Forbes and T. H. Perkins, Jr., was the first auxiliary screw steamer under the American flag that went to the British Indies, and she was the first American square-rigged screw steamer to visit China. She was launched in 1844, sailed from New York, Jan. 18, 1845, for Bombay, commanded by Captain George W. Lewis, and returned *via* Rio Janeiro, like the *Midas*, under sail, with a China cargo. She was next chartered to the War Department; took stores to Brazos Santiago; was employed in the Gulf of Mexico during our war with Mexico; and finally sold to the War Department and sent to California, where she was transferred to the navy, and lost off Santa Barbara.

The first American propeller packet ship to carry our flag to England was the *Massachusetts*, of seven hundred and thirty-four tons, owned by R. B. Forbes, and having engines designed by Ericsson. She was launched at East Boston, July 22, 1845, and sailed from New York, commanded by Captain A. H. White, Sept. 17, 1845.

months longer the fleet struggled in these Straits, where, as if in the home of Eolus, all the winds of heaven seemed to be holding their revel. An incident which marked their departure from the Straits deserves to be remembered. Admiral De Cordes raised on the shore, at the western mouth of the channel, a rude memorial, with an inscription that the Netherlands were the first to effect this dangerous passage with a fleet of heavy ships. On the following day, in commemoration of the event, he founded an order of knighthood. The chief officers of the squadron were the knights commanders, and the most deserving of the crews were the knights brethren. The members of the fraternity made solemn oath to De Cordes, as general, and to each other, that "by no danger, no necessity, nor by fear of death, would they ever be moved to undertake any thing prejudicial to their honor, to the welfare of the Fatherland, or to the success of the enterprise in which they were engaged, pledging themselves to stake their lives in order, consistently with honor, to inflict every possible damage on the hereditary enemy, and to plant the banner of Holland in all those territories whence the King of Spain gathered the treasures with which he carried on his perpetual war against the Netherlands."

Thus was instituted on the desolate shores of Terra del Fuego (the Fireland) the order of the "*Knights of the Unchained Lion*," with such rude ceremonies as were possible in those solitudes. The harbor where the fleet anchored was called '*Chevalier's Bay*,' but it would be vain to look on modern maps for the heroic appellation. Of all the seven ships, only one returned to Holland.

She made a second voyage to Liverpool, under Captain David Wood, and, after her return, was chartered to the government, and carried General Scott's flag to Vera Cruz, was transferred to the Navy Department, and went through the Strait of Magellan to California. During the Civil War her engines were taken out, and she was refitted as a store-ship, and renamed the 'Farralones.' She was for some time stationed at Panama, for the protection of the isthmus. After the war, she was sold in San Francisco, and renamed the 'Alaska,' and was engaged in carrying wheat from that port to Liverpool.¹ The *Marmora*, Captain Page, a propeller, preceded the *Massachusetts* to England, but she was not a packet. She ended her days in the Mediterranean.

The schooner *Evening Edition*, of eighty tons, built in Baltimore for a news-boat for the 'New York Journal of Commerce,' had an eventful history. She was successively owned by an editor, a king, and emperor, and bore at times our flag and that of Portugal and Morocco. In 1836 she had visited South America, Asia, and Africa; had run an express of four thousand miles in a single voyage; had been run away with by insurgents, their hands yet reeking with human blood; and been engaged in collecting slaves as well as news.

The pilot-boat *William J. Romer*, of about one hundred tons burthen, February, 1846, sailed from New York for Liverpool on a special mission, and after a boisterous passage anchored at Cork on the 6th of March. On her arrival she was boarded by an officer of H. M. S. *Vanguard*, with orders from the admiral to haul down her pennant, which her captain, McGuire, refused to do. Soon the officer returned with an apology from the admiral, stating that from her small size he had taken her for an English pilot-boat. Leaving Cork harbor on the 13th of March, she arrived at New York on the 11th of April, bringing five days later news from Europe, making the round trip in sixty days.

These vessels were the pioneers of several small vessels or boats to carry the stars and stripes across the Atlantic. In 1857, the *Charter Oak*, a small boat navigated by her builder and a single companion, arrived at Liverpool, and in 1858 the same adventurous navigator, whose name was Charles R. Webb, accomplished a second enterprise of the same kind in a cutter of forty-five tons, called *Christopher Columbus*. In 1864, a yawl called the *Vision* sailed from Boston, but was never heard from. In 1866, the *Red, White, and Blue*, a ship-rigged boat

¹ Portraits of both the *Massachusetts* and *Edith*, presented by R. B. Forbes, Esq., are in the Naval Library and Institute at Charlestown.

of two and a half tons, crossed from New York to the Thames. In 1867, the *Nonpareil*, a life-raft of extraordinary construction, started from New York and arrived safely at Liverpool. In 1870, the *City of Ragusa*, a life-boat, 21 feet long and 3 feet 6 inches wide, crossed from Liverpool to Boston, and was eighty days making the passage. In 1876, the *Centennial*, a dory 16 feet long, 5½ feet wide, and 2½ feet deep, made the voyage from Gloucester to Liverpool in sixty-six days. In 1877, the schooner-rigged whale-boat *New Bedford*, 20 feet long, Captain Crapo, accompanied by his wife, made the voyage from New Bedford to Penzance, and thence to London. In 1878, the *Nautilus*, a small boat, sailed from Beverly, Mass., and arrived at Mount's Bay, Land's End, coast of Cornwall, England, in forty-five days. She was exhibited at the Paris Exhibition.

On the 31st of May, 1770, the packet *San Antonio*, commanded by Don Juan Perez, arrived from San Diego and anchored in the port of Monterey, after a painful voyage of a month and a half. A land expedition had arrived eight days before. "On the 3d of June, being the holy day of Pentecost, the whole of the officers of sea and land and all the people assembled on a bank at the foot of an oak," where, writes Tr. Junepera Serra, "we caused an altar to be raised, and the bells rung; we then chanted the *Veni Creator*, blessed the water, erected and blessed a grand cross, hoisted the royal standard, and chanted the first mass that was ever performed in this place; we afterwards sung the *salve* to Our Lady before an image of the most illustrious Virgin, which occupied the altar; and at the same time preached a sermon, concluding the whole with a *Te Deum*. After this, the officers took possession of the country in the name of the king our Lord (whom God preserve). We then all dined together in a shady place on the beach; the whole ceremony being accompanied by many volleys and salutes by the troops and vessels."

In 1775, when Father Garges was traveling on a crusading and proselyting expedition from Sonora to California, he carried a painted banner, on one side of which was represented the blessed Virgin Mary, and on the other the devil in the flames of hell. "This banner with the strange devices" was the earliest we have notice of as carried through California. Others, doubtless, had been raised by the Spaniards on its coast. On his arrival at an Indian settlement, the holy father took his first step in conversion. As the travelling mountebank blows his horn and flutters his flag on approaching a village of likely gulls, so did our good father hoist his standard and cry aloud; when, as he naively observes, the fascinated Indians, on seeing the

Virgin, usually exclaimed, "GOOD!" but when they observed the devil, they often said, "BAD!"

The stars and stripes were first raised in California by Captain James P. Arther, a native of Holland, but a resident of Plymouth, Mass. He was assisted by Mr. George W. Greene,¹ a young man of Milton, Mass., and afterwards a member of the Massachusetts legislature.

Captain Arther was up and down the coast of California as early as 1825, in the brig *Harbinger*, Captain Steel; but he did not raise the stars and stripes until 1829, when a mate of the ship *Brookline*, Captain Locke, in the employ of Messrs. Bryant & Sturgis. Mr. Arther and his little party were sent ashore at San Diego to cure hides. They had a barn-like structure of wood, which answered the purposes of storehouse, curing-shop, and residence. The life was lonesome. Upon the wide expanse of the Pacific they occasionally discerned a distant ship. Sometimes a vessel sailed near the lower offing. Thus the idea of preparing and raising a flag, for the purpose of attracting attention, occurred. The flag was manufactured from shirts, and Captain Arther writes, with the accuracy of a historian, that "Mr. Greene's calico shirt furnished the blue, while he furnished the red and white." "It was completed and first raised on the arrival of the schooner *Washington*, Captain Thompson, of the Sandwich Islands," but sailing under the American flag. "It was in the latter part of 1829, in San Diego," writes honest Captain Arther, who further states that the same flag was afterwards frequently raised at Santa Barbara, whenever, in fact, there was a vessel coming into port. These men raised our national ensign, not in bravado, or for war and conquest, but as honest men, to show they were American citizens, and wanted company. While the act cannot be regarded as a claim to sovereignty, it is interesting as an unconscious indication of manifest destiny.²

In 1842, Commodore Jones, of the United States navy, impressed that the United States were at war with Mexico, took possession of Monterey, hoisted 'the stars and stripes' there, and proclaimed California a Territory of the United States. Discovering his mistake the next day, he hauled down our flag, and made such apology as the circumstances would admit.³

¹ Mr. Greene died Sept. 10, 1877, aged 77. He was the son of Benjamin Greene, of Boston, Mass.

² Boston Daily Advertiser.

³ The Discovery of Gold in California, by Ed. E. Dunbar.

The bear flag which was raised at Sonoma, California, June 14, 1846, is now in the possession of the Pioneer Society at San Francisco. It was made of white cotton and red flannel, the skirts of an old lady, and had painted on it the semblance of a grizzly bear. The artist was so unfortunate in his effort that the Spaniards called it the 'Bandera Colchis,' or 'hog flag.' The army which raised this flag and undertook to revolutionize a State consisted of fourteen Americans.

At this time, General John C. Fremont was encamped at Sonoma with an exploring party with which he had just crossed the plains, the Rocky Mountains, the desert, and Sierra Nevadas. Over his head-quarters at Sutter's Fort there floated a flag with *one star!* On the 4th of July, 1846, he called a meeting of the Americans at Sonoma, and under his advice they proclaimed the independence of California and declared war against Mexico. General Fremont did not know at the time that the United States was actually at war with Mexico, or that, on the 8th and 9th of May preceding, General Taylor had gained his victories at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, on the banks of the Rio Bravo. He was therefore unprepared to hear of the raising of the stars and stripes on the 7th of July, three days later, at Monterey, by Commodore Sloat, commanding a United States squadron, consisting of his flag-ship, the frigate Savannah, and sloops-of-war Cyane and Levant. During the drawing up of the proclamation by the commodore and consul, an armed launch arrived in Monterey from San Francisco with news of the taking of Sonoma by the 'bear flag' party of fifty to sixty men, under Commandant Ide.¹

Captain Montgomery,² of the United States sloop-of-war Portsmouth, then lying in San Francisco Bay, raised the United States flag on the Plaza of Yerba Buena, now Portsmouth Square, San Francisco, under a salute of twenty-one guns from the Portsmouth, on the next day, or 8th of July.³

Two days previous, Commodore Sloat sent a message to Captain Montgomery, informing him he was about to raise the stars and stripes over Monterey, and commanding him to do the same to the northward and around the bay of San Francisco. The flag was hoisted by Captain Montgomery on the Plaza, henceforth named 'Portsmouth

¹ Annals of San Francisco.

² Afterward Rear-Admiral John B. Montgomery, U. S. N. Montgomery Street, San Francisco, is named for him, and Portsmouth Square for his ship.

³ Log of the Savannah.

Square,' and the principal street lying along the beach received at the same time the name of 'Montgomery Street.'

Since that date, the flag of our nation has constantly waved over California. On the 14th of July, the British man-of-war *Collingwood*, Sir George Seymour commanding, arrived at Monterey for the purpose of doing what Commodore Sloat had already accomplished. The British were too late: the Yankees, already in possession, were not to be displaced, save at the cost of a war between the two nations. The name of 'San Francisco' was given to the new American town rising at Yerba Buena, Jan. 4, 1847, by Lieutenant Washington A. Bartlett, U. S. N., a native of Portland, Maine, who was the first alcalde.

The honor of having been the first to raise our flag in California has been claimed for Commodore Robert F. Stockton; but he did not arrive from Honolulu at Monterey, in the frigate *Congress*, until the 15th of July, the day after the English admiral, when, to his surprise, he heard of these occurrences, and found 'our flag' waving over the custom-house, and in the Plaza, where the Savannah men were quartered. On the 28th of August, 1846, Commodore Stockton wrote the Navy Department: "I have now the honor to inform you that the flag of the United States is flying from every commanding position in the Territory of California, and that this rich and beautiful country belongs to the United States, and is for ever free from Mexican dominion."

Lieutenant Lynch, in 1848, made an exploration of the river Jordan and the Dead Sea. In his narrative he describes the first unfurling of our flag over the solitary waters of the Lake of Galilee and the Dead Sea, upon which, according to the popular belief, it was certain death to be borne.¹

After describing his voyage from the United States in the store-ship *Supply* and the two metallic boats designed for the expedition, named by him 'Fanny Skinner' and 'Fanny Mason,' after two blooming children, Lieutenant Lynch says:—

"Friday, March 31, 1848. Sent to Acre for horses and hoisted out the two Fannies, and landed with our effects. Pitched our tents for the first time upon the beach without the walls of Haifa; a graveyard behind, an old grotto looking well on one side, and a carob tree on the other. For the first time, perhaps, without the consular precincts the American flag has been raised in Palestine: may it be the harbinger of a regeneration to a new and hapless people!"

¹ The English flag was first unfurled over these waters in 1873, when Lieutenant Molineux, R. N., launched upon the Dead Sea the dingy of H. M. S. *Spartan*.

The boats were re-embarked, taken to another point of the coast, and again landed on the 5th of April, 1848. From this new point the start of the caravan for the interior is thus described:—

“The metal boats with the flags flying, mounted on carriages drawn by huge camels, ourselves, the mounted sailors in single file, the loaded camels, the sheriff and the sheikh with their tufted spears and followers, presented a glorious sight. It looked like a triumphal march.” Thus organized, the party arrived at Tiberias, upon the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and the boats were launched upon its sacred waters on Saturday, the 8th of April, 1848. Under that date Lieutenant Lynch says: “Took all hands up the mountains to bring the boats down. Many times we thought that, like the herd of swine, they would rush precipitately into the sea. Every one did his best, and at length success crowned our efforts. With their flags flying, we carried them triumphantly beyond the walls uninjured, and, amid a crowd of spectators, launched them upon the blue waters of the Sea of Galilee, the Arabs singing, clapping their hands to the time, and crying for *bakshish*;¹ but we neither shouted nor cheered: from Christian lips it would have sounded like profanation. A look upon that lake ever brought to remembrance the words, ‘Peace! be still.’”

“Buoyantly it floated, the two Fannies bearing the stars and stripes, the noblest flag of freedom now waving. Since the times of Josephus and the Romans no vessel of any size has sailed upon this sea, and for many, many years but a solitary keel has furrowed its surface.”

On the 18th of April, in passing down the river Jordan, at the Fountain of Pilgrims, where more than eight thousand pilgrims arrived to behold them as they bathed, Lynch was gladdened by meeting two of his countrymen, who were gratified at seeing the stars and stripes floating above the consecrated river, and the boats which bore them ready, if necessary, to rescue a drowning pilgrim.

On the 19th of April, the Dead Sea was entered and our flag displayed for the first time upon its waters. Nine days later (the 28th), news having been received from Beyrout of the death of John Quincy Adams, the flags were displayed at halfmast, and at noon the next day twenty-one minute guns from the heavy blunderbuss on the bow of the Fanny Mason were fired in honor of the illustrious ex-President.

On the 9th of May, having employed the previous day in its construction, he pulled out in the Fanny Skinner and moored a large float, with the American ensign flying, in eighty fathoms of water,

¹ Presents.

abreast of Ain G'huivier, at too long a distance from the shore to be disturbed by the Arabs.

As the party approached Damascus on its return, they were advised to furl our flag before entering the city, assured that no foreign flag had ever been tolerated within its walls. The British consul's was torn down on the first attempt to raise it, and the appearance of ours, it was thought, would excite commotion, and lead, perhaps, to serious consequences. As they had carried it to every place visited, they determined to take their chance and keep it flying. Angry comments were made by the populace at this presumption; but as they did not choose to understand what their toorgeman was too wary to interpret, they were unmolested. Once more unfurling the stars and stripes at their camp over against Jerusalem, they finally re-embarked our flag at Jaffa, the ancient Joppa.

After all this display of devotion "to the stars and stripes, the noblest flag of freedom now waving," which Captain Lynch has so carefully recorded, it is a matter of regret that, from a false sense of a paramount duty to his State, he deserted its folds a dozen years later, in the hour of its trial and danger, and identified himself with the Rebellion.

There has been controversy as to who first raised an American flag on the heights of Chapultepec. Some one having incautiously said that General Read performed the gallant act, several claimants for the honor came forward.

The fact that the lion-hearted Read did not first plant the colors of his regiment on Chapultepec robs him of none of the laurels he won in Mexico. It was Captain Barnard, of Philadelphia, who seized the flag of the Voltigeurs, and placed it triumphantly on the captured works of the enemy. Read, while gallantly bearing the colors unfurled in the charge, was dangerously wounded, and his name appeared on the first list of the killed. No man who knew him doubts but for this Read would have done all that Barnard accomplished.

The flag of the Voltigeurs, first planted at Chapultepec, is now in Louisville, in the possession of Isaac, a brother of Colonel George Alfred Caldwell, who, with Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph E. Johnston,¹ led the assault. It is shattered and battle-torn, and the staff shows marks of the fierce storm through which it was carried.

The reports of Generals Scott and Pillow, and Colonel Andrews, the commander of the Voltigeurs, and Ripley's History, all give to Captain

¹ Afterward a rebel general, and now a member of the United States House of Representatives, 46th Congress, from the third district of Virginia.

Barnard the honor of first planting the regimental colors on Chapultepec. General Pillow, in his report, says:—

“ Colonel Andrews, whose regiment so distinguished itself and commander by this brilliant charge, as also Lieutenant-Colonel Johnston and Major Caldwell, whose activity enabled them to lead the assault, have greatly distinguished themselves by their gallantry and daring. Captain Barnard, with distinguished gallantry, seized the colors of his regiment upon the fall of the color-bearer, scaled the wall with them unfurled, and has the honor of planting the first American standard in the works.”

When the Voltigeurs were disbanded at Baltimore, a number of the interesting properties of the regiment were forwarded by Lieutenant-Colonel Johnston to Colonel Caldwell. Among these was the regimental flag.¹

Colonel Caldwell was drafted in 1863. The law required he should personally appear before the board of enrolment for release. Knowing his physical disability, from age and chronic rheumatism, the board wrote him, if he had reason to fear he could not get exempted, he might bring his Chapultepec flag with him, and carry it out to the Taylor barracks.

A party of twenty-five American officers, four or five civilians, thirty-five dragoons, and forty infantry of the United States army in Mexico, April, 1848, attempted the ascent of Popocatepetl, which, after Mount St. Elias, is the highest eminence of North America, having an estimated altitude of from 17,720 to 18,362 feet.²

Only six of the one hundred and fourteen of the ascending party succeeded in reaching its summit, and raising the stars and stripes.

A Spanish officer in 1519 was the first human being to reach its summit, and in commemoration of his success was permitted to assume for his coat of arms the figure of a burning mountain. Several eminent travellers have since succeeded in reaching the summit; viz., Glennie in 1827, Von Gerolt, Baron Gross, and Sonntag and others.

On reaching the final slope, our adventurers directed their steps toward a black rock near the edge of the crater, about the middle of the south side, and at ten minutes past ten A.M., April 11, 1848, Lieutenant Stone, standing on the edge of the crater, and before the other

¹ Louisville Courier.

² Humboldt, measuring from the valley of Tetimba in 1804, estimated it at 17,728 feet. Glennie found it 17,884; but his calculations, corrected by Burckhardt, made it 18,014. Within a few years, French savans had taken careful observations from the level country at its base, which yield a height of 18,362 feet, and two sets of measurements are said to have produced several hundred feet more.

five had arrived, fastened the stars and stripes to his staff, and planted them on the very loftiest peak of the mountain, raising loud huzzas at his complete success.

Mr. Baggely, an Englishman and a professor in a Mexican college, arrived soon after, and placed close beside it the Cross of St. George.

The effect of the gases did not permit the little party to remain on the edge of the crater. The fumes of the sulphur caused headache and nausea; their throats became dry and swollen, and compelled them to hasten their return. The strange sensations passed off as they descended, and when at two P.M. they reached the camp only a headache remained.

The Indians would not believe they had reached the top, and examined their heads, saying, "It was impossible for any one to go there without having horns grow from the head." Others asked "what the mountain said to them."

No money or entreaty could persuade the guides to go further than the region of perpetual snow, which in that latitude is about 14,000 feet.

In 1865, another party of two Americans and one Frenchman, viz., E. J. McCane, of Pennsylvania, and William V. Wells, and Antoine Kieffer, of Strasburg, ascended Popocatepetl, and peered into its crater.¹ October, 1874, Popocatepetl was again ascended by three American gentlemen and three American ladies; viz., Messrs. George Skilton, John Blackmore, and John Willson, of New York, Miss Sawyer, of Massachusetts, Miss Terry, of New York, and Mrs. Richardson. They descended into its crater, but failed to plant the stars and stripes on its summit. They slid down over 4,000 feet returning, and the ladies had a ball given to them in honor of their bravery.

Mount Orizaba, whose snow-clad summit is seen every clear day from Vera Cruz, though seventy miles distant, and the sight of whose symmetrical cone often cheers the mariner when more than a hundred miles distant at sea, was ascended in May, 1848, by a party of United States army and navy officers, who planted our banner upon the highest peak of its frozen summits. Humboldt tried to ascend this mountain, but, with all his enthusiasm, failed, and pronounced the feat impracticable.

The party who were successful in raising our flag where foot of man had never before trod consisted of nine officers, thirty soldiers,

¹ An illustrated narrative of this ascent by Mr. Wells is given in 'Harper's Magazine' for November, 1865.

and two sailors, who all encamped on the second day 12,000 feet above the level of the sea, with the thermometer considerably below the freezing-point.

At early daylight the morning of the third day the party again set out, and were soon among the snow and ice; the air became rarefied at every step, rendering it necessary for them to stop and pant for breath. When they had attained the elevation of 15,000 feet, with a few exceptions, all were seized with nausea and vomiting, and the ascending party was gradually diminished, until, when the summit was reached, only three army and two navy officers could congratulate themselves on having reached the goal of their endeavor. Arrived at the summit, the little party shook hands and sat down to rest and enjoy the glorious prospect before them,—Puebla, Jalapa, Cordova, the sea ninety miles away, and a host of villages on the plain. They descended a short distance into the crater, and brought up some beautiful specimens of crystal and lava, and large quantities of the most beautiful specimens of sulphur. After this the navy officers set up the American flag on the summit, an honor to which they were fairly entitled, as it was made overnight of the red and blue shirts of the sailors, Passed-Midshipman Robert Clay Rogers furnishing his white one to complete it. This flag had but thirteen stars. It was left flying, with a bottle beside it, in which was a paper containing the names of the successful few. The barometer ceased to indicate after they had reached an altitude of 17,300 feet, when they were at least 1,000 feet from the summit, according to their estimate. This would make the height of Orizaba over 18,300 feet, instead of 17,500, as had been estimated. When the party returned, they slid down on the snow and ice.¹

A correspondent of the 'New Orleans Delta' wrote to that journal concerning this feat:—

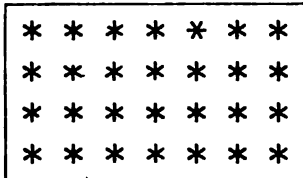
"On the highest pinnacle of the frozen summit of Orizaba waves the star-spangled banner! So you may tell Mr. Polk, his Cabinet, and all Congress assembled, that they may pass what laws they please, make treaties, and the Mexican issue pronunciamientos, but still will the American flag wave over their country; for who will go up to pull it down?"

¹ The party was composed of Major Manigault and Lieutenant Reynolds, U. S. Army, Lieutenant R. C. Rogers, U. S. Navy, Captains Lomax and Higgins, of the Alabama Volunteers, Captain White, Dr. Banks, Adjutant Hardway, thirty soldiers, and two sailors of the naval battery.

In February, 1877, Mr. D. S. Richardson, then Secretary of the United States Legation at Mexico, accompanied by Mr. Eustace Merphy, succeeded in making the ascent, and planted our flag on its top-most pinnacle.

After the war with Mexico (1848), it was unanimously resolved by the Senate of the United States "That the Vice-President be requested to have the flag of the United States first erected by the American army upon the palace in the capital of Mexico deposited for safe-keeping in the Department of State of the United States."

In answer to my inquiries, the Department of State wrote me, Sept. 23, 1871, "This Department is unable to give you the information which you desire, as it does not have the flag referred to in its keeping. It is most likely in the charge



of the War Department." Referring them, in another letter, to the law concerning it, it was found to be deposited in the State Department, and described as "an ordinary United States flag of small size, tattered and moth-eaten, con-

taining in its union twenty-eight stars, arranged in four rows, each row containing seven; the rows of seven stars parallel with the white stripes."

The city of Charleston, S. C., presented a palmetto regimental flag to the South Carolina Volunteers, on their departure for Mexico, on the 24th of December, 1846. Colonel Pierce Butler received the colors, and a son of General Cantey, the State adjutant-general, was the color-sergeant. The flag was of thick blue silk, with the coat of arms of the State on one side, and the United States arms and a palmetto-tree on the other, with the inscription, "Presented by the City of Charleston," &c. The mayor, in his presentation address, said, "The motto that glitters in the sunlight from this banner—'*Not for ourselves we conquer, but our country,*'—covers every heart here present, and the palmetto device of our State, now quivering its mimic leaves above us, finds in this serried array men like itself,—rigid, firm, enduring."

This flag, riddled with shot and shell, was carried at Contreras and Churubusco, when Colonel Butler was killed while carrying it, and Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson wounded. It was the first flag hoisted inside the city of Mexico, as fully shown in a report of a committee of the Senate of the United States, detailing the circumstances of the hoisting of the United States flag over the palace. On the return of the

regiment, the flag was preserved under a glass case, in the State House at Columbia, until Feb. 17, 1865, when it was destroyed in the fire that burned that building.¹

A fragment of this flag,—two small pieces of silk and gold fringe,—presented to Lieutenant Robertson, of Company F, is preserved in the armory of the Washington Light Infantry Company, in Charleston.

In May, 1848, when the Italian tri-colored banner,—

"Red, for the patriot's blood;
Green, for the martyr's crown;
White, for the dew and the rime,
When the morning of God comes down,"²

was consecrated by the Patriarch of Venice, in that city, the American consul was the only foreign diplomat invited to be present. In the course of the ceremonies, the commander of the troops called, "Attention! Honor to the flag of the United States of America!" at which the multitude shouted their applause with cries of "Long live our sister republic!" The people of all classes and conditions, soldiers and civilians, nearest, embraced the consul, and, kissing the star-spangled banner, pressed it to their hearts; while the many, with moistened eyes, reached their hats through the crowd merely to touch it, exclaiming, "*Viva il Console!*" "*Viva gli Stite Uniti!*" "*Viva la gran Repubblica!*" In the evening, at the theatre, there was a repetition of the enthusiasm, when the consul entered his box with his wife.³

The uncertainty attending the fate of Sir John Franklin and his companions elicited the interest and warmest sympathy of the American people, and was the moving cause of an expedition organized under authority of a joint resolution of Congress, May 2, 1850, which authorized the President to accept "and attach to the navy two vessels offered by Henry Grinnell, of New York, to be sent to the

¹ In consequence of its heroic history and dilapidated condition, General Butler, of Kentucky, presented the regiment in Mexico with another flag, which is thus described:—

The flag is of one thickness of blue silk, embroidered with yellow and red silk floss, and bordered with a yellow fringe about two inches wide. The embroidery consists of the coat of arms of the United States, with the motto, "*E Pluribus Unum,*" and underneath the eagle is worked, "*Palmetto Regt. S. C. Volunteers;*" two rows of stars, fifteen in each row, extend across the top of the flag above the eagle. The embroidery being the same on both sides. The staff is ornamented with a silver-plated spear-head. Dimensions of the flag, five feet three inches next the staff, and six feet long.

It was carried by the regiment at the centennial of the battle of Fort Moultrie, June 28, 1876.

² Mrs. Browning.

³ Newspaper account.

Arctic Seas in search of the British commander, Sir John Franklin, and his companions."

The vessels furnished by Mr. Grinnell were the brigantines *Advance* and *Rescue*, and the command of the expedition was intrusted to Lieutenant Edwin J. De Haven, who commanded the *Advance* in person. The command of the *Rescue* was assigned to Passed-Midshipman S. P. Griffin, the second officer of the expedition. The instructions, full and complete, were issued by William B. Preston, Secretary of the Navy.

The expedition sailed from New York, May 26, 1850, and returned to that port about Oct. 1, 1851. Only supposed traces of the objects of search were discovered, and the real fate of Sir John and his companions was still left in doubt. The vessels were caught in the ice, and frozen up for nine months. They drifted to and fro more than a thousand miles. Not a man was lost on the expedition. These vessels went up Wellington Channel, searching its shores, and discovered Grinnell Land.

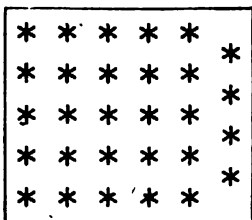
The railroad across the Isthmus of Panama, from Aspinwall, or Colon, as the authorities of the United States of Columbia call it, to the city of Panama, begun May, 1850, and completed in 1859, is a triumph of American skill, perseverance, and engineering. The first great obstacle, the bridging, so to speak, of bottomless swamps, was overcome, and a train of cars passed from Aspinwall to Barbacoas on the 4th of July, 1852. The second great obstacle, the crossing of the Chagres River, which during the wet season is liable to rise fifty feet in from six to ten hours, was accomplished in 1853.

November 24 of that year was a day of more than ordinary interest to American residents on the Isthmus, when the bridge across the Chagres at Barbacoas was tested by the passage over it of the first train of cars and locomotive. Notice was given that all who wished would be passed free, and six passenger-cars were early filled with foreign and native residents. The bridge on the Barbacoas side was tastefully decorated, and on its corners waved the flag of New Grenada side by side with the stars and stripes. About eleven A.M., Messrs. Ball and Baldwin, on the top of the first car, supported by the officers and attachés of the company, bearing the flag of our country above their heads, gave the signal, and, with a warning cry, the iron steed, built in Portland, Maine, started with the train across the arches of the noble structure, and five hundred voices, collected on the banks of the river, sent up a shout, which was echoed back from as many on the cars, as the train moved smoothly across. After running a mile or

so beyond, the train returned and recrossed the bridge, when a few hours were spent in the festivities of a dinner, and there was a ball at old Joe Prince's in the evening. A large amount of gunpowder was burnt in the course of the day. Among the toasts given at the dinner was, "The Panama Railroad, the index-finger of 'Young America's' right hand." In December, 1853, passengers were conveyed by the railroad to Gorgona, and on the opening of the dry season the road was in running order to Matashin, seventeen miles from Panama.

The near completion of the Panama railroad, and the discovery of gold in and the settlement of California, were two great inducements to our successful treaty with Japan in 1854.¹

The American ensign first displayed in Japan on the landing of Commodore M. C. Perry at Uraga, on the bay of Jeddo, in July, 1853, and which was unfolded at the treaty of Yokohama, March, 1854, opening Japan to the world after two hundred years of seclusion, counted on its cluster twenty-nine stars, and is now preserved at the Naval Academy, Annapolis.



In 1855, during the cruise of the American whaler George and Henry, of New London, Captain Buddington, a vessel was discovered in a vast field of ice and drifting oceanward. Lowering a whale-boat, Captain Buddington, with a picked crew, pulled to the floe, and leaving their boat, after a perilous journey of a mile over immense hummocks of ice, reached the vessel. Clambering up her sides, to their astonishment they discovered her to be H. B. M. ship Resolute, which had sailed from England the year before, under command of Captain Keppel, in search of Sir John Franklin and party.

It appeared that, being ice-bound in Baffin's Bay, running short of provisions, and without hope of relief or of releasing the vessel, the officers and crew, consisting of one hundred and sixty men, with supplies and instruments, abandoned her, and after a dangerous sledge-journey joined another ship of the expedition. When the Resolute was boarded by Captain Buddington, she had drifted into the Atlantic Ocean nine hundred miles from the point at which she had been abandoned.

Captain Buddington took possession of the vessel, and at once began operations to release her. After many days of arduous labor of his men, they had the vessel afloat in open waters, and, placing a crew on board, safely brought her into New London.

¹ This I learned in Japan, at the time of the treaty.

The facts of the rescue being brought to the attention of our government, Congress appropriated \$30,000 for her purchase from the salvors. She was then taken to the New York Navy Yard and refitted, every thing on board being restored as nearly as possible to its condition when she was manned by British tars. By direction of the President of the United States, under the authority of Congress, a crew was placed on board of her, with sailing orders for Portsmouth, England, and directions to her commanding officer, in the name of the United States, to restore the ship to her Majesty's government.

She was commanded by Commander Henry J. Hartstene, of South Carolina.¹ The ship sailed from New York, and twenty-five days after reached Portsmouth, early in December, 1855.

The British government, officially advised of this act of friendship on the part of the United States, prepared for the consummation of this purpose with becoming formality. The day set apart for the ceremony at Portsmouth was Dec. 10, 1855. The harbor was in full array. Her Majesty's ships in port floated the royal standard of England from their mastheads, and the flag of the United States, and were gayly dressed with flags and streamers. For the better accommodation of the royal personages who were to participate in the ceremony, the *Resolute* was hauled alongside the dock.

At noon, amid the booming of guns ashore and afloat, her Majesty, accompanied by the Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and Princess Alice, Lady Cathcart, and the Duchess of Athol (the most beautiful woman in England), attending maids of honor, and accompanied by Sir Francis Seymour, commandant of the Portsmouth Navy Yard, went aboard the *Resolute*.

Captain Hartstene, surrounded by his officers in full dress, welcomed the Queen, and addressing her, said: "Your Majesty, it affords me pleasure, in behalf of the President of the United States, to present to you the ship *Resolute*, not only as the evidence of good-will of the people of the United States, but out of the great respect which they feel toward you personally."

The Queen, in person, thanked the government of the United States through Captain Hartstene for the consideration thus shown herself and her government. Having evinced a deep interest in viewing the ship, she visited every part of her, and asked numerous questions.

¹ Captain Hartstene united his fortunes with the Southern Rebellion, and died shortly after its commencement.

A fine large painting was executed, by order of the Queen, representing the scene on the deck of the *Resolute*. This painting, which has been engraved, now hangs in the royal gallery at Windsor.¹

In 1856, after the cloud of war had rolled away from the Crimea, and Sebastopol was opened to all nations, the first vessel to enter its closed port was an American ship, the *Troy*, with the stars and stripes at her peak.

The iron yacht *Edith*, owned by R. B. Forbes, sailed from Boston in 1858, for the Rio de la Platte. She was the first, and it is believed is the only, vessel of the New York yacht squadron that has carried the United States flag into south latitude.

The yacht *Edith* was only forty-seven days in making the passage from Provincetown, though delayed by the loss of her main-mast close to the deck, in lat. 26° S.

A letter from her in the 'Boston Courier,' dated "Rio Uruguay, lat. 32° 7' S., lon. 58° 11' W., March 8, 1859," says: "At Concepcion we found the *Fulton* and *Water Witch*, vessels celebrated in history,—the last as the origin of the Paraguay expedition, and the leader of that memorable squadron which went to Cuba to protect the United States flag from British aggression. . . . We get on admirably with our 'squadron,' consisting of the yacht *Edith* and steamer *Alpha*; sometimes she tows us and sometimes we tow her, and always excite the curiosity of the natives. No other yacht of the New York squadron has been so far from home, and no other steamer of *any* nation has been so far up the Rio Negro; at this point she deserves to be called the *Alpha*, and for a long time to come will be the *Omega*."

The *Alpha* was a small iron steamer, which was taken out to South America on the deck of the brig *Nankin*. Some asked, on seeing her on deck, whether she was built on the way out, or whether the brig was built around her. On arriving at Montevideo, the *Nankin* was hauled alongside the United States store-ship *Supply*, and with the tackles used to hoist out 10-inch guns the little steamer was suspended in air, the brig was hauled from under her, and just when all was ready to launch her, the main-yard tackles pennant parted, and down she went ten or twelve feet into the water, the fore-sling slipping off at the same time, but no harm was done, and not a rivet was started.

¹ Lately, orders have been issued from the admiralty to break up this historic ship, and in these orders it is stated she was built of teak from the East Indies, is bark-rigged, and about five hundred tons burthen: and it is stated semi-officially that her Majesty's government has directed that a dining set shall be made from her teak timbers for presentation to the government of the United States, as a souvenir of an interesting event which occurred just one-quarter of a century ago. The vessel was never employed in active service after her rendition.

The captain of the little steamer went to the custom-house, and entered her as a new arrival, she having been regularly cleared at the Boston custom-house. The collector opened his eyes very wide, seeing that she was only twenty tons, and asked if she came by sea, how many days she had been on the voyage, and how many ports had been touched at for fuel, and whether she had shipped any water or incurred any danger from gales of wind on the way. Captain Bessie honestly replied that he came by sea in fifty-five days; had put in nowhere for fuel, having been mostly propelled by sails; that he had shipped many small sprays, but no large seas, and that she was as dry and safe as a brig of three hundred tons all the way out; that he had encountered one severe gale and several smaller ones, but that she 'lay to' like a duck. The collector made note of these facts, and said it was '*muuy curioso,*' and opened his eyes again.

The Alpha may be considered the pioneer and parent of our naval steam launches, those efficient tenders to our ships of war and surveying vessels.

Throughout the trials, sufferings, and famine of Lieutenant Isaac N. Strain's unfortunate Darien exploring expedition in 1854, so graphically described in Mr. Headley's narrative, "our flag was sacredly preserved."¹

After their rescue, and while pursuing their course down river, as they approached the Virago's paddle-box boat, Strain desired to hoist an American ensign, and asked if the one they started with had been preserved. Yes, answered McGinness, who was intrusted with it, and who had carried it to the last. The only emblem of their nationality that remained to them, he had wrapped it around his breast; and though weapons, haversacks, and blankets had been thrown away, he would not part with it. Wounded feet that needed bandaging, and ulcerated limbs and tattered garments, could not induce him to devote that cherished symbol to his own use. Without reflection, Strain ordered McGinness to place it in his boat. The poor fellow hung back for a moment, and cast such an appealing look on Strain that the latter asked what was the matter. His eyes filled with tears, and he replied, "Captain Strain, I have never parted with that ensign a single instant since you intrusted it to my care on the Atlantic coast, and don't take it from me now."

Touched by the devotion of the man, Strain said, "By no means shall it be taken from you, my brave fellow; display it yourself." His face beamed with a smile of thankfulness, and unbinding it with his

¹ See Harper's Magazine.

skeleton hand from the rags that hardly covered him, he gave it, tattered and torn, to the wind, and three cheers went up from the little fleet. There is a whole poem, says Headley, in this little incident. That flag, first displayed when they marched from the beach of Caledonia Bay, was unrolled to announce their deliverance, and then once more only,—to shroud the coffin of one of the expedition.

The generosity of Mr. Grinnell did not cease with the unsuccessful termination of the first humane expedition to the Arctic, which had failed to accomplish its purposes, so far as the finding of the missing explorers, and promptly offered the vessels for a second cruise, should the necessary authority be obtained from Congress; and in the fall of 1852, in compliance with the wishes of Lady Franklin, Passed-Assistant-Surgeon E. K. Kane, who had accompanied the previous expedition, was given permission to engage in special service, and go in search of Sir John Franklin. Under instructions from Secretary J. P. Kennedy, he sailed from New York in the brigantine *Advance*, May 31, 1853. Dr. I. I. Hayes was an officer of this expedition, comprising in all seventeen persons; and the next year, 1854, Dr. Kane carried our flag to the land nearest the pole yet discovered, and his companion Morton hoisted the first flag that ever waved over that solitude.¹

Dr. Kane, narrating the event, says, "As he [Morton] neared the northern land at the east shore, which led to Cape Constitution, the termination of his labors, he found only a very small ice-float under the lee of the head-land, and crushed up against the side of the rock. He went on, but the strip of ice-land broke more and more, until about a mile off the Cape it terminated altogether, the waves breaking into a cross-sea directly against the Cape. The wind had

¹ In the 'Boston Gazette' or 'Weekly Advertiser,' May 22, 1758, there is the following notice of an "Early American Expedition for the discovery of the Northwest Passage:"—

"PHILADELPHIA, May 10.

"We hear that the schooner *Argo*, Captain Swaine, who was fitted out from this port by a number of merchants of this and the neighboring provinces, and sailed hence on the 4th of March last for Hudson's Bay, on the discovery of the Northwest Passage, having touched at the Hiannas near Cape Cod, and at Portsmouth in New England, to take in her complement of hands and some particular necessaries, took her departure from the latter place on the 15th of April, all well on board, and in high spirits."

This vessel was fitted out at an expense of £1,500, by subscription, a chief mover in the enterprise being Benjamin Franklin. On her return she was refitted, and sailed the following spring on another expedition, and returned in October, as appears by the Pennsylvania 'Journal and Advertiser' of Oct. 24, 1754: "On Sunday last, arrived here the schooner *Argo*, Captain Swaine, who was fitted out in the spring on the discovery of the Northwest Passage, but having three of his men killed on the Labrador coast, returned without success."

moderated, but was still from the north, and the current ran very fast, —four or five knots, perhaps.

“The cliffs were here very high,—at a short distance they seemed about two thousand feet; but the crags were so overhanging that Morton could not see the tops as he drew closer. The echoes were confusing, and the clamor of half a dozen ivory gulls, who were frightened from their sheltered nooks, were multiplied a hundred-fold. The mollemoks were still numerous, but he saw no ducks.

“He tried to pass around the Cape. It was in vain. There was no ice-foot, and, trying his best to ascend the cliffs, he could get up but a few hundred feet. Here he fastened to his walking-pole the Grinnell flag of the Antarctic, a well cherished little relic, which had now followed me on two polar voyages. This flag had been saved from the United States sloop-of-war Peacock, when she stranded off Columbia River. It had accompanied Commodore Wilkes in his far southern discovery of the Antarctic continent. It was now its strange destiny to float over the highest northern land, not only of America, but of our globe. Side by side with this were our masonic emblems of the compass and square. He let them fly for an hour and a half from the black cliffs over the dark rock-shadowed waters, which rolled up and broke in white caps at its base.”

This flag was again used by Dr. Hayes in his North Pole expedition, and again unfurled by Captain Hall, of the *Polaris*, when he took possession of the land, 82° 26' north latitude, “in the name of God and the United States,” and was brought back by Captain Buddington. It may be said of this historic flag, which was the property of Henry Grinnell, that it has been farther north and farther south than any flag in the world. It is of ordinary bunting, about eight by three feet, and has twenty-four stars of white muslin sewed in the union. The words “*Peacock flag*” are stamped on the left-hand corner, in black ink. Although much soiled from long use, the flag was free from rents in 1874. It was again carried to the Arctic in the schooner *Florence* by Captain Howgate, and returned in her in a good state of preservation in 1878.

The long absence of the second Grinnell expedition, of nearly three years, without information of its movements or fate, filled the hearts of the people with solicitude, and the subject received the attention and action of Congress. On the 3d of February, 1855, a joint resolution was adopted authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to provide and despatch a suitable naval or other steamer, and if necessary a tender, to the Arctic seas for the purpose of rescuing or affording relief to

Passed-Assistant-Surgeon E. K. Kane, and the officers and men under his command, provided that such steamer and tender should be officered and manned by volunteers from the navy, and others who declared their willingness to be so engaged.

The vessels selected and fitted for this service were the bark Release and steamer Arctic, and the command of the expedition was committed by Secretary Dobbin to Commander H. J. Hartstene, who commanded the Release in person. The second officer of the expedition was Lieutenant Charles S. Simms, who commanded the Arctic.

The vessels sailed from New York June 4, 1855, and returned to that port Oct. 11, 1855. In four months which intervened they sailed four thousand miles, circumnavigated Baffin's Bay, passed farther into Smith's Sound than any one save Kane himself, found that missing explorer and his party at Disco Island, and returned them safely to their country and friends.

In 1859, during the war between Austria and Sardinia, the imperial government ordered Trieste placed under martial law, the French being daily expected to make an attack upon that city. Under this circumstance the United States consul suspended a large United States flag from his balcony, which remained there night and day while the war lasted. From the moment of its display, the common people congregated opposite at the Palace Demetrio Carciotte, gazing at it with delight. This concourse gathered every day for about a week, when the President of the imperial maritime government called on the consul and asked, "What does all this mean?" "What about this crowd in a state of siege?" The consul replied, that he claimed the protection of his flag, and that the local authorities were bound to furnish sufficient force to preserve the peace and sustain his privileges. The official retired, the flag was undisturbed, and people who had never seen it came from the neighboring villages to see "*la candiera Americana*."

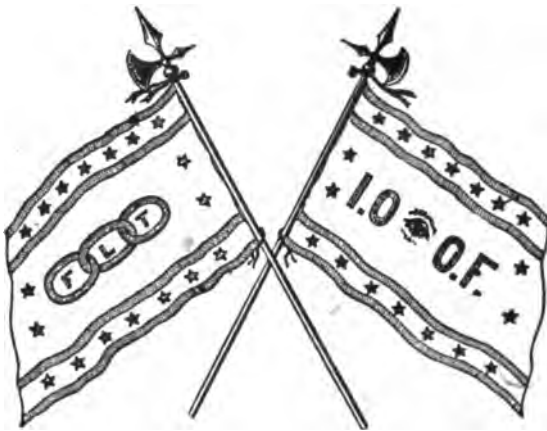
Theodore de Sabla, who had been the United States vice-consul at Panama, being a native of Louisiana, sympathized with the Rebellion. Writing from Panama to a former navy friend on the 18th of July, 1861, he related the following curious incident, the augury of which was happily unfulfilled, unless on the principle of dreams, by contraries. After alluding to matters of a business nature, he says: "We had a glorious fourth here at my house, rather on the *secess* side, though, as you may easily believe. Captain Mitchell, Shryock,¹ and

¹ These were officers of the United States steamship Wyoming, attached to the Pacific squadron, who had resigned.

other Southern friends late *of*, and now *off*, the navy, were there, and we had a grand time of it. Sorry to say that on that day, when they were drinking the 'Union' at the United States consulate, about two P.M., the flag-staff of old Corwine (the United States consul) was struck by lightning and shivered from top to bottom, and the flag torn to pieces. Bad omen that! for you!"

The fourth expedition from the United States to the polar seas was organized and despatched under private auspices, and had no connection with the government. Dr. I. I. Hayes, who had been attached to Dr. Kane's expedition, conducted it. The name of his vessel, the Spring Hill, was changed to United States, and she sailed from Boston July 7, 1860. Her departure was preceded by an interesting demonstration on the 4th of July, in which many distinguished persons participated. The schooner was of one hundred and thirty-three tons burthen. Her officers and crew, including Dr. Hayes, numbered fifteen persons. It was designed the vessel should sail on the 4th of July, but the weather proved unpropitious, and her departure was delayed.

On the fourth day of March, 1861, Dr. Hayes hoisted a flag in honor of Abraham Lincoln, who was supposed to be the President of



Expedition Flag of the Schooner United States, 1861.

the United States, though the fact was not known until August 14, when the expedition arrived at Uppernavick on its return. The flag was made by F. L. Harris, and a curious circumstance connected with it is, that it was made with only eighteen stars, from lack of material.

When the news of the election of Lincoln was received, five months afterwards, it was found that a rebellion had broken out in the Southern States, leaving only about eighteen States true to the Union.

Dr. Hayes had accompanied Kane on the expedition of 1854, when Morton caught sight of what was thought to be the open polar sea.

“ It now only remained for us to plant our flag in token of our discovery, and to deposit a record in proof of our presence. The flags were tied to the whip-lash, and suspended between two tall rocks, and while we were building a cairn they were allowed to flutter in the breeze; then, tearing a leaf from my note-book, I wrote on it as follows:—

“ ‘ This point (the most northern land that has ever been reached) was visited by the undersigned, May 18, 19, 1861, accompanied by George F. Knorr, travelling with a dog-sledge. We arrived here after a toilsome march of forty-six days from my winter harbor near Cape Alexander, at the mouth of Smith Sound. My observations place us in lat. $81^{\circ} 25'$, lon. $70^{\circ} 30' W$. Our further progress was stopped by rotten ice and cracks. Kennedy Channel appears to expand into the polar basin, and, satisfied that it is navigable, at least during the months of July, August, and September, I go hence to my winter harbor, to make another trial to get through Smith Sound with my vessel after ice breaks up this summer.

‘ I. I. HAYES.

“ ‘ MAY 19, 1861.’

“ This record, carefully secured in a small glass vial, was deposited beneath the cairn; then our faces were turned homewards. But I quitted the place with reluctance.”

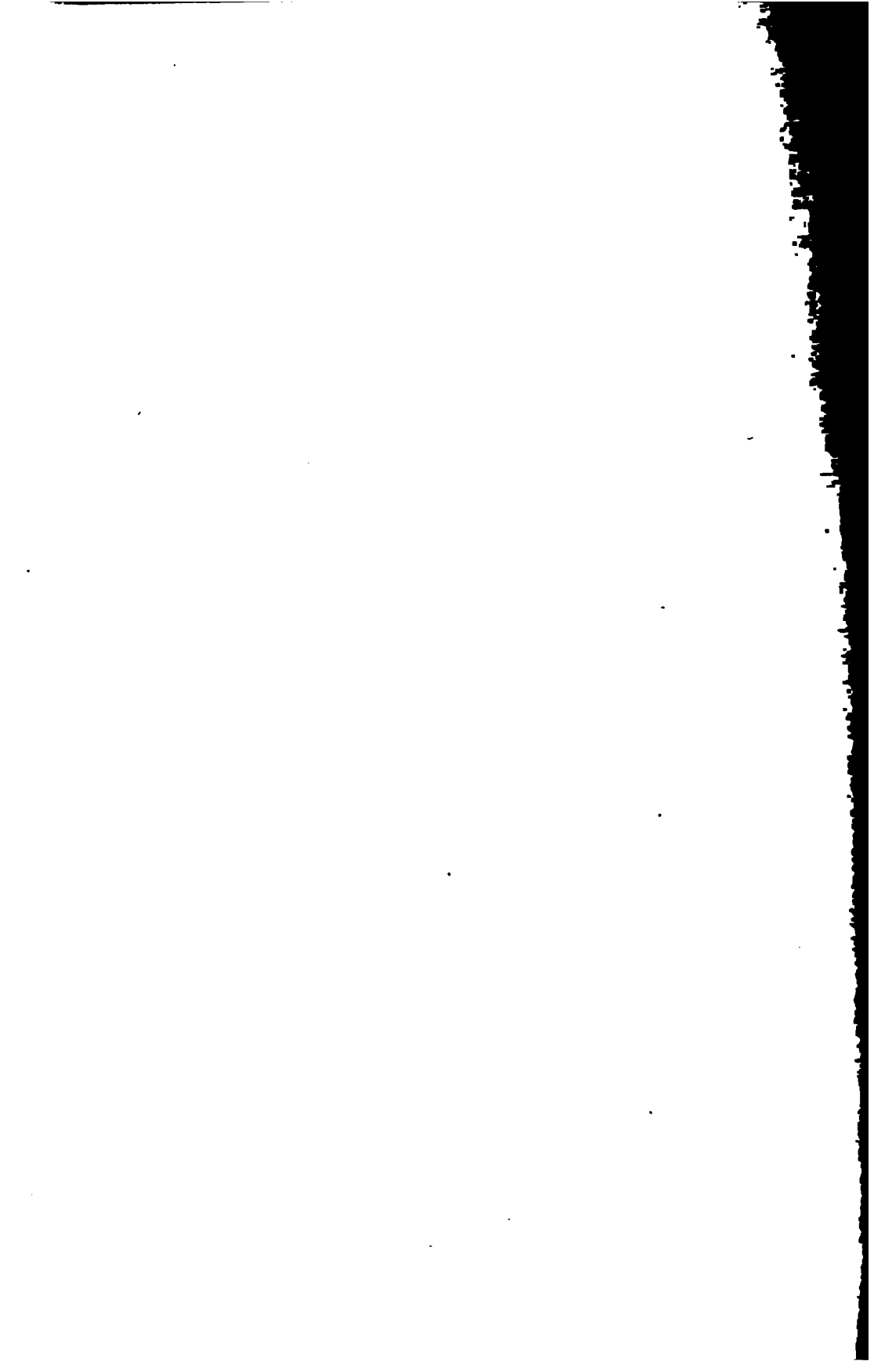
The flags planted upon the crag were a small United States boat-ensign, which had been carried in the South Sea exploring expedition of Captain Wilkes, and afterwards in the arctic expeditions of Lieutenant-Commanding De Haven and Dr. Kane, a little United States flag, which had been committed to Dr. Sontag by the ladies of the Albany Academy, two diminutive masonic flags, intrusted to Dr. Hayes,—one by the Kane Lodge of New York, the other by the Columbia Lodge of Boston,—and the expedition signal flag, bearing a crimson star on a white field. Dr. Hayes says, “ Being under the obligation of a sacred promise to unfurl all these flags at the most northern point attained, it was my pleasing duty to carry them with me,—a duty rendered none the less pleasing by the circumstance that together they did not weigh three pounds.”

The highest point attained by him he called ‘ Cape Lieber,’ a remarkable peak rising above Church’s monument, and the bay below it he named for Lady Franklin. The conspicuous headland, which he vainly attempted to reach on the last day of his northward journey, was named ‘ Cape Eugenie,’ for the Empress of the French, in appreciation

of the kindness of French citizens to the expedition; another prominent headland he named 'Cape Frederick VII.,' in honor of the king of Denmark, to whose Greenland subjects he was indebted for many serviceable attentions. The noble headland which, in faint outline, stood against the dark sky of the open sea, "the most northern known land upon the globe," he named 'Cape Union,' "in remembrance of a compact which has given prosperity to a people and founded a nation," unknowing that at that very time fratricidal hands were endeavoring to rend that glorious Union, and dissolve the compact which had resulted in such national prosperity. The bay lying between Cape Union and Cape Frederick VII. he named for Admiral Wrangel, whose fame in connection with arctic discovery is second only to that of Sir Edward Parry, and the lofty peak behind Cape Eugenie, overlooking the polar sea, he named 'Parry Mountain.' With that eminent explorer he must divide the honors of extreme northern travel; for, if Parry carried the British flag upon the sea nearer to the north pole than any flag had been carried hitherto, Hayes planted the American flag farther north *upon the land* than any flag had been or has since been planted.¹

¹Commander James Clarke Ross, R. N., had thirty years before, viz. May, 1831, fixed the British flag on the north magnetic pole, more than eleven degrees to the southward, and took possession of it and the adjoining territory in the name of Great Britain and King William IV. He erected a cairn, under which he buried a canister containing a record of the fact, regretting he had not the means of constructing a pyramid of size and strength sufficient to withstand the assaults of time and the Esquimaux. The latitude of the spot was 70° 5' 15" N., longitude 96° 46' 4" S., west of Greenwich. The latitude of the magnetic pole is unchangeable, but the longitude varies with every succeeding year. It is sufficient honor for Ross that he actually stood upon the magnetic pole of 1831, and in 1841 approached the south pole nearer than any other preceding navigator.

On May 12, 1876, Commander Markham, R. N., planted the British flag in latitude 83° 20' 28" N., a point nearer the north pole than was ever reached by a European. He reported that the site of the supposed "open polar sea" was found occupied by a sea of ice from eighty to one hundred and twenty feet in thickness, which he named the '*Paleo Crystle*,' or 'Sea of Ancient Ice.' On the grave of Captain C. T. Hall he fixed a brass tablet, inscribed, "Sacred to the memory of Captain C. T. Hall, of the U. S. S. *Polaris*, who sacrificed his life to the advancement of science on November 8, 1871. This tablet has been erected by the British Polar Expedition of 1875, who, following in his footsteps, have profited by his experience."

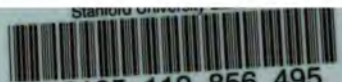




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