

TRAFALGAR DAY.

Since the Navy League instituted the custom, 12 or 15 years ago, of decorating the Nelson monument in Trafalgar-square on each recurring anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar, the movement in favour of an annual celebration of the great victory has spread very widely. Not only has there been a constant increase in the number of municipal corporations who have acceded to the request annually made by the Navy League that they should hoist flags on public buildings upon the anniversary, but the number of local celebrations has been added to, with the result that at the present day there are few cities and towns of importance in the country where "Trafalgar Day" is not observed in some form or other. This year 25 municipal authorities have signified their intention of acceding to the request to display flags to-day, and it is known that there are many others who, though they have not notified their intention, will do likewise. There has, too, been an extension of the movement in the Colonies, where many branches of the league have been formed. As in former years, some of these overseas branches are joining in the home celebration.

The work of decorating the monument, which was begun some days ago, was practically finished yesterday, and with the addition early this morning of some wreaths which arrived late it will be complete. The general scheme varies very slightly from that of last year. The decoration is again confined to the base and plinth, the column itself being left untouched. Banks of greenery are placed at the corners and on the steps of the plinth, the upper corners of which are decorated with branches of autumn-tinted oak. From these, garlands of overgreen depend to the base of the pedestal, which is festooned with laurel. Below are numerous floral tributes, with cards attached bearing the names of the donors, and huge laurel wreaths are placed at the sides and at each of the corners—the tributes of the Navy League and of some of its branches. They are for the most part tied with red, white, and blue ribbon, and in some cases bear the name "Nelson" picked out in flowers. That on the north side, which is tied with the French and Spanish colours, has a small shield attached bearing the inscription, "Respect and homage to the memory of the gallant sailors of France and Spain, who fell fighting at Trafalgar, October 21, 1805." The wreath on the south side is inscribed "To the memory of Nelson." Both are the tributes of the Navy League, who have placed below that on the south side a framed portrait of the great admiral. The central wreaths on the west and east sides, which are the tributes of the Plymouth and Windsor and Eton branches respectively, are similarly inscribed. The large corner wreaths, all bearing the inscription "To the memory of Nelson," come from the Torquay, Connaught-house School, Bristol, and Bombay branches of the league. A new departure has been made this year by affixing to the slabs on which the lions rest large printed cards bearing the names of all the ships which constituted the British Fleet at Trafalgar, together with the names of the captains of the vessels.

Tributes from persons who claim descent from officers who fought under Nelson are very numerous. The most striking of them is an enormous anchor of autumn foliage and chrysanthemums, which occupies the central position on the east side, inscribed:—"To the immortal memory of Nelson from descendants of officers who fought at Trafalgar." Attached to it are numerous cards bearing inscriptions. Two of the cards bear the names of Mrs. E. C. Symons and Miss Mary J. Pollard, daughters of the late Commander John Pollard, "who was signal midshipman to Lord Nelson on board the Victory at Trafalgar known as the 'Avenger of Nelson,' who shot from the poop of the Victory the man in the mizzen top of the Redoubtable, who fired the fatal shot which deprived England of one of the greatest heroes." Another is inscribed "Mrs. Fanny Hyde Smith, the only surviving daughter of Lieutenant Daniel Harrington, R.N., who served with Lord Nelson for over nine years, and fought on board his ship the Victory at Trafalgar." The inscription on a third card is:—"Lieutenant-General Sir J. W. Thomas, K.C.B., son of Acting-Lieutenant E. J. Thomas, H.M.S. Sparshott—at Trafalgar. Afterwards R. Admiral, ret." Other cards attached bear the names of Mrs. J. Langton Butcher, the Rev. W. C. H. Hughes D'Aeth, Mr. J. C. White, Mr.

F. S. Huskisson, Mrs. J. E. Manby, Commander Reginald F. Parker, R.N., Florence Horatia Suckling, Mr. E. H. Kenney, Mrs. Forsyth, Colonel C. Mitchell-Smith, Miss Mary Fell, Mr. F. Brand, Mrs. P. B. Hayward, Mrs. E. E. Jones, Mr. Edgar Goble, Mrs. Pearson Irvine, Mrs. George Rothwell, and the Misses F. and A. Voules. All are either sons or daughters, grandsons or grand daughters, great grandsons or great granddaughters, or nephews or nieces of officers who served under Nelson. Some of the descendants of Nelson and of his officers have sent separate tributes. An anchor of white chrysanthemums and ferns, tied with Navy ribbon and inscribed:—"Nelson. In Memory. 21st October, 1805," comes from the great admiral's grandnieces, A. and N. Mason. A wreath of bay, tied with tricolour ribbon, bears a card inscribed:—"From Miss Yule, daughter of the late Captain John Yule, lieutenant of the Victory at Trafalgar," and the inscription on another wreath, tied with similar ribbon, is "From Mrs. Chard, Miss Chard, Miss Honor Chard, grand daughter and great grand daughters of the late Captain John Yule, lieutenant of the Victory at Trafalgar." Another notable tribute is a wreath of bay and heliotrope flowers "From Mrs. Lillian M. McKerlie or Johnstone, only child of the late Rear-Admiral John McKerlie, who was first lieutenant on board the Spartiate under Captain Sir Francis Laforey at the battle of Trafalgar, October 21, 1805." There are numerous other tributes, including a large wreath tied with red, white, and blue ribbon, from the Ealing branch of the League, and an immense autumn-tinted maple leaf, bearing an anchor of lichen and the emblems of the rose, shamrock, and thistle, from the Victoria-Besquimaux branch; a wreath of laurel "From an admiral's wife and an admiral's daughter," a chaplet of laurel from Miss Esther Moorhouse, and a wreath of laurel and red geranium, encircling a shield, from the London Society of East Anglians.

This by no means exhausts the list of tributes, which come from all parts of the country and all classes of persons desirous of taking part in the commemoration of the great victory. Others are to be placed in position this morning.

It should be added that on Saturday afternoon Mrs. Crutchley, wife of the secretary of the Navy League, in accordance with annual custom, placed a chaplet of bay leaves on the tomb of Nelson in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Large numbers of persons visited the square to inspect the decorations yesterday, when vendors of reprints of *The Times* containing the despatches and of other contemporary accounts of the great battle did a brisk business around the monument.

The "annual Trafalgar service" was held at the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar-square, yesterday morning. The congregation included the chief officials of the Navy League, and the service was also attended by a detachment of the Legion of Frontiersmen, who marched to and from the church headed by their band. Canon E. E. Holmes was the preacher, his text being "The King had a Navy" (1. Kings X., 22). The National Anthem was sung after the Benediction. The collection was in aid of the funds of the Navy League.