

*A  
Presenta-  
tion.*

On the Evening of Friday, Mar 9th, the Chief Petty Officers of the Sheerness Gunnery School held a Smoking Concert at the Crown Hotel, Sheerness, for the purpose of shewing their good wishes for the future success in the service of Mr. O. J. W. Powell, promoted to the rank of Carpenter from the rating of Chief Petty Officer.

The chair was taken by Chief Petty Officer Dawson, and a substantial supper presented in Host Farnham's best style was appreciatively disposed of by the company numbering about sixty. During the evening O.P.O. Brace presented on behalf of the Chief Petty Officers' Mess a solid leather portmanteau, a silver mounted walking stick, and a set of gold studs to Mr. Powell, who, he said "they were all delighted to know had at last obtained the reward of his deserts in promotion to Warrant rank: every member of the U.P.O.'s mess tendered him the heartiest good wishes in the new sphere he was entering, long life and happiness, and a prosperous service career as an officer." Mr. Powell said in reply

*A Good  
Send Off.*

At the Devonport Dockyard Reserve Shed recently a large number of seamen and workmen assembled to witness the presentation of a testimonial to Mr. W. Charles, R.N., who has vacated the post of Chief

Carpenter of the yard after three years' service in that capacity.—Mr. Hearn, carpenter, who made the presentation, said it had been subscribed for mainly by the working hands, and the subscriptions exceeded £16, with which they had been able to purchase a gold watch and albert and a marble gong clock. During Mr. Charles's period of service his sole aim had been to do good, with the result that many had benefitted. If all acted as Mr. Charles had done there would never be any cause of complaining. Mr. Charles, who was received with cheers, remarked that since he had been in the Dockyard Reserve he had had the opportunity of doing a little good to those of his department (Hear, hear.) In his opinion the Chief Carpenter of the Dockyard Reserve should consider himself a father to all the artizan ratings. (Applause.) Some considered that he could get them into billets, but he had no power in the matter. He was, however, always willing to help those who helped themselves, and had sometimes been able to influence those in authority. Speaking of the department, Mr. Charles said that no matter on what ship he went every officer praised the manner in which the men of the Dockyard Reserve carried out their duties. (Cheers.) Mr. W. Charles, carpenter, also celebrated the work of Mr. Charles

**PRESENTATION.**—On board U. M. S. *Victorious*, at Malta, recently, a meeting of the Chief Petty Officers and First Class Petty Officers was held for the purpose of presenting Mr. Arthur Winter, promoted from that ship to rank of Boatswain, with a sword, as a token of their esteem for him, and their good wishes for his success, prosperity, and happiness in his new sphere. C. P. O. Mahughan expressed the above sentiments in suitable terms in handing the sword to Mr. Winter, and the latter feelingly

Sir,—If, even at the expense of my friend and colleague Mr. J. Endicott's grief, the letter criticising the revised "Earnest Appeal" has done no other good than to cause Mr. J. Morrison to take up his pen in defence thereof, that letter has done the Class good service. We are looking—"for you yourself have said it"—for the coming men to relieve the leaders of the past fifteen years from their labours, and with the conceptions and inspirations of youth, in touch with the wishes and ambitions of a later decade, carry the banner of progress to heights undreamed of by those whose duties as pioneers are drawing rapidly to a close.

Mr. Morrison's letter shews—he can analyse his opponents statements, put his own views succinctly, yet briefly, and discuss a subject sensibly and without loss of temper. I hope and believe he is but one of scores in our ranks who takes an intelligent interest in class progress, for it is to such as he demonstrates himself to be that the Chiefs and Warrant Officers look to carry forward the work which others have been performing since 1888.

Mr J. Endicott's letter criticising mine, would, to those who do not know him and the present writer, appear to be full of sound and fury; a perfect fighting epistle; those who do know us however will put the proper "Pickwickian" construction on his epithets, attributing those to the controlling "logical faculty" of his mind. Both of us are too old at the game to injure each other with our noise.

Coming to the arguments adduced by Mr. Morrison: I agree with him that our thanks are due to those officers who at the expense of great time and patience have from a "veritable chaos of opinion" evolved this revision, and I still regret the adoption of the system which necessitated over twelve months discussion to arrive at this result.

It is also quite certain, as Mr. Morrison says, that the number of members who take a keenly critical interest in our affairs has been greatly increased, in which fact lies much hope for our future success, but this is also an argument for the system of discussion advocated by me. If, as Mr. Endicott remarks, government by committee has broken down, why, in the name of logic appoint a Committee of the whole membership to accentuate the failure!

Replying to the last named gentleman;—It would appear that he has overlooked the fact that none of the existing Warrant Officers are drawn from the ranks of the 31,000 odd Stoker and Miscellaneous Ratings in the Service, and referring to Clause IV. in which I would have included all non-executive Warrant Officers, my view is that the framers of the Appeal are to legislate for all of the rank, while the fact of a small class of the same being modest, and lacking in self-assertion, should in no wise exclude them from claiming the benefits which we hope will accrue from this statement of rankers disabilities.

I have said my last word upon this subject, and the revision having been adopted by the membership claims my loyal support, I hope however that when in process of time another revision becomes necessary other methods of eliciting opinion will obtain, less lengthily in their operation.

H. D. CAPPER.

## ARTIFICER ENGINEERS AND THE EARNEST APPEAL.

SIR,—Re the Earnest Appeal which we received on the 30th of March. I notice that the requests of the Gunners, Boatswains and Carpenters have been very ably presented and hope sincerely it will be attended by every success.

Now, as this is a Chief and Warrant Officers' Appeal, I understand it is intended to apply to and include all classes of Warrant Officers.

I was, therefore, rather disappointed to find that no mention was made of any concessions desired by the Artificer-Engineers, for although admitting that this branch of the Service is yet in its infancy, still it has certain matters which require adjustment and which might have been embodied in the Earnest Appeal.

The only reason I can assign for this omission is neglect on our own part to make known the concessions we desire at the time the Earnest Appeal was being revised, for I am sure the other classes of Warrant Officers would have been only too pleased to have seen it included.

Now as it is never too late to mend, I think it desirable to point out a few desired concessions which should be advanced when the opportunity again arises.

- (1.) That the present rate of pay 8/6 per diem for Artificer-Engineers, on promotion, be increased to 9s.
- (2.) That the seniority ring be granted at the completion of 5 years service, and pay increased to 10s. per diem.
- (3.) That the rank of Chief Artificer-Engineer be granted at the expiration of 10 years service, and pay increased to 12s. per diem.
- (4.) That the Artificer-Engineers be allowed to retire at 50 years of age, if desired.

In advancing these requests it cannot be thought we are asking too much when it is considered that we have to attain the age of 35 years to become eligible for promotion, and noting that the majority promoted up to the present time being on the shady side of 40.

Hoping Sir you will endeavour to find space for the above.

E. ST. JOHN, Art.-Eng.

H. M. S. Lizard, Hong Kong.

The following letter recently appeared in the *Morning Post*, and will tell its own tale.

Sir.—In a recent issue of the *Morning Post* doubt is expressed in one of its paragraphs as to whether the appointment of Lieut. Sims, (recently promoted to that rank for services at Ladysmith,) to the command of the gunboat *Leda* does not prove that the Admiralty has arrived at the opinion that the promotion from warrant to commissioned rank in the Navy is not a success. Your correspondent also states his belief that Lieutenant Sims is young and unmarried. This is not so, for Lieutenant Sims is over forty years of age, and has a wife and family. Had this not been the case he would never have applied for a separate command, for no one is more keen than he on taking his duty and luck with the other lieutenants in the general work of the fleet. His age, however, for a watch-keeping lieutenant is somewhat advanced, and his bare lieutenant's pay of 10s. a day is insufficient to meet the expenses of himself and his family. This is most unfortunate, as Lieutenant Sims, who was appointed straight to a first-class cruiser, without any college course or special instruction whatever, took up the appointment straight away and has earned the good opinion of his captain and brother officers, as well as the confidence of the men of his Majesty's ship *Drudon* in a way which undoubtedly shows that Warrant Officers can fill the position and perform the duties of a lieutenant in a seagoing ship—both socially and professionally—in a manner creditable to them.

selves and with advantage to the country. I am sure there is not an officer or man on board the *Dartem* who would not at once concede that Lieutenant Sims is one of the most popular and able officers on board. I happen to know also that he has received every kindness and consideration from his captain and brother officers, and that he has publicly expressed his gratitude for the manner in which he was received among them and his subsequent treatment. It has long since been pointed out by Warrant Officers themselves, however, that officers promoted to a substantive lieutenantancy at the age at which Lieutenant Sims was promoted were penalised rather than rewarded for their meritorious services. What the Chiefs and Warrant Officers ask for is that an honorary lieutenants' list may be established (similar to that of quartermaster or ridingmaster in the Army), and that officers of the age of Lieutenant Sims may be promoted to this honorary list and be kept at duties in their own special line for which they have been trained since childhood. There are dozens of billets in our dockyards, barracks, naval depots, and victualling yards, which might be filled by officers of such a rank where there would be no watchkeeping duties—for which they are too old, as the ordinary watch-keeping lieutenant is rarely above thirty—and where there would be no messing or financial difficulties, as the officers would live on shore with their families. There is no need to create such appointments, as they already exist, and are filled by Chief Gunners, Chief Boatswains, and Chief Carpenters, who perform duties and bear responsibilities in every way equal to those performed and borne by quartermasters and ridingmasters in the Army. The quartermasters are not overpaid for their duties, but I contend that the Chief Gunners, &c., performing the above

duties are underpaid, and that officers filling these posts should have honorary lieutenant rank and better emoluments. If this were conceded there would be billets in which such services as those performed by Lieutenant Sims at Ladysmith could be rewarded without the recipients being sent to keep watch at sea at an advanced age for such a duty and without their being placed in financial difficulties which the burden of a family would entail. Apart, however, from the above considerations there is no reason why promotions from the warrant to substantive rank should not be a success for young and unencumbered Warrant and Petty Officers, and it would be unjust to exclude young Warrant Officers who deserved such a promotion from obtaining it simply because older Warrant Officers were penalised by receiving such an advancement. Everything depends on age and whether or not a man is married. If a man is young and unencumbered the pay of a lieutenant is sufficient for all rational wants, and the ward-room has no financial terrors. Lieutenant Sims has shown that he can fulfil all other conditions and social and professional calls. Young petty officers whom naval captains and admirals recommended for such a promotion would be in the same boat. To shut the door, therefore, to young Warrant Officers is not at all necessary, and would be most unjust. What is most wanted, however, is the creation of an honorary lieutenants' list, by means of which the meritorious services of the older Chiefs and Warrant Officers could be rewarded as they deserve, and by which these men may be placed in appointments where the country could get the full value of their early training and a good return for the money they were paid.—Yours, &c.,

T.H.

April 17th.



As Others  
See Us.

If we are to keep our Navy thoroughly efficient we must content our officers, and men, too, with the conditions of service. The case of Lieut. Sims, R.N., has excited the attention of the *Morning Post*, which recently suggested that the transfer of this officer from the cruiser *Dreadnought* to the command of the gunboat *Leda* might be taken to imply that the system of promotion from the ranks of the Navy was a failure. It is true, we understand, that Lieut. Sims has found himself compelled to apply to the Admiralty for a command, owing to the difficulty of supporting himself and his family upon the service pay of a watch-keeping lieutenant. It is, indeed, quite evident that a lieutenant cannot support a family on ten shillings a day—at least, he cannot do so if the family is to be supported in a position of comfort. Lieut. Sims is the third Warrant Officer specially promoted for gallantry in recent years, and it is satisfactory to learn that he has performed his duties as lieutenant of the *Dreadnought* in a most efficient manner. "I happen to know," writes a correspondent, "that he has been treated with every kindness and consideration by his captain and brother officers." This is a pleasing assurance, shewing that naval officers are ready to welcome the companionship of brave men who are able to raise themselves from the ranks. It does not, however, overcome the money difficulty, but rather proves how impossible it is to benefit married "rankers" by rewarding them with the bare pay of a lieutenant. To deny Warrant Officers advancement on this account would be grossly unjust. The remedy is to provide them with such appointments in the Dockyards or Naval Ordnance Store Department as Gunners and Boatswains are well qualified to fill. The Warrant Officers sensibly urge, too, that promotion from the ranks of the Navy need not be limited to selection from the Gunners and Boatswains. "Capable young petty officers, especially if unmarried, might better adapt themselves to the position of a lieutenant in a seagoing ship than a middle-aged Warrant Officer with a family can be expected to do."—*Naval and Military Record*.

2. The medal, in silver, will, provided the claims are approved by the Commander-in-Chief, be granted to all officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the British, Indian and Colonial Forces, and to all nurses and nursing sisters who actually served in South Africa between October 11, 1899, and a date to be hereafter fixed; to all troops stationed in Cape Colony and Natal at the outbreak of hostilities; and to troops stationed in St. Helena between April 14, 1900, and a date to be hereafter fixed.

3. A clasp inscribed "Belmont" will be granted to all troops under Lieut.-General Lord Methuen's command who were north of Wittepoort (exclusive) on November 23, 1899.

4. A clasp inscribed "Modder River" will be granted to all troops under Lieut.-General Lord Methuen's command who were north of Honey Nest Kloof (exclusive), and south of the Magersfontein ridge (exclusive) on November 28, 1899.

5. A clasp inscribed "Paardeberg" will be granted to all within 7,000 yards of General Cronje's final laager between midnight of the 17th and midnight of February 26th, 1900, and to all troops within 7,000 yards of Koodoe's Rand Drift between those dates.

6. A clasp inscribed "Driefontein" will be granted to all troops with Army Headquarters and Lieut.-General French's column—i.e., the left and centre columns, which advanced from Poplar Grove on March 10, 1900.

7. A clasp inscribed "Wepener" will be granted to all troops engaged in the defence of that place between April 9, 1900, and April 25, 1900, both days inclusive.

8. A clasp inscribed "Johannesburg" will be granted to all troops who on May 29, 1900, were north of an east and west line through Klip River Station (exclusive), and east of a north and south line through Krugersdorp Station (inclusive).

9. A clasp inscribed "Diamond Hill" will be granted to all troops who on June 11 or 12, 1900, were east of a north and south line drawn through Silverton Siding and north of an east and west line through Vlakfont.

10. A clasp inscribed "Belfast" will be granted to all troops who, on August 26 or 27, 1900, were east of a north and south line drawn through Wonderfontein (the garrison and troops quartered at Wonderfontein on those dates will not receive this clasp), and west of a north and south line through Dalmanutha Station, and north of an east and west line through Dalmanutha Station.

11. A clasp inscribed "Wittebergen" will be granted to all troops who were inside a line drawn from Harrismith to Bethle-

hem, thence to Senekel and Clocolan, along the Basuto border, and back to Harrismith, between July 1 and 29, 1900, both dates inclusive.

12. A clasp inscribed "Defence of Kimberley" will be granted to all troops in the garrison of Kimberley between October 14, 1899, and February 15, 1900, both dates inclusive.

13. A clasp inscribed "Relief of Kimberley" will be granted to all troops in the relief column under Lieut.-General French who marched from Klip Drift on February 15, 1900, and all the 6th Division under Lieut.-General Kelly-Kenny who were within 7,000 yards of Klip Drift on February 15, 1900.

14. A clasp inscribed "Defence of Mafeking" will be granted to all troops in the garrison of Mafeking between October 13, 1899, and May 17, 1900, both days inclusive.

15. A clasp inscribed "Relief of Mafeking" will be granted to all troops under the command of Colonel Mahon who marched from Barkly West on May 4, 1900, and to all troops who were under Colonel Plumer's command between October 11, 1899, and May 17, 1900, both dates inclusive, and who were south of an east and west line drawn through Palachwe.

16. A clasp inscribed "Cape Colony" will be granted to all troops in Cape Colony at any time between October 11, 1899, and a date to be hereafter fixed, who receive no clasp for an action already specified in the Cape Colony, nor the "Natal" clasp.

17. A clasp inscribed "Orange Free State" will be granted to all troops in Orange River Colony at any time between February 28, 1900, and a date to be hereafter fixed, who receive no clasp which has been already specified for an action in the Orange River Colony.

18. A clasp inscribed "Transvaal" will be granted to all troops in the Transvaal at any time between May 24, 1900, and a date to be hereafter fixed, who receive no clasp for an action in the Transvaal which has been already specified.

19. A clasp inscribed "Rhodesia" will be granted to all troops under the command of Lieut.-General Sir F. Carrington and Colonel Plumer in Rhodesia, between October 11, 1899, and May 17, 1900, both dates inclusive, who receive no clasp for the relief of Mafeking.

20. A clasp inscribed "Talana" will be granted to all troops under Lieut.-General Sir W. Penn Symons's command on October 20, 1899, who were north of an east and west line drawn through Waachbank Station.

21. A clasp inscribed "Elandslaagte" will be granted to all troops at Elandslaagte on October 21, 1899, who were on the right bank of Sunday river and north of an east and west line through Buys Farm.

22. A clasp inscribed "Defence of Ladysmith" will be granted to all troops in Ladysmith between November 3, 1899, and February 28, 1900, both dates inclusive.

23. A clasp inscribed "Tugela Heights" will be granted to all troops of the Natal Field Force, exclusive of the Ladysmith garrison, employed in the operations north of an east and west line through Chieveley Station between February 14 and 27, 1900, both dates inclusive.

24. A clasp inscribed "Relief of Ladysmith" will be granted to all troops in Natal north of and including Estcourt between December 15, 1899, and February 28, 1900, both dates inclusive.

25. A clasp inscribed "Laing's Nek" will be granted to all troops of the Natal Field Force employed in the operations, and north of an east and west line through Newcastle between June 2 and 9, 1900, both dates inclusive.

26. A clasp inscribed "Natal" will be granted to all troops in Natal at any time between October 11, 1899, and June 11, 1900, both dates inclusive, who receive no clasp for an action in Natal nor the Cape Colony clasp as already specified.

27. No individual can have both the defence and relief clasps for either Kimberly, Mafeking, or Ladysmith.

28. The medal in silver, with clasps, will be granted to any native soldiers specially employed within the sphere of operations, who fulfil the necessary conditions.

29. Non-enlisted men of whatever nationality, who drew military pay, will receive bronze medals, without clasps.

30. Commanding officers and heads of departments will prepare nominal rolls, in triplicate, of the individuals entitled to the medal and clasps, and forward them, as early as practicable, to the Under Secretary of State, War Office, London, S.W. A supply of printed forms of rolls will be sent to each unit concerned, and a supply will also be kept at the headquarters of each regimental district for the use of individuals detached from their regiments.

31. The names of officers and warrant officers will be entered in order of rank, and those of non-commissioned officers and men in alphabetical order.

32. The names of officers and soldiers, except Staff officers, will be entered on the roll of the unit to which they actually belong when the roll is prepared. In the event of enquiries having to be made regarding any individual claims which cannot be certified by the officer commanding the unit, the roll should not be delayed pending the result of the enquiries, but the names should be excluded, and a supplementary roll rendered later.

33. In cases where it is known that individuals have served with more than one unit during the campaign, a note should be made in the column of "Remarks" on the roll showing the unit with which they previously served, and their rank and regimental number therein.

34. The names of individuals who, under Articles 613, 737, 1,256, and 1,258, Royal Warrant for Pay, &c., have forfeited the medal are to be included in the rolls, their names being entered in red ink, and the cause of forfeiture stated in the last column. The names of individuals who have become non-effective by death, transfer, discharge, &c., should also be similarly entered in red ink.

Commander Young.—To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, whether a Departmental Committee has been appointed at the Admiralty to investigate into and re-organise the affairs of the Naval Ordnance Store Department; and, if so, whether the Committee will be asked to report as to the advisability of officering the department by Naval Officers, and whether the Committee's attention will be drawn to the many promises given to the House of Commons by the Parliamentary Admiralty Officials that the Admiralty would appoint Naval Warrant Officers to berths in this department as vacancies occurred. [*Thursday, 7th March.*]

The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Capt. Pretyman) replied:—“Yes, Sir, the Committee has been appointed and their attention has been drawn to the points embodied in the question.”

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Mr. Arnold-Forster in the House on May 17th, informed Mr. Kearley that the question of decorating Warrant Officers of the Navy for services rendered in South Africa had been settled, and steps would be taken at the earliest possible opportunity to give effect to this decision. The arrangements did not affect the status of the Distinguished Service Order.

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Mr. Kearley.—I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, whether he can state the reason why the annuity of £25 per annum usually awarded to the widow of a Warrant Officer has been denied to the widow of W. Ball, carpenter, R.N., who died on the 19th July last, and who at the time of his death was in receipt of a Warrant Officer's pension.

Mr. Arnold-Forster: Mrs. Ball was ineligible for the award of a widow's pension, her husband having been placed on the retired list on account of misconduct.

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EXAMINATION—An examination for the rank of gunner was held on board H.M.S. *Anson* at the Nore, on Saturday the 11th of May. The board consisted of Commander Hon. Stanhope Hawke, Lieutenant (N) F. I. Carvill, Messrs. W. Carr and O. Banyard, gunners, and Mr. Joseph White, boatswain. Two candidates, W. Shrubsall and J. H. Neil, presented themselves, both passing a very creditable examination.

## A RANKER AUTHOR.

**W**E have this month not only to congratulate a "Ranker" Knight, but we have also to welcome a "Ranker" author, for Mr. George Crowe, the

inaster-at-arms of H.M.S. *Terrible*, has very kindly sent us a book he has written, with a title that exactly conveys what is to be learnt from its subject matter. "From Portsmouth to Pekin, *via* Ladysmith, with a Naval Brigade," is to be found on its cover ; and this is exactly what it is all about. It is issued from the Hong Kong Daily Press office, and its price is one dollar. We are not able to say whether it is obtainable at any publishers in the United Kingdom or not ; but we have to thank the author for the copy he has sent us for review. Mr. Crowe tell us in his "explanatory note," which is rather a quaint name for a preface, that it was and still is his intention to issue an "Illustrated Souvenir Edition," which would commemorate the principal events connected with H.M.S. *Terrible* during the whole period of the present varied commission. We agree with the author that the *Terrible* has had a very eventful commission, and one the details of which most thoroughly deserve record. It is a very rare thing indeed for any person on board a



THE war, unfortunately, still lingers on and the *The War.* "sweeping up" process is a much longer business than most of us had thought. The Boers have already partly kept their promise of giving us a couple of years of guerilla warfare, by keeping us in the field against their guerilla bands for nearly half that period. It is now more than twelve months since Lord Roberts marched, at the head of his army, into Pretoria, and we then hoped the end was very near. Much water has passed under the bridges since the 6th of June, 1900, however, and Louis Botha and De Wet and the irreconcilable burghers are still roaming about the annexed States and defying all our efforts to entrap them. As we have said before, it hardly lies with men of the British stock to cast the first stone against those

This month we have to record an entertainment from each of the three large home ports. Devonport entertained Mr. Ball and the Whale Island Chiefs and W.O.'s entertained their friends at the re-opening of their mess. Chatham not to be left out in the cold braced itself for the occasion, and the Chiefs and W.O.'s of the *Pembroke's* mess covered themselves with compliments from their friends for the manner in which they displayed a lavish hospitality on the holding of the Depot's annual sports, near the *Pembroke* in the Dockyard. The Chiefs and W.O.'s had, as usual, a large enclosure next the commissioned officers, and within this space they erected two large marquees for the convenience of their friends. At one of these tea and sandwiches and all kinds of light refreshments were to be obtained free; at the other malt and spiritous liquors. This separation was a matter of great convenience and comfort to all. The function was a large one for over 1,000 guests were present in the enclosure during the afternoon and evening and frequently nearly that number at one and the same time. Seats were provided where a capital view of all the events could be obtained, and every member of the mess did his uttermost to make the guests comfortable and happy. Certainly no one could have been left hungry for refreshments were abundant and the waiting excellent in every way. Indeed we cannot praise this part of the function too highly, for we have never seen a more ample supply or better organisation at any function of the sort we have ever attended. The weather was delightful and the ladies and their dresses charming. That they were all enjoying themselves was too obvious to be mistaken, but it was expressed in words on all sides, nevertheless. Chatham had no ball this year, to return the many kindnesses of their civilian friends, but they were more than made up

At  
Whale  
Island.

The Whale Island contingent of bluejackets who were to take part in the Naval and Military Tournament at the Agricultural Hall this year had a full dress rehearsal on their own parade ground on May 25th, and the Chiefs and W.O.'s of the Whale Island were not without the opportunity of inviting their colleagues and friends at Portsmouth to attend the function. Light refreshments were provided, the committee, Messrs. Joans, Hawkins and Casford, and Messrs. Hickey and Dale (the chief gunner of Whale Island and president of the mess, respectively,) did all in their power to make their visitors comfortable; a task in which, according to report, they eminently succeeded. The programme was a very interesting and informing one, and like the well known hospitality of the Whale Island Chiefs and W.O.'s mess was much appreciated.

A short time since we remarked on and deplored the way in which Admiral Sampson of the American Navy had been treated for an honest expression of opinion against promotion from the ranks in the American Navy. We still think this gallant old ranker has been shamefully treated, although we heartily disagree with the sentiments he expressed in endorsing Mr. Morgan's letter to him asking for a recommendation for promotion. We have always preached and practised moderation of method and language in endeavouring to get relief from our disabilities, and have used arguments and not abuse in the press of this country. In America, however, they do these things differently as regards statement and method. We do not endorse we only reproduce the following comments from some of the American papers to show how they treat men (no matter what their degree) who would build a brick wall across the path of a ranker in the American Navy.

Mr. Allen, a Senator, headed the attack on Admiral Sampson for his un-American attitude towards this question, and in his place in the Senate called the gallant old admiral who has served his country so well, "A concerted Ass," "An arrant Coward." After this small wonder at the following from the front page of a leading New York newspaper.

"W. T. Sampson, the 'tea-cup' admiral, may take it for granted that his prospects of becoming Vice-Admiral of the American Navy are extremely dim."

The following statement made to the Journal by Senator Penrose, of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee, expresses not only the opinion of Senator Penrose, but of all sound Americans in the Senate and the lower House :

"I shall call this matter to the attention of the Naval Affairs Committee. We put this amendment in the bill for the express purpose of giving these deserving enlisted men of the navy the recognition due to them, and to have them enjoy, as a reward for faithful and meritorious service, a commission in the service of their country and all that it may mean, socially or otherwise. I am surprised that an officer should utter so unpatriotic and un-American a sentiment."

Another Senator, Mr. Money, of Mississippi, expresses public opinion admirably and temperately in the following brief statement to the Journal :

"This letter is not going to help Admiral Sampson towards gaining a vice-admiralty. I shall preserve a copy of his statement as printed in the Journal for reference when it is proposed to elevate a man holding such views to high rank in our navy."

Admiral Sampson, in his official report to the Secretary of the Navy, has insulted every sailor on every United States man-of-war. He has insulted the American doctrine of equality. He declares that in the navy no common seaman should be promoted to official position, no matter what his ability, courage, or service to the country. The ineffably snobbish reason advanced by this Admiral Sampson is this :

He believes that men in the navy must not be promoted because "THEY ARE NOT GENTLEMEN," Says this Admiral Sampson :

"In time of peace the navy's function consists, to a certain extent, of representing the country abroad." \* \* \*

"They (the common seamen) are recruited from a class of men who have not had the social advantages that are requisite for a commissioned officer."

It was proposed to disgrace the navy by promoting to the Vice-Admiralty an individual who feels that American fighting sailors are unfit to be officers because they don't know how to dance, or pour tea or play the fool with foreign fashionable idiots who may come aboard our ships in time of peace.

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We await with interest some expression of opinion from Mr. McKinley, through his Secretary of the Navy, concerning this affront to the American sailor. It is an affront which the ordinary American will not forget in a hurry.

In a statement to the Journal the "tea-cup" Admiral says of his superior :

"However, the Secretary of the Navy has proposed to make the promotions in this way, and he will have to do the best he can."

The "best" that the Secretary of the Navy could do, if there were any legal way of doing it, would be to remove Sampson and wipe out the affront to the sailors.

It is only fair to Secretary Long to say that no part of this disgraceful business attaches to him. On the contrary, while he has issued no official rebuke to Sampson as yet, his own views as published give credit to the American sailor and rebuke the folly of the 'tea-cup' Admiral."

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Or of this from another leading American newspaper.

"The 'World' correspondent at Newport interviewed Gunner Morgan, whose attempt to get a well-earned commission gave Rear-Admiral Sampson the opportunity to ruin himself and make himself ridiculous. Said Gunner Morgan :

A "I refuse to discuss the conduct of Admiral *Gentleman's* Sampson, a noble American officer, under whom *reply to a* I served."

*snob.* Gunner Morgan does well to refuse to discuss Sampson for reasons other than the naval regulations. He can afford to be silent and to pity the poor snob who has done nobody harm but himself.

If the "Tribune's" Washington correspondent is right in saying that many naval officers endorse Sampson's theory that "social advantages are a requisite for a commissioned officer," then the sooner Sampson is made an example of the better.

Let us have none of this aristocratic nonsense in our army and navy. Discipline, rank, obedience, there must be. But not class distinctions. They are worse than offensive to American manhood; they mean the impairment of the service. No organization can perform its work well if excellence at that work is not the sole test of promotion from end to end."

That is another typical summary of the case. There were hundreds such as this, which shows how they brush aside opposition in America. Whatever happens now the W.O.'s in the American Navy stand to win fair opportunity for good ability for no one will after this dare to oppose the recognition of ability when it is found in the lower ranks. We in England do things in another way. We will not argue which is best, but we do once again deplore the fact that that gallant old Admiral Sampson has lost a promotion he had so well earned by an honest expression of opinion.

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This is another extract :—

“ Public men are fond of making fools of themselves in many ways and of showing their true characters. Admiral Sampson, who hereafter must be looked upon as a disgrace to American citizenship and to the American Navy, has expressed his feebleness of spirit, practically and completely.

Wise legislation demanded by public opinion has at last authorized the promotion in the navy of men from the ranks.

Gunner Morgan, a man as Sampson admits of admirable character, good education, temperate habits and professional ability applied for promotion.

Admiral Sampson, the unparalleled idiot of public life, vetoes the man's application on the ground, if you please, that he is not “ a gentleman.”

Admiral Sampson, the most extraordinary example of a two-legged idiot that the world has ever seen, feels that if men should be promoted from the ranks they would “ not know how to behave at social parties on board ship.” Read this extract from the letter of Sampson, the amazing micro-cephalic Admiral :

“ While it is true that these men are selected from a large class of men of very unusual ability, which distinguishes them as perhaps the professional equals of their officers as far as their technical education stands, it is also true that they are recruited from a class of men who have not had the social advantages that are a requisite for a commissioned officer.”

Therefore, according to Admiral Sampson's view, the United States of America is to be deprived of the services and command of any American sailor who happens not to come up to Sampson's idea of dancing class manners.

Sir,—I notice by the Portsmouth minutes read at Chatham meeting, that a very sorry and wriggling attempt was made by a member to dodge the effective criticism of Mr. Bacon; when he charged the Portsmouth branch with only putting £12 to the Widows' Reserve Fund from the Death Benefit Expense Fund, while Devonport with fewer members transferred £18.

"We have put more," says the Portsmouth members (alluding to the entrance fees, etc., that had been added to the W.R.F. during the year.) So, also, Sir, had Devonport put more than £18 if entrance fees were counted.

But Mr. Bacon was discussing the Death Benefit Fund, its origin, and the promises which were made to the retired officers that surpluses should be put into the Widows' Reserve Fund, instead of which Portsmouth was spending too much of this in hiring and furnishing a palatial secretary's office and committee room.

The whole thread of Mr. Bacon's arguments were in this strain, and dealing *entirely* with the expense fund; and the clumsy attempt to pretend to believe he meant *from all sources*, will, with men who can read and understand the English language when addressed to those to whom its ordinary application can be safely left, only accentuate the point Mr. Bacon's letter so effectively exposed, viz.: that with a much larger membership Portsmouth, as shown by their balance sheet, added only £12, (during last financial year) to the Widows' Reserve Fund, from the Death Benefit Expense Fund, while Devonport was able to transfer £18, and Onatham nil.

This spirit at Portsmouth does not promise well for assistance in the task of Reform which confronts us.

LET THERE BE LIGHT.



MR. WRIGHT, late of H.M.S. *Terrible*, was one of the officers who recently received his South African Medal from the King's hand at a special parade held for the purpose in London. We hope this will not be the last decoration to be handed him, for we remember Mr. Wright has performed services in South Africa and China that deserves promotion as well as decoration.

His Majesty can be seen in the act of decorating this officer in a "Biograph" picture shown at the Alhambra, London.



## NAVAL SCARES.

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**I**f onward visible signs count for anything we are in for another naval scare. We do not deprecate this a bit. As a matter of fact we commend it. Commend it because, although naval scares have been disadvantageous in hurried programmes, which were sometimes not too well digested, yet it is infinitely better to have these programmes than to sit still or drift along as was our wont in the days before naval scares commenced. All our middle-aged readers will remember into what a state of naval weakness, and its consequent national danger, that both political parties had allowed the country to drift when Mr. Stead raised the first naval scare of modern times in his clarion call of "The truth about the Navy" in the columns of the "Pall Mall Gazette." Mr. Stead has done many things, good and bad, since then and has handled many subjects wisely or foolishly, with which our judgments may or may not agree ; but there can be no sort of doubt but that his opportune and vigorous attack on the naval apathy of the country did stir up the people to some sense of their neglect of this all-important instrument for dealing with the enemies of their empire. That was back at the beginning of things, and caused a start to be made whereby the foundations of our modern fleet was laid. On these foundations a