

NAVAL WARRANT OFFICERS' JOURNAL

REGISTERED OFFICE—2, COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, LAKE ROAD JUNCTION, PORTSMOUTH.

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No. 1.



REVISION AND APPEAL

AFTER some little delay and slight adjustment the revision of the Chiefs' and Warrant Officers "Earnest Appeal" has been decided on by a majority vote of the branches, and it will be promulgated at an early date. So far as revision itself is concerned there has been but slight alterations in the wording, and none whatever in the spirit, of the Appeal which has held the field since the concessions of 1896, now nearly five years ago. There are two added clauses only, viz., that asking definitely for opportunities for young Warrant Officers to obtain substantive Lieutenant rank, for gallant or meritorious services, and the clause asking for compassionate allowances for Warrant Officers' children,—which are not at present allowed by the regulations. All else is practically the same. There is the clause asking for the establishment of a new rank approximating to that of Quartermaster and Ridingmaster in the Army. This clause is in the interest of the Chiefs, from whose lists officers to the new rank would be recruited, and fully rewarded by pay, emolument and pension for their long, faithful and oft-times, unrewarded meritorious services of their youth; when promotions and rewards for services in the field were not so much in the air as the work of the Association has made them during recent years. Not that it is anything like satisfactory at present, even though it has wonderfully improved during the last ten years by our constantly pegging away at the injustice and un wisdom of the old policy of letters of thanks and "noted at the Admiralty." If this rank is created it will at least provide a means of rewarding officers who are at present performing duties in dockyards and barracks and depots, at home and abroad, with pay and position equal to the great

responsibilities they bear, and the service they perform for the country as Chief Gunners, Chief Boatswains and Chief Carpenters. We must all acknowledge that our seniors, the Chiefs, have the first claim, and that they must have our first thought in the first clause of our new Appeal. But coupled with the old will come the young; for the branches have decided not to deny to the present young, and the coming generations of Warrant Officers, the opportunities of becoming substantive Lieutenants, if they can earn such a position, simply because those of the senior years never had such full opportunities in their junior days. To take up such a position, the majority of the members consider, would be unfair, unjust, and unworthy the men at present on the Chiefs' and Warrant Officers' lists. Rather do they believe that as the young men would like to see the seniors obtain their chance in a Honorary Lieutenancy at the end of their career, so do the seniors heartily wish that the young men should obtain a substantive Lieutenancy if they earn it and cared to accept it. These reciprocal good wishes between old and young have found expression in a common clause, which stands at the head of our new Appeal, and we hope and believe it will get that consideration from the authorities which its justice and expediency should promptly command.

After the old and young the middle-aged are catered for, in a clause which should also appeal very strongly to the authorities for immediate consideration. "It was in the last Appeal and it is in this, viz., "that all deserving Warrant Officers should be promoted to Chief at 18 years seniority." Surely 18 years is sufficiently long in one rank to ask that the next step should then be secured, irrespective of the members already on the Chiefs' list. No other rank of officers are called upon to serve anything like that time in one rank, if they are at all deserving and have not had a slip of some sort or other. Why then should Warrant Officers stand alone in this matter? They are not the least useful or the least hard-working among the officers of Her Majesty's Navy; and they ask that they should not be the least rewarded for long and deserving services. To be sure of obtaining one's Chiefship at 18 years seniority is little enough, in all conscience, to look forward to after such a period in one rank. But that little would be gratefully received and prevent many an old servant of the Crown being sent into retirement without ever having reached the Chief rank, and secured for himself and family the privileges which he struggled so hard to obtain, and

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NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

WE very much regret that the authorities have allowed one more year to pass without seeing their way to recommend the bestowal of a single promotion or honour on men or from the lower deck of His Majesty's Fleet. After such a year of strenuous effort in South Africa and China, where the sailors of the Naval Brigades have been constantly at work by the side of their military comrades, and sharing all their hard knocks and hard fare, it is impossible to argue that among the Chiefs and Warrant Officers and the rank and file of the Royal Navy, there have been none deserving some special mark of favour from the Queen. We know that it is not usual to bestow honours on New Year's day for services performed in the field, and that special "Gazettes" are used for this purpose. But our chief complaint is that promotions and rewards for naval rankers are so rarely found in these special lists and Gazettes—although men from the rank and file of the Army are promoted by the score—that we might, therefore, very well hope and expect to see the Admiralty making some new departure at the beginning of a new year, but more especially at the beginning of a new century. It would have been more than encouraging to the men of the fleet had the opening day of the new century dawned bright with a new hope of enhanced opportunity, and its early hours disclosed the names of half a dozen of the most deserving among them, who had been rewarded with promotion, or honour, for services rendered to their Queen and Country.

Name after name has appeared in the dispatches from the seat of war, belonging to men from the naval rank and file, during the last few months; yet the majority are passed over in silence. One gunner only, Mr. Sims, has been promoted to a lieutenancy, and one carpenter, Mr. Attrill, who was already nearly at the top of the carpenters' list, has been promoted to Chief Carpenter for services in the field. And this so far as we know, and up to the time of writing, is the miserable whole. There may have been, and probably have been, a few promotions among the petty officers and seamen who have been lauded, from one rank to another, and possibly there has been a petty officer or so promoted to warrant rank—although we have not yet heard of any such promotions—but will any



In Memoriam.

HER Most Gracious Majesty, Lady Queen Victoria, passed peacefully away, surrounded by Her Children and Grandchildren at about 6-30 p.m. on January 23rd, and a whole world mourns her loss.

At present our hearts are too full of poignant grief, and we are too stricken with sorrow to do more than record the deep sense of our loss, and to offer our humble and heartfelt condolence to the King and the members of the Royal family, whose sorrow is too sacred for words.

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IN MEMORIAM.

THE Queen is dead! The Queen is dead—and buried!! Even now the full purport of these solemn words are hardly realised by a sorrowing and grief-stricken people. The multitude, the millions, in

all the Empire have yet scarcely understood how great is their own *personal* loss, as well as the loss they share in common with their fellow citizens. Yet, alas, the full truth has to be learned with much deep sorrow and many burning tears. Our loss is so great that its first shock has stunned our senses; and the tingling sensation of a passing numbness has yet to come as we awaken to the full mental consciousness of how much has passed out of our lives in the passing of our late August Sovereign, Lady Queen Victoria; now of blessed and pious memory. Words are inadequate to express, and the human mind too feeble to arrange and set out in anything like brevity a summary of the virtues of our late saintly, widowed, Queen. We have no intention of trying to perform any such task in these columns. We shall simply endeavour here to set down a respectful and humble tribute on behalf of the Naval Chiefs and Warrant Officers—who were among the most loyal and devoted servants of their late Queen—and are equally attached to the present noble son of her house, who sits upon the throne—as we touch lightly on some traits of her August character and reign. But at the outset we are met with the difficulty of being unable to command words to adequately convey what we all feel in regard to Her whom we all loved so well, and whose memory will ever remain cherished in our hearts as their most sacred and valuable possession. Where can we start to describe Her Glory and Her Goodness? She who reigned and watched over us like a mother. Her whose name is so intimately mixed in everything we have learned

since our lying lips could utter words. The Lady whose name has ever been present in our literature, our art, music, songs and prayers; and in every hour and phase of our daily life—and the familiarity of whose name makes the new word of King—God bless his Majesty—as yet weird and unfamiliar. The Queen who has raised the whole moral tone of a nation as well as a court, and to whom we are indebted for the noblest example of womanhood as well as Queenliness that the world has ever known. A woman at whose death a whole world bows the head, and is stricken with sorrow and almost dumb with grief; except to find such words as can feebly convey to the King and his Royal relations some expression of their concern at the sad event and their sincere and heartfelt condolence for them in their irreparable loss. Little children truly might weep in the streets at the death at such a guiding star and godly example to an Empire. To her people she was so loving, so tender, so kind and so whole-heartedly sympathetic, that she was often able to express and give utterance to their views and wishes long before politicians and statesmen had come to realise what was passing in their minds. A mother indeed in word and act, and care and counsel, to all her people of every creed and every colour. An ideal Sovereign who stayed, almost by her own personal character and saint-like worthiness, the hand of the destroyer when monarchies were going down in Europe before the words and blows of mad people. An ideal maid, woman, Queen, mother and—greatest and most sacred of all—widow; who knew how to bear the burdens of her latter life, filled with many sorrows, as well as her early joys in a way that was an idealistic example for nearly three-quarters of a century. No wonder she became almost an idol to her people, and an ever-present influence in their hearts and homes, and was thus able to surround her Throne and her person with loyal and devoted subjects. Did ever loving wife more faithfully show deep grief and loving memory, almost passionate in its intense and lasting sorrow, for the death of a husband than our own Queen; since the passing away of her noble Consort—and during whose married life there never was a richer example of domestic love and duty than at the Queen's home? And now Victoria the pious and good has also been gathered to her fathers, and her remains are laid beside those of her well-beloved husband at Frogmore; while the world is the poorer to a degree that it has yet to fully realise. Weeping women, sorrowing men, saddened children throughout

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THE OUTLOOK.

WE are on the eve of the introduction of the Navy Estimates for the years 1901-2, and the outlook for the Chiefs and Warrant Officers is a matter in which all our readers will be most intensely interested. So far as straws shew which way the wind blows, we are entitled to believe that the Admiralty are considering some ways or means of recompensing members of our class for meritorious services, which their Lordships do not consider to be deserving of a Lieutenants' commission. We are led to this conclusion by a question and answer in the House of Commons; where Mr. Kearley asked Mr. Arnold-Foster if it was intended to recognise the services of certain Warrant Officers who had been mentioned in dispatches for their services in South Africa and China? The first part of Mr. Arnold-Foster's answer was in the old, old and familiar strain, that "there are difficulties in the way of promoting Warrant Officers to Commissions." With these difficulties we are perfectly familiar: so familiar, indeed, that we have been continually requesting their Lordships to remove them for the last twelve years. There are difficulties, but they are not insurmountable difficulties, as their Lordships occasionally prove when they make up their mind to set the present regulations, by which men can be raised from the Warrant rank to that of Lieutenant, into operation. They have done so three times within fifteen years, and if they had only promoted fifty instead of three men in this way there would be much less to be said on the matter. The latter half of Mr. Arnold-Foster's answer was more hopeful, although it was not altogether satisfactory. He said "a means to remedy this defect was under consideration, and he hoped this means would shortly be approved." That was the gist, but not the words, of the question and answer we have referred to above.

So far as we are able to judge this answer means, that the Admiralty are considering how to reward services performed by officers of our rank which, in their opinion, does not merit promotion to commissioned rank. It will be interesting to learn what shape these rewards are to take. Are Chiefs and Warrant Officers to be eligible for the D.S.O., or is some subordinate officers' order to be established, which when bestowed upon one of us will mark us out for early promotion? Or is it that a supplementary list is to be established, and officers more freely promoted to the rank of Chief in a way that will not interfere with the senior men, at the top of the list, obtaining their step in the usual way? Either or both of these steps would be a pace in the right direction—and, as our readers are aware, have been advocated in these columns for many months—but they must not be considered as sufficient for all purposes. We want the honorary rank of Lieutenant established for the active service officers among our senior Chiefs, who have such long and brilliant careers. Their reward must be something more substantial than an "Order," however flattering that might be, and however much their services should command recognition. There are many officers on the Chiefs' list who in their earlier careers have done much good service for their country, on the field as well as in other places. Unfortunately these services were performed and their names mentioned in dispatches, and confidential reports, back in the bad old times when a "letter of thanks," and "noted at the Admiralty" was considered sufficient recompense for any services a Warrant Officer could perform. Since that period these men on the Chiefs' list have, by their own action, woke the authorities up to a sense of the shame of such neglect; so that now when one of our class distinguishes himself he gets some more tangible reward; gets it, perhaps, over the head of his seniors who have made it possible for him to obtain it, and who themselves have performed like service back in the days of "letters of thanks," and "noted at the Admiralty." We suppose that if orders are established some of these "notes" at the Admiralty will be hunted up, and the men against whose names they stand will be fittingly rewarded. We also should hope and expect to see men who have been recommended for Lieutenancies, by their Captains, receive recognition of such recommendations. How could this be done if Orders and supernumerary Chiefs lists only were established. Our present Chiefs could not then be rewarded at all. But if the honorary rank of

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SATISFACTORY.

THIS year we have taken another satisfactory step to the front, and have enjoyed a more sympathetic hearing and received more liberal treatment from the Government than has been the case since 1898.

For this we are truly grateful to their Lordships. Our gratitude is all the more sincere and deep because not only have concessions been granted but Mr. Arnold-Forster, on behalf of the Admiralty, has at length frankly admitted that the disabilities we have been engaged in pointing out in these columns, for many years, are anomalies indeed. "*The Warrant Officers of the Navy are at this moment debarred from receiving the distinctions which I am quite certain that they have well earned, and that it confers upon soldiers an equivalent rank in the Army which cannot be conferred on the Warrant Officers of the Navy. That anomaly is too clear and indefensible to be prolonged. Cheers.*" This is a frank and manly admission, and these few sentences, coming from a Minister of the Crown in his place in Parliament, justifies every word that has ever been written in these columns or uttered on our behalf by our advocates in the House of Commons. We intend to write with restraint about this matter although we are naturally elated that our contentions have at last been frankly and universally allowed. We desire to express, on behalf of the class for which this paper exists, the obligation we owe to Mr. Arnold-Forster personally, and in an equal degree to Lord Selbourne, and the Sea Lords of the Admiralty, for the distinct and satisfactory announcement which has been made, that something *must* and *shall* be done. This is both empathic and just. It is the more satisfactory because it is just; and though it is belated it is encouraging. At the time we write the full extent of the promised concessions are not known and we cannot therefore

criticise and discuss them. That we shall not get all we contend for at once is fairly sure; but, on the other hand if clear and definite promises are worth anything at all we are on the eve of starting a new and promising era for the rank and file of the Navy. The bad old times will shortly be looked back upon with more wonder and amazement than they are borne with at present. We shall indeed wonder why the anomaly Mr. Arnold-Forster speaks about had not been recognised by the authorities and removed years ago. Even if we do not get so full a measure of relief to our disabilities as we should like, yet if we are to be treated the same in the matter of rewards for services rendered as our brothers and cousins in the Army one of our chief irritants will be removed. For it really was past bearing with, when one saw bunches of privates (to the number of nine in some cases) being selected from the Army and given Commissions, while officers of our own rank who had frequently been mentioned both in naval and military dispatches were being entirely overlooked by the authorities, because there was no means of rewarding them either in a honorary way by "orders," or in a more substantial way by promotion to a higher rank. Machinery to remove this irritant is at any rate to be set up, and whatever is to be done or left undone to remove the other disabilities set forth in our Earnest Appeal this one one has at least been tackled in, we hope, a thorough and liberal spirit.

As we have said before we are in no "I told you so" mood, but we may be allowed to state without any suspicion of immodesty that we have several times pointed out to the Admiralty that there would be an advantage in creating some sort of "Order" to which subordinate officers in the Navy could be promoted. Even some of our own readers laughed at us for our trouble, and none of our contemporaries ever gave us a line of support in any of their columns in regard to our suggestions. We also remember that one of our own correspondents called our proposals "empty, unpracticable, ridiculous and impossible"—a string of adjectives that might have hurt us had we been over-sensitive—but we stuck steadily to our guns and apparently the unpractical has become practical and the impossible has become possible. We based our arguments on that trite old proverb which says, what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and if an "Order" helped a commissioned officer to swift promotion at the latter end of his career, as well as at an earlier period, that it was not altogether an empty

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WHICH SHALL IT BE ?

THE South African Campaign, and the events of the last three years in all quarters of the globe, has hurried us along at such a rate in thought and action, that many of those things which were thought to be in the clouds have come down and are apparently very near to us. But among them all no two things have made such rapid strides as Imperial Federation and Conscription. Imperial Federation was an ideal of the few and only the dim and distant hope of many at the Diamond Jubilee, but the ideal is already more than half a realised fact in the first great step of the creation of an Australian Commonwealth. A Commonwealth given us at least a generation earlier than it might have otherwise been evolved, by the stupid action of Mr. Kruger and his burghers—atupid, at least, from our point of view—however patriotic and natural from theirs. The rush of the burghers over the Natal and Cape Colony borders gave such an impulse to Imperial sentiment, and such a tangible reality to the idealistic theory of imperial federation that the several Australian colonies leaped at one great bound the individualistic abyss which had heretofore separated them and been their stumbling block. The bond of battlefield blood is the closest bond of all—especially when men from the same common stock fight for the same common ends and interests. The millions, therefore, which the South African war has cost us, is not altogether confined to South Africa in its final operation for good.

But Messrs. Kruger and Steyn and their burghers have done more than this for us. They have shown us many weaknesses in our Army and our Army system, and they have wakened us to see that we were sleeping in a fool's paradise when we believed our compact little Army would meet every call of the empire.

This, too, has been worth some of the millions which have been and are being spent in South Africa ; for if we are thorough in reform and effective in the changes we make, the additional security to our matchless empire will also be worth a vast amount of money. The past is the past and may-have-beens are, happily, speculative ; but it is permissible for pessimists to argue that had we not been so clearly shown our Army weaknesses an even more severe trial of them by larger powers might have caused an utter collapse and cost us an empire. The optimists among us can all be wise after the event, and can believe this could not have happened because it has not happened. Such discussions are, however, now purely academical ; what is more real is the fact that the word *conscription*, which only a few short years ago was uttered by a few with bated breath, and denounced by the many as being so entirely foreign to our present thoughts of freedom and constitutional liberty as to be impossible, has now entered the arena of practical politics and the impossible may once more become possible. We say *may* become possible advisedly, for we remember that it can only be made possible by the parsimony of the Government or the apathy of the people. Indeed these two things are so closely allied that they are practically one ; for the public can insist on having anything it can afford to pay for, in a country with representative government such as we have. Parsimony can only be practised by ministers when the people are in a mood to accept what parsimony involves. This fact may hold back conscription in the British empire for many years, though we doubt if even so rich a country as ours will be able to afford to hold it back for ever. However it is the present which we have to deal with, and it seems to us we are at the parting of the ways. That dreaded word *conscription*, whose utterance was at one time supposed to brand a man as a lunatic, has been found in the mouth of Mr. Broderick, the Secretary of State for War, in his place on the front bench of the House of Commons, on the introduction of the Army Estimates. Not only has he uttered the word but he has also uttered a warning to the nation. He has told us that for the safety of the empire the Army must be increased, and that if the voluntary system does not—after the war fever has subsided—produce a sufficiency of recruits, then conscription will have to be considered and adopted in some form or other. That announcement only startled those who had not kept their eyes open, or exercised their understandings. For it is perfectly obvious that

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THE RANKER KNIGHT.

ALL our readers will heartily join us in congratulating Sir Hector Macdonald on the Knighthood that the King has bestowed upon him; and they will also congratulate the country on honouring itself—through their King—by honouring so deserving a son of its poorer classes as Sir Hector Macdonald—one time private in a Highland regiment. Such an example of well-merited recognition of gallantry and ability will be an inspiration and an encouragement to every soldier in His Majesty's Army. We wish, also, it could be added that it would inspire and encourage every sailor in His Majesty's Fleet. But that time has not come yet. There is still a great gulf fixed 'tween powder-boy and Admiral, however short and direct may be the way from drummer boy to General. These obstacles, however, are on the "give," and a steady and persistent pressure will eventually overcome them. Already we have a Minister in his place in the House of Commons declaring that some of the "anomalies" we have been fighting during the last fifteen years *are too indefensible to be prolonged, and that something must and shall be done.* This is satisfactory and shows we are at least making headway against the apathy which has so long existed in the country in regard to the rank and file of the Navy. Our advocates in Parliament have done much for us with their eloquence and their tenacity; and they have made it possible for a minister to go to the Treasury for money for the amelioration of the conditions of our service without being sent empty-handed away. But we are even now a long, long way behind the Army in these matters. Let us make a comparison (which will be enlightening rather than odious) that will at once bring home the difference between the way Tommy Atkins finds champions in Parliament, as compared with the Handy

Man. In the great debate on the Army reform in the House of Commons, on May 13th, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, an ex-minister of war and the present leader of the opposition, spoke for the soldiers—gratuitously championed their cause—in these words:

"We ought to recognise the superior standard now prevailing in living, and education, and intelligence; we ought to have less humiliating rules of drill and service; we ought to regard more the self-respect of a man when he has joined the colours. He ought to have more freedom, provided, of course, if he is worthy of it—freedom from uniform, freedom, if possible, from barrack life. (Hear, hear.) But I go further than this still. I have spoken of the reforms of many years ago, and, among others, of the abolition of purchase. This country agreed to the payment of a huge sum of money in order to open, as it was thought, a career in the Army to poor men. (Hear, hear.) How has that worked out in real life? I have not a word to say against the officers of our Army. I believe that they have splendid qualities, and I believe that, although more rigid professional attainments will now be exacted, they will be ready to come up to all that is demanded from them. The right hon. gentleman has appointed a committee to enquire into the question of entries for commissions in the Army, and there is a great tendency among those Army reformers of which I have spoken to make public schools the main avenue of entrance into the Army. Well, I should have more confidence in making this the main avenue for the Army if I had more reason to admire the character and training of the instruction they give to the youth of the country who pass under their hands. I am no devotee of English public schools. ("Oh, oh.") It is the result of my observations, when I look at the enormous funds under their control, the splendid material they have to deal with, the cost to all concerned, and the disproportionately small result following. In any case let us point out this—that it would be narrowing further the already narrow channel, confining commissions in the Army more and more to the well-to-do classes. (Hear, hear.) Why should not this noble, honourable career be open in some proportion to all in the Army? (Hear, hear.) I know the difficulties. There are difficulties of age, difficulties of money, difficulties of expensive living, and difficulties, perhaps, of social prejudices. But, Sir, difficulties are to be encountered and overcome; they are not

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THE "CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS."

The King has approved the institution of a decoration to be known as the Conspicuous Service Cross, as a means of recognising distinguished service before the enemy on the part of the Warrant Officers or subordinate officers of His Majesty's fleet, who, by reason of not holding a commission in the Royal Navy, are not eligible for appointment to any existing order or decoration. This decoration is to consist of a silver cross, with the reverse side plain, but having on the obverse side the Imperial and Royal cypher "E. R. L." surmounted by the Imperial crown.—*London Gazette.*

THIS month we have to gratefully record one of the concessions which were recently promised by Mr. Arnold-Forster from his seat in the House of Commons, in regard to the anomalies that existed and the disabilities under which the Chiefs and Warrant Officers of the Navy had so long laboured. It is the first fruits of an investigation that has been, and we believe still is, going on in connection with the re-adjustment of the conditions of our service, which it is our duty to advocate in these columns. Not, we hope, the chief and most important one; but still an important and satisfactory one if it is followed, as we have every reason to believe it will be, by concessions more substantial and far-reaching in regard to our pay and promotions. But speaking of this concession alone, and on behalf of our class, we wish to respectfully convey the sincere and heartfelt

thanks of the Chiefs and Warrant Officers to the sea and civil Lords of the Admiralty for establishing the order of the "Conspicuous Service Cross," by means of which Warrant and subordinate Officers can receive some mark of distinction for meritorious or distinguished service before the enemy. We are more than glad that subordinate officers have been included with Warrant Officers, as it will give the decoration an even greater value than if it had been created for Warrant Officers only. Officers of midshipmen and other junior ranks may thus earn this decoration and place C.S.C. after their names when they wear the uniform of Admirals, or officers of equivalent rank. This association will certainly enhance its value to Warrant Officers, and make them in the future co-members of a distinguished order with officers who are their co-workers in all the fighting and hardships of our great service. It is for this reason we are specially grateful to the authorities for including subordinate with Warrant Officers as being eligible for this new decoration. For it is a concession to modern naval thought, which daily becomes less exclusive and less tolerant of that policy which tends to keep the abyss between the men and their officers in the Navy as broad and deep as has been the custom during the last century, in spite of the fact that among all other classes of civil and military servants, and in commercial and business circles generally, these barriers have been largely broken down or entirely removed. Even those that argue that social distinctions must be maintained—and we have always allowed that to a certain extent this must be so in a country whose society is constituted as ours is—cannot fairly argue that there is not room and need for professional services to the country to be rewarded with a nearer regard to equality than has hitherto been the custom in the Navy, where although the commissioned naval officer could aspire to various orders and decorations created by his Sovereign, yet Chiefs and Warrant Officers who shared their every danger and hardship whether ashore or afloat, and who were the only officer representatives from the rank and file of the Navy, had not a single order open to them no matter how distinguished or meritorious their services.

However, that state of things has now passed away. We want to write with modesty and restraint about the sweeping away of this inequality; but it is only fair to the class we represent to point out that the creation of some such distinction as has now been

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OUR readers will have already heard, with profound regret, of the sad death of the Empress Frederick of Germany, Princess Royal of Great Britain and Ireland, in her Palace of Friedrichshof, near Cronberg. Thus our own beloved Sovereign has been deprived of a brother, a mother, and a sister, by the hand of death in a very brief period, and sorrow has followed sorrow with a rapidity that has been almost stunning. Amid it all, however, he has ever had the heartfelt sympathy of his people; and on the present sad occasion we wish on behalf of the Chiefs and Warrant Officers of the Royal Navy, active and retired, to express to His Gracious Majesty our deep-hearted sorrow, and to offer our respectful condolence on the death of his lamented sister the Empress Frederick, whose loss affects not only our own country, but also Germany over whose destinies her eldest son reigns with so much benefit to its people.

GIVE US KNOWLEDGE!

LAST month we made an appeal to the Admiralty to let the Chiefs and Warrant Officers share in any study of naval strategy which was to be provided for naval officers in the school which they have announced they are about to set up. This month we desire to repeat and amplify this appeal, and to cry still louder for facilities to obtain knowledge, knowledge, knowledge!!! "Educate and Advance" is the motto of this *Journal* and of the Chiefs and Warrant Officers generally. Well, the Admiralty are, after many pleadings, gradually *advancing* us, and we

on our part want to return their fuller recognition of our zeal and ability by *educating* ourselves to the utmost limit of our capacity. This capacity we believe, in our young men who have grown up in the atmosphere of cheap and good education, to be intellectually equal, in many cases, to that of the average naval officer, of a generation ago, when facilities for education among the class from which a large number of our poorer naval officers were drawn, was very little if any better than are the facilities of our rank and file at present. We make this comparison not in an offensive way, but merely to bring home to those we ask for further professional education the fact that by withholding it they are unjustly and perhaps unintentionally depriving the empire of services which could be rendered it by its poorer sons to be found among its naval rankers; if their intellects were only developed to the uttermost by every reasonable opportunity of obtaining the professional knowledge they are so constantly craving for, and which they feel is being unjustifiably and detrimentally withheld. We want only the opportunity to acquire the knowledge we seek, and we promise the Admiralty no time or trouble on our part will be spared if facilities are only given for its acquisition. Already scores of Chiefs and Warrant Officers have spent many scores of hours of their private time (and spent their own money) in acquiring nautical knowledge at science and art classes, and at other places, by undergoing an elementary and even an advanced course of nautical astronomy and navigation. We are a nation to whom the sea is everything and nautical knowledge is nautical power. It is therefore more than desirable, it is absolutely necessary, that nautical knowledge should be diffused to the utmost limit among our sailors of all classes. As sailors of the Chief and Warrant rank we are ready, willing and anxious to acquire that knowledge which will mean power to our country. We do not only ask but we offer. Opportunities we appeal for. Of our very best we are prepared on our side to give.

In the present strenuous race for sea-power we cannot hope or expect to compete for all times with all nations in the size of our fleet and the number of our keels. There are now half a dozen competitors for sea-power, where once we held the lead amounting to an indisputable superiority; and we have to remember that our rivals had all the advantage of our accumulated experience to start with. Let us not then make the same mistake as we are accused by many of having made with our business

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3N common with the whole civilised world, but more especially in accord with the Anglo-Saxon race, we deeply deplore the death of President McKinley of the United States of America, and desire to offer our heartfelt sympathy and condolence to the great American nation; as well as to the heart-broken lady left behind, whose holy sorrow is surrounded by a halo of sanctity, beside which even words of sympathy sound harsh. Our hearts bleed with theirs. As they mourned our Queen, so we mourn their President; with a whole-hearted and deep sorrow. No sentence can adequately express our reprobation of this foul and horrible murder by the hand of an assassin. But over his newly closed grave we can mutually consider, as the two greatest liberty-loving people, whose countries are cities of refuge for the whole world's outcasts, whether the time has not arrived for the enactment of new laws to limit or prevent such atrocious ingratitude, from a feindish set of fanatics.



STILL MOVING.

WE are still moving, if it be but slowly, towards the time when we shall know what are the nature of the concessions, in the way of appointments, etc., which are to be given to the Chiefs and Warrant Officers in the fulfilment of long standing promises from successive representatives of the Admiralty in Parliament; and renewed once again this year in the person of the Secretary of the Admiralty—Mr. Arnold-Forster. In reply to a question in the early part of last Session, Mr. Arnold-Forster assured Mr. Kearley that a Committee was looking into the affairs of the Naval Ordnance

Department, with a view, among other matters, to see if the pledges of finding appointments in that department which had been so often promised us could not be fulfilled. We also heard that consideration was being given to other means of rewarding deserving Chiefs and Warrant Officers by allotting a number of special naval appointments to men who rise from the ranks: and we are strong in the hope and belief,—though no definite official statement has been made, that such appointments would be filled by officers promoted to the rank of hon. lieutenant. The mills of the Admiralty grind slowly, but we have been informed, through the medium of an answer by Mr. Arnold-Forster to a question by Mr. Kearley just before Parliament was prorogued, that the wheels of the mill are still moving. The Committee had now reported he said, and their report was being considered; but what the nature of that report is can only be guessed. We hope it is a favourable report, and if the Naval Ordnance Department cannot be very widely opened to the Chief and Warrant Officers of the Navy, we trust the Committee have seen their way to recommend some other appointments where the ripe experience of such officers may be utilized with advantage to their country, and with greater profit to themselves and the magnificent fleet to which we all belong, and in and for which our knowledge and usefulness have been acquired.

We expect, however, that we shall have to possess our souls in peace—or in such peace as we can—for a little while yet, while the mills of circumlocution and red tape do their work. If so we can comfort ourselves with the thought that we are not the only class who have to wait the slow-moving action of official machinery. We remember that last year the Engineers were told, in the discussion on the Navy Estimates, that something was being done for them and that their case was *under consideration* (how familiar, to us, is the phrase) but they had to wait until October before they knew the result of this consideration and the nature of the concessions which were granted. We shall be perfectly content to wait until then before learning officially what our concessions are to be if only they are satisfactory when they come. We have done everything in our power to inform the Admiralty and their Committee what are our views and our wishes in the matter. It may be that our opinions have been given their proper weight in the argument for and against reform; or it may be that they have been cast aside as only representing the narrower side

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NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE.

WE feel we cannot pass from this subject of nautical knowledge, which we treated in the leading articles of our August and September issues, without making yet a third effort—feeble as it may be—to bring home its importance to other minds; and without one more endeavour to make others see it as it appears to us. The subject is fraught with so much real danger to us, if we continue in our present state of apathy, that an empire may be lost before we fully realise that we have been taking things too comfortably, and have not been as ready to adopt new ideas, or improve old ones, as we ought to have been. Let us profit as we ought to profit, by the way the Boers have shown us that the new world, and new communities, do not run their fighting and their affairs on old-world lines. They strike out new means and new methods for themselves, and upset and confuse all our preparations for an old-time and old-world struggles. Fortunately for us they were a small people, numerically, and our big battalions, trained on the old lines, were able to prevent their attaining any great measure of success, before we were able to organise a force trained for this new-people and new-world warfare; and so to eventually regain the mastery. But, now, are we quite sure that our next naval foe may not also fight on novel lines—we allow there is not the same latitude of choice as there is ashore—and lines on which, if we are not very careful, we shall not be prepared to meet him? Had we not better take every possible precaution, adopt every possible method, to be prepared at every possible point—and when we think of it all, are we doing everything we might do to be prepared at any time for any plan of attack on our naval forces? The matter is

a serious one and requires deep thinking. Are we still nursing old ideas and old customs too closely, and too much inclined to smile contemptuously at "new-fangled ideas" which may some day give us as much trouble on the water, as the startling fact that Long Tom's were not only siege guns but could be swung along with an army and planted on mountain tops, gave our Generals at Ladysmith and Magerfontein?

Let us remember that we laughed, at first, at the "big ways" our American cousins adopted in their business transactions—the way they advertised, etc.—when they were a much younger country. The "lick creation" expression was a by-word among us; for we had hitherto been without serious rivals in the trade of the world, and we sneered at these young cockcombs who were running a tilt at our monopoly. And no doubt we honestly thought, then, we could smile them down, and still stick to our old way of doing business. But we know better now. We do not now laugh either at America or Germany, as rivals, but we pay them the sincerest form of flattery—we imitate them. Our statesmen and our press take every opportunity—from Lord Roseberry and the "Times" to the meanest politician and the cheapest evening paper—to impress on our merchants that unless we copy their methods and adapt our goods to new markets we cannot hope or expect to hold our own against our great commercial rivals—who were at one time our pupils—in the trade of the world. That is a very different tone to the one we formerly played, when "lick creation" was a by-word among us. Our American cousins are, indeed, "licking creation" with their tremendous business concerns, their scores of multi-millionaires and what their President Mr. McKinley—for whose loss our grief is only equalled by the reprobation in which we hold his murderer and the ghastly crew from which he springs—recently called "appalling prosperity." Yes, we had better be frank with ourselves and mend our ways by adopting instead of laughing at new ideas, which at first appear incongruous and ridiculous because they do not fit in with our previous thought and training. Better far give these things examination and trial, and see what there really is in them before we condemn what our rivals eventually use against us with such telling effect.

The moral of all this commercial success is very, very plain, and what we appeal for is its application to our naval affairs. America and Germany are rising naval nations, as well as industrial ones, and we

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OUR SAILOR PRINCE.

NO one will more heartily congratulate the Prince of Wales, on his accession to that title, than the officers and men of all ranks and ratings in His Majesty's Fleet. It is safe to say that, like his Royal Uncle, the late Duke of Edinburgh—a title more familiar to fleetmen than that which His Royal Highness bore when he left us for Germany—there is no more popular officer in the Royal Navy to-day than the present Prince of Wales. We have had him with us since he was a nite of a Naval Cadet, and he has grown up cheek by jowl with the poorer sea-sons of our race, and shared all their hardships and much of the hard fare in all classes of ships and vessels from torpedo-boats to battleships. His face has been burnt by the suns and whipped with the wind and spray in all the latitudes that are navigated by the rest of us; and we have been proud of him all the while. From the old *Bacchante* to the *Ophir*, from a Middy to an Admiral, he has served his Queen and King as we have served them, and has done all the duties that fall to the share of a naval officer with the same loyalty, the same zeal, the same unquestioning obedience to superiors, that permeates and imbues every officer and man in the British Fleet. We have seen him under all conditions of wind and weather, battling with that great element the sea, with cheerful spirit and steady tenacity in every clime where a British ship ploughs a furrow, to mark the line of a dominant race of sea kings. Seen him in a torpedo-boat—

Lashed to the conning-tower.
Holding himself to his post.
Thrashing her through a westerly gale
Around the Irish coast

and we have also seen him in maturer years with:—

An eye for the con, and a hand on the gang.
Lboarding a cruiser a big fleet among:
Porting or starboarding—helm to a tooth,
Drop her astern, or ahead make a shoot.

And seeing him we have admired and found in him the same dash and courage as is to be found in that great body of British officers, who secure to us the supremacy of the seas, and the path of the waters to all our vast over-sea dominions. There is no necessity to claim for him a superiority to his fellows, which he would probably be the first to repudiate, but he has certainly never been the least if he has never been the greatest among that great host of gentlemen which are all good, and to whom Great Britain owes so much—her Sailor Sons who spring from Prince or Ploughman. It is the great secret of our sea power that our naval training fits every man to his place and his task, on board our fighting ships, no matter what his origin or what his social status. There is a unity of spirit and action that pervades all ranks from the Admiral to the boy, who share common dangers and common hardships, as they spring from the same common stock of a maritime race. A race that seeks no higher distinction for its Kings and Princes, its peers and plebians, than a place in that great and splendid organisation and fighting force, the British Navy. A force that has never yet been matched, much less excelled, in the history of the world from the creation to the present time. Not faultless or perfect—but with less faults and more perfection than its rivals. A force of which the British Empire is proud, and which its people are determined shall not be eclipsed while men or money can be found to man and equip it. To belong to such a service is a privilege highly appreciated by those who serve their King and Country under the white folds of its flag, and who do not appreciate it the less because of its close association with our Royal House.

Hence it is that we, of the Chief and Warrant rank, who spring from the rank and file of the Royal Navy, are proud of the distinction that has recently been bestowed on the King's Son, our royal fleetmate, on his elevation to the title and dignity of the Prince of Wales. Our congratulations though humble and hearty, are heartfelt and deep; and we recognise how well and truly this new honour has been earned by the late trip of His Royal Highness round the world, to visit our self-governing colonies, and to thank them in person on behalf of His Royal Father, our Gracious King, and his subjects in the Motherland, for the