

A VERY pleasant evening appears to have been spent by the members of the Malta Club, and their friends, on the evening of the last day of the old century when they assembled in their club room and sat down to an ample banquet, to the number of about 40.

Songs and toasts then ensued, in which "The Queen," "Our Club," "Navy and Army and Civilians," "Sweethearts and Wives," and "Absent Friends" were among those pledged in the convivial cup; and the songs came to an end at midnight when the company all joined hands around the table and in rousing tones sped the parting year with "Old Lang Syne." A new committee has been elected and we are glad to hear the balance sheet was considered to be a most satisfactory one: although it, of course, leaves a debt, which was to be expected, in so new an institution. This, however, will be reduced later on, as the fleet was away four out of the first six months that the club was opened. Well done Malta!

A correspondent from the *Devastation*, at Gibraltar, also writes us congratulating the branches on having added "compassionate allowances" to their Appeal; which he anticipates will be about the first thing to be granted. He also thinks it would be a good plan for all the Chiefs and Warrant Officers to be furnished with a copy of the new Appeal, so that they may be in a position to answer any questions put to them by their superiors? We can only promise our correspondent to give him all the information possible about the "Appeal" and the "arguments" in our next issue, if everything is in working order, and we think his suggestion to follow the example of a previous revision and send out a copy of the Appeal to the different ships is an excellent one, if a resolution to that effect is moved and agreed upon by the branches at home. He also asks how selections for Warrant Officers' appointments are made—but this latter is beyond our ken.

Our January numbers are usually the worst numbers of the year, and our last number was no exception to this rule. A press of 'Xmas business, and 'Xmas holidays, is largely responsible for the result. We have to apologise to the Officers of the Gunnery School at Sheerness for the exclusion of the report of their Sociel. To correct the idea in one of our articles that the *Charybdis* is a square-rigged ship, and that we are forming a Royal "Irish" Reserve, instead of a Royal "Fleet" Reserve; and there were several other clumsy mistakes in our minute reports and elsewhere which we have to apologise for. Truly proofs cannot be examined too often. We promise amendment and have censured the Editor severely.

AN UNJUST REFLECTION.

SIR,—I have noticed with much regret that statements have been made as to the hostility likely to be raised towards the Chiefs and Warrant Officers, by their shipmates in the Wardroom, if they persist in advocating the promotion of deserving young Warrant Officers to Lieutenant rank. Without saying one word about the wisdom or unwisdom of this policy of the class which your *Journal* represents, I may yet be allowed to say that I have received nothing but the very greatest of kindness and the heartiest of welcomes from all classes of officers of Wardroom rank, and above, with which my recent promotion has brought me into contact. For this I am so grateful that I feel compelled not only to thank them, but to assure my old messmates that if any of them have the good fortune that I have had, and get promoted to Wardroom Rank, I am quite convinced their position among their new messmates and superiors will be exactly that which their conduct and bearing warrant, and that they will find no trace whatever of any of the prejudice or hostility they dream about among naval officers, unless their experience is very different to what mine has been.

I need hardly repeat that I am deeply sensible of and appreciate this kindness and consideration for me in my new position; and my old messmates will not, I know, resent my deprecating any remarks of theirs that appear to me to be unjust and without foundation.

W. SIMS, Lieut., R.N.

The following correspondence will explain itself.

• Chiefs' and Warrant Officers, R.N.

Death Benefit Association,

2, Commercial Buildings,

Lake Road, Portsmouth,

14th January, 1901.

“Your Royal Highness.

SIR,—In accordance with a resolution passed unanimously, at a meeting of members of the above Association, held at Portsmouth on the 9th inst., I humbly and most respectfully beg to forward on their behalf, their hearty and sincere congratulations on your Royal Highness's promotion to the rank of Rear-Admiral in Her Majesty's Fleet. The glorious service in which your Royal Highness takes such deep interest.”

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble and obedient servant,

THOS. DAVIDSON,

Secretary.

York House,

St. James's Palace, S.W.

20th January, 1901.

Sir.—I am desired by Admiral H.R.H. the Duke of York to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., conveying the kind congratulations of your Association to His Royal Highness on the occasion of the promotion of His Royal Highness to the rank of Rear-Admiral in Her Majesty's Fleet.

In reply I am to say that your letter caused His Royal Highness great gratification, and I am to thank you sincerely for it.

Faithfully yours,

F. W. DE WINTON,

Major General.

Telegram to the King from Chatham; January 23rd, noon.

To His Majesty the King, Osborne, Isle of Wight.

The members of the Naval Chiefs and Warrant Officers' Death Association are stricken with grief at the sad news, and the great loss the Empire has sustained in the death of their deeply lamented and beloved Queen.

They beg humbly to offer their heartfelt condolence to the King, Queen Alexandra and the other members of the Royal Family.

JAMES HALL,

Chief Gunner, R.N.,

H.M.S. Pembroke,

Chatham.

IN the January number of the *Bluejacket*, which, as *Sailor and Scribe* most of our readers will know, is a paper which has a considerable circulation among men on the lower deck, and is written by sailors for sailors, the Editor, Lionel Yexley, discloses himself to his readers and proves to be a man who served for nearly 20 years as man and boy in Her Majesty's Navy. If evidence were wanting that capable writers and thinkers can be produced from the lower deck Mr. Yexley's personality supplies it: for anyone who reads the *Bluejacket* will find well-written and well-reasoned leaders as well as parts and comments full of logic and moderation. He is no cut and slash Editor, although he knows how to use a sharp-edged criticism when he deems it necessary, and the tone of his paper is always a high and elevating one. He does not write down to the lowest strata on the mess deck, but raises the best among them to higher levels, while he touches the understandings and tries to elevate the generality of lower deck dwellers. His editing is above reproach and his knowledge of naval subjects full and deep. A true friend to the B. B., who now his identity is revealed and they know him for what he is, will probably trust and support him the more. "A sailor turned scribe," is his description of himself; and we can heartily congratulate the rank and file of the Navy on their sailor scribe.

An irreparable loss. SOME miscreant and vagabond has inflicted a very severe loss on Greenwich Hospital in particular, and the country in general, by a dastardly act of burglary in which he removed many priceless Nelsonian relics.

It is hard to conceive how even a regular crackman could stoop to so base a deed as this ; although biz is biz and we do not look for sentiment among men of this particular criminal class. That the burglary was committed single handed appears fairly certain from the fact that the heavy silver-plated articles were left untouched, owing no doubt that they were too heavy to remove. The losses include a number of medals and Nelson's watch, and these have probably, long ere this, been run down in the melting pot, the proceeds of which invaluable articles will now yield but a few miserable shillings. The articles were mostly taken from plate glass cases in the right hand corner of the Painted Hall—the beautiful chamber which Greenwich school boys, and others familiar with the Hospital, among our readers will remember was decorated by Sir James Thornhill and occupied by him nearly twenty years of his working life. It is recorded that Sir James received £30 a square yard for the ceiling and £1 per square yard for the wall decorations of this superb hall, which is a study of genuine genius remarkably displayed. This unspeakable outrage will be a lesson to the authorities, for Greenwich Hospital is a storehouse of other priceless articles such as Sir John Franklin's Arctic Expedition, consisting of watches, coins, spoons and trinkets that formed part of the outfit of that unfortunate expedition. In the Hall and Vestibule there is also a naval gallery of statues, portraits and pictures, where the career of Lord Nelson is illustrated by a collection of paintings and pictures, and where iconoclasts and thieves could easily destroy and rob a nation of some of its most valuable and cherished relics and antiquities. It is to be hoped, therefore, that a stricter watch and guard will be kept not only at the Greenwich but at similar institutions where precious national relics are stored for the Empire ; for it often follows that when once the example is set in some fresh rascality such as this it is followed by a host of notoriety hunters, or desperate thieves, who are ever ready to copy and imitate even though they cannot conceive or originate such outrages as that which has just occurred at this ancient institution. We hope, even yet, that this ruffian may be laid by the heels, though it is too much to hope that the result of his burglary will ever be recovered in its original shape.

As others see us. THE Naval Warrant Officers have revised their appeal after a discussion extending over some months. By no possibility can the deliberations of this body be hurried, for what is proposed by one branch at its monthly meeting must subsequently be confirmed by all the other branches, and as the Warrant Officers are, as a rule, closely critical, the ball is often kept rolling for months before any important scheme is finally adopted. It may, therefore, be assumed that the Warrant Officers having finally drafted their new form of appeal, are expressing the collective views of the entire class; and it cannot be said that their new claims are exorbitant or wild. They ask that young Warrant Officers may be selected for promotion to substantive lieutenant rank for gallant or meritorious service, and that compassionate allowances should be granted to Warrant Officers' children. In all other respects the appeal stands exactly as it did in 1896, when it was last revised. The Warrant Officers would probably strengthen their case if they would avoid the invidious comparison between the social status of themselves and the lieutenants who have been brought in from the mercantile marine, for the social bugbear has at last been buried. Its existence was recognised when Messrs. Webber and Cathie were promoted, and these officers have always held independent commands, where no caste question could arise, but the appointment of Lieutenant Sims to a ship in the Channel squadron showed that the Admiralty felt at last that the ranker was fit to associate with officers whose comradeship had been won by his meritorious services. At the present moment we cannot

complete the tail of cruisers for the Channel Squadron because of the scarcity of lieutenants and engineers. The Admiralty are reluctant to increase the "militia," because it has never been a popular measure, though no case has ever been reported where naval officers failed to show the courtesy and confidence that were due to their messmates. If, then, it be desirable to increase the number of lieutenants, and the social bugbear being laid, there seems to be no more ready means than that recommended by the Warrant Officers. Obviously the greatest care would have to be taken in making the selections; at the same time if more lieutenants are to be made than can possibly go through the *Britannia* there is no apparent reason why men whose training has been purely naval should not be preferred to men who have had no such training. We, therefore, wish the Warrant Officers success. — *Naval and Military Record*.

*A Social
Evening
at
Sheerness.*

ON Tuesday evening, the 18th December, the Warrant Officers' Mess at the Royal Naval Barracks was en fete, the occasion being a Social Evening for the members and their families prior to the establishment closing for the Christmas holidays. Owing to limited space the function was confined to the actual members of the mess, only one or two guests being invited.

The Mess-room was given up for use as a smoking-room, the billiard-room and corridor, being gaily decorated with flags, ferns, and flowers, were utilised as sitting and children's play-rooms respectively; the supper being laid in the school-room.

The guests assembled at 7 p.m., being received at the officers' entrance by members of the committee, and games for the children were at once initiated in the corridor, where the small fry disported themselves with great enjoyment until 8 p.m. when supper was announced. After doing full justice to a capitally arranged meal, being attended by numerous ready helpers, the little people again returned to their playground where fun was kept up until many sleepy eyes pleaded for home and bed.

A ROYAL PAGEANT.

WE shall be readily excused if we devote two out of our three leading articles this month to the passing of our late well-beloved, good and pious Sovereign, Lady Queen Victoria.

For we feel we must set down some kind of record, however feeble or humble, of the greatest funeral the world has ever seen ; fit ceremony as it was over the remains of the best Queen that ever reigned. Victoria was the mistress of the seven seas and the empress of the waves ; and it was only appropriate that the first part of the great and mournful pageant from Osborne to Windsor—from one Southern home to another—should commence by all that was left to us as mortal being saluted with reverent mien and solemn bearing by the sailors she so much loved, and the ships that had always carefully guarded her vast Empire over-sea. The naval cavalcade was stately and overawing in its solemn grandeur as the Royal Yachts, headed by the *Alberta* with its precious burden, steamed slowly up through the long line of imposing battleships, that told forth the passionate love and devotion of their crews in the slow numbers of minute guns. Here was a fleet in tears for Victoria the Great and Good ; the

NAVAL ORDNANCE STORE DEPARTMENT.

WE are informed on excellent authority that a departmental committee has been appointed at the Admiralty to investigate into, and reorganize the affairs of the Naval Ordnance Store Department ; and as the Chiefs and Warrant Officers of the fleet have very solid interests in that connection it will be well to remind our readers of the history of this department.

When the Naval Ordnance Store Department was inaugurated in 1890, it was intended to officer it entirely by naval men, a Post Captain or Rear Admiral being at the head, with certain officers who had gone through the long course in the Gunnery Schools as Naval Ordnance, and Deputy Naval Ordnance Officers. Assistant Naval Ordnance Store Officers were to be made from the Chief and other Gunners, who were, or had been, employed in connection with Ordnance establishments, and minor posts were to have been filled by gunnery ratings among the petty officers of the fleet. For this scheme that distinguished and expert officer Sir John Fisher was responsible, and had he had a free hand, and not been hampered by interested civilians, it is morally certain it would have been in operation to-day ; in which case it is also morally certain that reorganization in the first decade of its existence would have been unnecessary. In pursuance of this intention five Lieutenants (G) were sent to the Artillery College at Woolwich and qualified as Inspectors of Warlike Stores, four of these Officers were appointed, to Portsmouth, Devonport, Sydney, and Chatham respectively, and in the case of the two former it was expected they would serve as I.W.S. until sixty years of age, taking over also the duties of Naval Ordnance Store Officers, as the posts were made. At the same time certain Warrant Officers were marked for posts in the department, and affairs had progressed so far as to discuss the amount of remuneration these officers were to be awarded.

Alas for the fate of mere naval officers, even when the efficiency of the fleet is in the balance against the interests of civil or military officers ! their Lordships of the Treasury in a minute of some four pages of

There is another side to the question which needs to be taken in conjunction with the above, and that is the promises made to the Chiefs and Warrant Officers of the Navy in this connection :—

On the 14th March, 1892, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord George Hamilton, from his place in the House of Commons, promised "to do our best in connection with the Naval Ordnance Store Department to provide posts for Naval Warrant Officers."

On 18th March, 1893, Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, stated, "the question was engaging the earnest attention of the Admiralty, and he hoped before long to make a start in the direction desired, as the Admiralty were preparing as a commencement to make appointments for the Chief Warrant Officers in the Ordnance Establishments as these gradually came under the control of the Admiralty."

On the 1st August, 1893, the Civil Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. E. Robertson, said, "as already stated, the Admiralty are desirous as suitable opportunities occur to increase the number of posts open to the Warrant Officers by promotion in Ordnance Establishments, and other employment on shore."

On 20th September, 1893, Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, remarked, "the Admiralty were perfectly willing to carry out the promises of the late First Lord of the Admiralty, they would certainly appoint Warrant Officers to the Ordnance Establishments as vacancies occurred. He must say, however, that these vacancies would not be frequent, at first, because when these Establishments were taken over from the War Office the Admiralty had been compelled to take over the men in charge as well. As appointments occurred, however, they would be filled by Naval Warrant Officers."

On 12th December, 1894, the same gentleman said "at the time of the transfer of the Naval Ordnance Stores it was arranged at the instance of the Treasury that the military officers then holding appointments should be utilised. As

The following has been received from the King, by Mr. James Hall, chief gunner, R.N., in reply to the telegram of condolence which was sent to His Majesty on behalf of the Chiefs and W.O.s D.B. Association :—

“Buckingham Palace.

“The Private Secretary is commanded to convey the thanks of the King for the kind expression of loyalty and sympathy contained in the message which you have forwarded to His Majesty.

“31st January, 1901.”

AMONG those whose privilege it was to render some last and almost sacred service to the remains of our late beloved Queen were the Royal Yachtsmen, who were so near her person during life. The Chiefs and Warrant Officers were represented by Messrs. Colwell and Rice, the latter of whom received the Silver Medal of the Victoria Order, which was bestowed personally by His Majesty the King, for *duty successfully performed*. This duty our readers will know was performed at Osborne House, and on board the *Alberta*. The officers and men who received this medal will, we are sure, hold dear such a memento and treasure of the blessed memory of our late Saintly Queen.

WILL those among our subscribers who have been too busy to think about their subscriptions kindly make an effort to send us along any arrears (and their subscriptions for 1901) as early as convenient ! We all know how such things are forgotten, or deferred from time to time, by busy men in seagoing ships on foreign stations, and although we have been anchored snugly at home while dozens of our topmates have been engaged with the enemies of the Empire in all parts of the world, they will not resent our reminding them that we should be glad to receive their postal orders as early as convenient. If they will just make one dash for the ship's office and get an order to satisfy that all-devouring manager of ours, both he and the Association, whose servant he is, and who owns the *Journal*, will be much obliged to them. Our subscribers pay up so very well, as the acknowledgments on page 12 each month amply testifies, that this may appear a little ungracious on our part. But we feel quite sure that those who have forgotten us will not mind their attention being called to it, and that the few outstanding accounts for the year 1900 will be cleared up by their attending to it directly they have read this hastener of their good intentions.

*Our
Associa-
tion's
work.*

THE members of the Association serving abroad will be glad to know, for the benefit of themselves and the members of the class around them, that the last payment of the Association to a deceased member's nominee. (the widow of the late Mr. William J. Lyne, ret. boss, R.N.,) was £58 11s. 0d. Making a total disbursement during the existence of the Death Benefit Association of £15,014 6s. 0d.

Members of the class not belonging to the Association, and not assured outside to the amount they can now afford, would do well to consider whether £58 11s. 0d. for an average payment of about 16s. per annum is not much better terms than they can obtain elsewhere.

PRESENTATION AT PLYMOUTH.

At a banquet held in December, Mr. J. Cannon was presented with the working drawings of a model of the famous 4-7 gun with which he was so closely associated in South Africa. The model being now complete, subscribers and their families met at the Masonic Hall, Plymouth, to complete the presentation, and an enjoyable evening was spent.

The model, an admirable specimen of the silversmith's art, was much admired, and the following brief description may be of interest. The gun mounted on an exact representation of Capt. Scott's extempore carriage, is of solid silver made from official specifications, with single motion breech action and telescopic sight. The cradle is of silver gilt, the running out spring and hydraulic cylinder being complete in every detail; while the wheels of the carriage represent those made of angle iron in the original; the trail being of pollard oak in two parts to represent the baulks of timber of which they are a type.

A touch of reality is given to the whole by the bolt heads, rivets, etc. being burnished. The gun is mounted on a suitably inscribed ebony stand, the whole being some eighteen inches in length. It was manufactured by Messrs. Page, Keen and Page, silversmiths, of Plymouth.

*Presenta-
tion.* A few of Mr. O. G. Crabb's friends serving in the Medway Reserve took the occasion of his marriage with the daughter of our old friend and life worker the late Mr. Flynn, to present the happy couple with

a complete edition of Charles Dickens' works bound in morocco—accompanied by a letter wishing them every happiness and hoping that the ever ready help accorded all ranks would be ours in the future as in the past: as such men as the groom can ill be spared from the rank of our advisers and workers. We feel sure that Mrs. Crabb will be a willing co-operator, as her former life has been associated with society workers.

MR. Archibald S. Hurd has written and published a little book which bears the title "The British Fleet. *Is it Sufficient and Efficient?*" which deserves to be read by every intelligent man who can boast of British citizenship. It should certainly be read by every Chief and Warrant Officer of the British fleet, for it bristles with useful information and comparisons of many kinds; besides serving the interests of our class in more than one page. The value of the book is enhanced by the fact, that Admiral Sir E. R. Fremantle commends the book to the public in an introduction which speaks very highly of the abilities of Mr. Hurd, who he reminds us is a well-known and intelligent student of naval affairs. Those of us who have been following Mr. Hurd's series of articles in the "Royal Magazine" on "How the Navy is Run," will agree with the gallant Admiral, that although not a naval officer Mr. Hurd has a good grasp of naval matters generally, but more particularly of those which he treats in the press. In the present volume the author endeavours to hold the scales evenly, and to praise as well as blame the Admiralty when, in his judgment, they appear to deserve it. This judicial state of mind makes his little work all the more valuable, and will gain him a hearing, that exaggeration or a purely destructive criticism, would have denied him. The chapter on "the-fleet-not-in-being," is a very informing one, and brings home to us all how disastrous has been the effects of strikes and the lack of armour-making plant, in the delay that these things have caused in the fulfilment of the building programme of the Admiralty. The blame for these delays is carefully allotted, and although the Admiralty are blamed for a certain amount of delay they are not saddled with it all. Admiral Fremantle,



THE BARRED WAY.

NOT many months ago it was our pleasure to tell in these columns how the United States had passed a Navy bill, in Congress, which promoted all Warrant Officers of over 10 years standing to rank with, and receive the pay of, Ensign in the United States Navy. This, as we pointed out at the time, was for so young a Navy a great step gained by naval rankers in the American Navy; for they had gained in a few months of agitation what the Chiefs and Warrant Officers of the British Navy have been endeavouring to get for years. That is to say, they had a kind of honorary lieutenancy given them while serving—and at only 10 years seniority—together with pay and emoluments, which we have vainly been trying to obtain from our Chiefs since the issue of our “Earnest Appeal.” We congratulated although (in a Pickwickian sense) we envied our colleagues under the Stars and Stripes. It was, also, our proud privilege

NOTES AND NEWS.

HONOURS AND REWARDS.

SIR,—Mr. Arnold-Forster's announcement in the House of Commons on Friday evening in regard to finding a means of rewarding Warrant Officers of the Royal Navy who have distinguished themselves and been mentioned in dispatches for services in South Africa and elsewhere will be gratefully received by the Chief and Warrant rank. Mr. Arnold-Forster's admission on behalf of the Admiralty that it is an anomaly that no means existed of rewarding officers of this rank in the Navy similar to that which obtains in the Army, will also be welcomed by the Naval Warrant Officers, who have been pointing this out for many years. It is sincerely to be hoped, however, now that the anomaly is recognised, and about to be removed, that as a measure of justice the rewards that are instituted will be retrospective in their operation, and not confined to the latest of our campaigns. There are many Chiefs and Warrant Officers who have their names noted at the Admiralty for services which, had not the anomaly (which is now to be removed) existed, would have received some recognition other than a letter of thanks for services rendered in the field which have brought their names into the dispatches of Admirals and Generals. There are also a number of Chiefs and Warrant Officers who have been recommended by their Captains for the rank of lieutenant, whose claims have been consistently overlooked. We frequently read of cases in which the Admiralty reward commissioned officers for services in the field several years after those services have been performed, and in creating machinery for removing the anomaly which has so long prevented Chiefs and Warrant Officers receiving their full reward in the past, it surely should be of a character to enable the Admiralty to fully recognise the arrears among their old servants in the above ranks, who have performed good services in the past.

R.N.

[This letter is culled from the columns of our contemporary, the "Naval and Military Record," of March 28th.—EDITOR N.W.O.J.]

*Mark of
of
Esteem.* THE members of the Pembroke Chief and Warrant Officers' mess, at Chatham, recently presented a very handsome silver cigar case to Mr. J. H. Barber, R.N. on the occasion of his leaving the Chatham Fleet Reserve, to take up an appointment on board H.M.S. *Keptse*, as carpenter in charge of that battleship. Mr. Barber had been chairman of the billiard committee for many months, and had done many things to help in the improvement of the mess. Especially was this so in connection with billiards, by a series of tournaments he has been able to arrange and by a number of alterations in the billiard-room rules, and by his general tact and courtesy thus displayed at all times to the members, he had won their respect and esteem. The subscribers wished Mr. Barber success in his new appointment, and he replied in suitable terms thanking them for their unexpected present and hoping their games might continue to still be pleasant ones.

*Britain's
Superb
Bluejackets.*

THE French and us are sometimes very bad friends—in the press. But newspaper war has waged ever since newspapers began, and will probably continue until the millineum comes. Yet in spite of quarrels the best papers on either side are generally honest and generous enough to point out and eulogise any supremely worthy characteristic they notice in the people of other countries. An instance of this is to hand the *Debats*, PARIS. The Special Correspondent of this paper travelled with the remains of our late Queen from Paddington to Windsor on that ever-to-be-remembered mournful and fateful Saturday, of February the 2nd, 1901. He there saw the Artillery horses refuse to draw the gun carriage and

the ready resource of Captain Lambton and the *Excellent's* blue-jackets. This is what he sent to his paper to record the incident, and what the *Debats* was generous enough to publish:—

"As with elastic step and martial air the bluejackets, in straw hats, blue jerseys, and trousers tucked into yellow gaiters, swung by, I commenced to understand the rôle that British sailors have played in Africa and elsewhere. They are superb in go, vigour, and suppleness—lads who can never be at a loss in a campaign, and whom nothing can make retreat."

We follow that with another cutting from a London evening paper, the *Pall Mall*, just to show how universal is the praise of the man who is generally left out on settling day. Here it is:—

"With reference to the drawing of the gun-carriage and coffin up the hill at Windsor by the bluejackets, when the horses jibbed, it is interesting to note that the late Queen would herself have wished the entire journey to have been made in this way, but refrained from ordering it on account of the invidious distinction which would have been conferred on the service selected for this honour."

The Republic of Hayti are in want of a retired chief gunner, or gunner, in their Navy, whom they are prepared to pay £40 per month (in American gold dollars) and give a free first class passage out and home, if a suitable man presents himself. The engagement is to be for three years, and his rank is to be that of 1st Commander in the Haytian Navy and to fill the post of Chief Artilleryman on board the *Crete-a-Pierrot* or other Haytian warship. Anyone wishing for further particulars can obtain them from Lieutenant Bennett, R.N., Recruiting Officer, Military Road, Chatham.

*An
Explanation.*

MR. D. Lewis, treasurer of the Portsmouth branch of the D.B.A., has asked us to clear his character from what he considers to be an imputation, in a statement that was made at the Devonport meeting, and reported in the published account of the Devonport minutes of October last in these columns in the November issue. It was then stated that previous remarks made by Mr. Lewis at a Portsmouth meeting were false and misleading. This Mr. Lewis appears to think this is an attack on his *private* character. We do not think that anyone besides Mr. Lewis will so construe it. Certainly those among us who know Mr. Lewis and his life and work best will not do so. The words were uttered in the ordinary course of debate, and applied in a *public* way only, i.e., not that he was wilfully lying and misleading, but that the deductions he had drawn from the history of the *Journal* were false deductions. We, as well as the men who said this, consider that is so, but to Mr. Lewis of things which reflect on his character as a private member is quite another and a different thing. The words "false or misleading," spoken and used in the general sense in which these were used, are often used in debates of all public bodies from Parish Councils up to, and including the House of Commons, without rebuke of Chairman or Speaker, and without being considered to reflect on the character of men who are being criticised in such times. They are considered general and impersonal, as being wrong conclusions arrived at by defective reasoning etc., and not used in the sense that a man is maliciously lying and trying to deceive. Those of our readers who have read the minutes of the September, October and November meetings, and our Article on the history of the *Journal* in December issue, will be able to judge of the whole matter, and we are quite sure no one will think Mr. Lewis's character is impugned in any way. Mr. Lewis may be mistaken, but he is the soul of honour and would not wilfully lie or mislead.

Mayor's Office, The Town Hall,

Portsmouth, 25th Sept., 1901,

To the Editor of the *Naval Warrant Officers' Journal*.

DEAR SIR,—I feel it my duty, through the medium of your columns, to call attention to the terrible distress which must necessarily result from the loss of H.M.S. *Cobra*. At least 67 Officers and Men were drowned, of whom 44 belonged to the Royal Navy. I would remind you that the scale of pensions which the Admiralty provide is altogether inadequate. They range from 6s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per week for widows, with two shillings or eighteenpence per week for each child. Obviously it is simply impossible for a poor woman to maintain herself and her family respectably on such a small sum. The Admiralty Pensions must therefore be augmented from outside sources, and it is to procure the money to enable this to be done that I am making this appeal to the inhabitants of this great Empire. As the loss of H.M.S. *Cobra* is a National disaster, I feel sure that the Nation will recognise its duty towards those who have not only lost their loved ones but who will now have to face a grinding poverty unless the country in whose service their husbands or fathers lost their lives comes forward to their assistance.

I shall be pleased to acknowledge any donations forwarded to me at the Town Hall, Portsmouth, and can assure you that the amount collected will be so administered as to afford the greatest relief where it is most needed.—Yours faithfully,

A. LEON EMANUEL, Mayor.

Mr. Wood the late boatswain of H.M.S. *Northumberland*, and who now holds an appointment on board H.M.S. *Assistance*, was the recipient of valuable and gratifying presents before he left the former ship. His messmates presented him with a handsome pair of gold-rimmed eyeglasses, these were handed to Mr. Wood on their behalf by Mr. Geo. Parfitt, instructing gunner, in a few most appropriate sentences which conveyed the high esteem in which the recipient was held by the subscribers for "work well done." Mr. Wood thanked his messmates for their handsome gift and kind expressions, and said he had spent a very happy time in their old ship with them all.

The petty officers and seamen of the ship also made Mr. Wood a present of a very handsome silver-mounted walking stick, as a mark of their appreciation of his consistent kindness and consideration for them. The spokesman alluded to the high esteem in which they all held him as an officer, and the thorough gentleman they had ever found him as a shipmate, and they admired both his professional and social qualities so much that they were exceedingly sorry to lose him, but wished him all good luck in his new appointment, where they understood he would find even more scope for the abilities he had so admirably and tactfully displayed among them. Mr. Wood responded in a few well chosen sentences, thanking the petty officers and seamen of the ship's company for their valuable words and handsome present. An officer always had his duty to perform for his service; and also it was his business to have every possible regard for the comfort and well-being of his subordinates, so far as it was possible to do that without detriment to discipline or efficiency.

DIFFICULT AND DELICATE.

SIR,—I have read, and re-read, your leader headed "Difficult and Delicate," appearing in your February issue of our *Journal* very carefully and thoughtfully, but with mingled feelings of shame, and regret, that the necessity has arisen for its being written.

I was tempted, when the Return of Court Martials appeared, to write an appeal to my brother officers to use their best endeavours by personal, and if need arose by combined action to check the tendency to over-indulgence in intoxicating drinks which, like dry rot, appeared to be setting in amongst our class.

I feel very grateful, personally, to you, Sir, for dealing with this painful subject, and I trust we shall see a marked change for the better, and that never again will our class be disgraced by such an array of names in the Court Martial Returns.

But while I thus feel grateful for much you have written, calling attention as you do to this festering sore and suggesting certain remedies, I yet am pained that you should have gone out of your way to ridicule the total abstainers of our class, (including myself) and through us the thousands of petty officers and men who are total abstainers in the Service. What right, I ask, have you to dub us *Namby-Pamby*?

Taking the total abstainers all round, I think, without egotism, they are not one whit behind (to say the least of it) their brothers of the *one glass*, the *few*, or the *many glasses*, in *zeal*, *devotion to duty*, *ability*, or *true manliness*. I, too, hold no brief for them,—They need none,—but I am proud to call myself by the name, and resent the insult you have, I honestly believe, hurled unthinkingly at us.

For twenty-five years I have been a total abstainer, and have served in almost all climates, and the good health I enjoy and the measure of success I have been able to attain I owe, I firmly believe, under God, to my principles of total abstinence, which have always insured a clear head. I am, however, no bigot, and I give to all my brother officers the right of private judgment, such as I enjoy, *providing the exercise of that right does not injure myself or fellows*; and here comes in the difficulty, and so I add, that in my opinion, (which is shared, I believe by the great majority of ours) our messes would be more cheerful, and far happier, if we had more total abstainers, or at least, *if less drink was consumed*, for I do not believe there is a single W.O. serving who is strictly temperate in his habits who has not at some time in his service career suffered grave discomfort, misery and inconvenience, because of the "lack of control," (to use a mild term) on the part of a messmate or messmates.

The question then arises, how is this to be stopped? as stopped it should be, in the interests of the weaker ones, and also of the class. And with this object I venture to submit the following for consideration:—

- (a) That a careful enquiry should be made into the antecedents of candidates for our rank; and to be of sober habits should be a preliminary qualification.
- (b) Every officer should deem it his bounden duty to try and influence a weaker brother by precept and example, and never on any account place temptation in his way, by bottle or glass.
- (c) That each should give the other a cheery word of encouragement when run down or when things has not gone smoothly in his department, in other words, by preventing him having recourse to his "Enemy."
- (d) If tippling is persisted in joint action to be taken, and all wine bills stopped.
- (e) Finally, if all else fails, "Coventry."

There may be other suggestions which may present themselves,

but of this I feel certain, the desirable result will not be obtained by holding up to ridicule the total abstainers of our Class and Service.

Personally, I think mine is the "Better Way," and I am content to have as companions, the Illustrious Head of the Army who believes in, and in *every way encourages* total abstinence, as also a host of eminent men in all the professions, as well as those in humbler walks, who in private and public life, as well as in *war and tempest*, have proved the value of being—even as the writer who is proud and thankful to sign himself—

TOTAL ABSTAINER.

[Our correspondent's letter is an excellent one, and clearly shews he is no "Namby-Pamby" teetotaler. The "Namby-Pamby" man is one who is always drumming his principles into unwilling ears, and attributes any and every evil under the sun to drink. Who in season and out of season is always at hand with a ghastly story of the effects of intemperance, and is an insufferable bore because he will not allow, on the matter of temperance, any right of private judgment, such as our correspondent claims—and rightly claims—his prerogative to enjoy. The "Namby-Pamby" man is a bigot, and a bigot of the first water, and he is to be found in other than temperance circles. We can clearly distinguish between a manly advocate, who by precept and example endeavours to instil principles in which he believes, from the man who hurts his cause by over-zeal and indiscretion. We admire men like our correspondent who appears to be temperate in all things—even in language—but we despise a "Namby-Pamby" man.—EDITOR *N. W. O.'s Journal.*]

*Capital
News
from
Malta.*

QUITE recently it was our duty and our pleasure to record good news from Malta; but this month we have still better to tell to all whom it may concern—and who among us does not a central club like that of Malta concern? We are glad to announce that the

Committee which has been working so hard to obtain a monetary grant from the Admiralty have at last succeeded, and £60 per annum for three years has been allowed; making a total grant of £180. We are quite sure that the President and Committee would desire us to publicly thank the Chief-of-Staff and Sir John Fisher the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Station for the trouble they have taken in the matter, for without their help success would have been impossible. Indeed they have earned the gratitude of not only the 120 Chiefs and Warrant Officers on the Mediterranean Station, but of every Chief and Warrant Officer in the British fleet for, as we have before pointed out, a club at a central place like Malta, where all outward and homeward bound men-of-war and most mail boats call, is a boon and a blessing to us all. We all, therefore, owe the present energetic workers of the Malta Club our warmest thanks, and we tender them with all heartiness. Theirs has been a task that was both difficult and delicate, but they have steadily persevered, with the utmost tact and good taste and judgment, until they have succeeded. The Admiralty have made the grant for the Warrant Officers "Recreation Rooms." The distinction is invidious, but that is a small matter so long as the money is forthcoming. Money was the chief but not the only difficulty the committee had, and still have, to contend with. There is still the difficulty of effective management on economical lines. But we can trust them to surmount that drawback as they have surmounted the rest. Dances, Socials, etc., have been suspended during the time of mourning, but we are glad to record that nine German Warrant Officers of the *Stoick* were entertained by the Malta Clubmen, and were sent away delighted with the place and the hospitality of their hosts. This will do good and give the club a reputation

in the German Fleet, as a place for the W.O.'s to go to. Other nationalities may follow suit, and then the club may go on from one success to another. But although it is hoped that foreigners will patronise it, its chief and great support must come from our own service; and so we shall be forgiven if we do what we can to help so hard working a committee by appealing once again for the support of every single Chief and Warrant Officer on the Mediterranean Station for this institution; and also bespeak a call from every officer of these ranks who are passing through the port either outward or homeward bound. It is the least we can all do to show how real is our gratitude to the present and past workers, and to show we realise the great benefit a club of this sort bestows on everybody while serving on or passing through the stations where they exist. The present workers at Malta are worthily following the example set them by their hard-working predecessors.

EXAMINATION FOR WARRANT OFFICER.

An examination was held on February 11th for gunner (G) on board H.M.S. *Melampus*, when D. McGonigal, G.I. passed a very satisfactory examination. Officers of Board: Captain R. R. Growse, Lieut. R. N. Lawson (N), Mr. W. Fiddick, gr., Mr. J. E. Macey, gr. and Mr. S. C. T. Brown, bos., all of H.M.S. *Melampus*.

Mr. Arthur Jennings, gunner of H.M.S. *Champion*, was, we understand, the only Warrant Officer who marched across London with the contingent of seamen, from Chatham and elsewhere, which preceded the remains of our late beloved Queen, on their way from Osborne to Windsor.