GREAT NAVAL VICTORIES.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE GREAT SEA FIGHTS OF HISTORY.

Napoleon's Power Was Broken at Trafalgar—The French Invasion of the East Was Stopped at Alexandria—Europe Was Saved From Asiatic Conquest by the Victories at Lepanto and Salamis.

It is a singular fact that, while battles on land have been fought with no special result, except the defeat of one General and the triumph of another, battles at sea have never failed to possess historic significance. Every naval victory has changed the course of history. Victories on the sea are conclusive. A defeated army can retire and take up a new position; a defeated fleet is for all practical purposes annihilated. The men of a regiment or brigade, when the formation is broken, can retire as individuals and reform at some favorable point in the rear; a disabled ship must surrender. The total defeat, therefore, of one fleet by another means that the conquerors become for the time being absolute masters of the sea, and so considerable an interval elapses ere other ships can take the place of those captured or destroyed that the defeat is generally regarded as conclusive, and the war comes to an end before a second trial of strength occurs on the ocean.

Naval victories that meant something are not very numerous in the world's history, but each was an epoch. The downfall of Napoleon was commonly dated from the disastrous campaign in Russia in 1812, but in reality the Emperor's power began to decline with Nelson's victory off Trafalgar, in 1805. Napoleon appreciated the fact that the power of England on the high seas must be crushed ere he could hope for supreme power in European affairs, and bent all his energies to the creation of a navy which should overmatch the strongest fleet England could place in European waters. In the combination of the French and Spanish fleets, he believed that he had attained the object desired, and when Villeneuve went out with his thirty-three French and Spanish ships to meet Nelson's twenty-seven, there seemed a fair prospect of achieving that success which would place France at the head of maritime powers, as well as at the forefront of the continental states.

THE CRUSHING DEFEAT,

which amounted to the annihilation of the allied fleet, destroyed the hopes of Napoleon of becoming the master of the sea, as well as of the land; his power was checked at Trafalgar and broken when his army marched out of the streets and from among the flames of the burning houses of Moscow. Leipsic and Waterloo were the legitimate consequents of Trafalgar and Moscow, Elba and St. Helena followed as matters of course.

The French had a previous experience with Nelson off the delta of the Nile in 1798. Napoleon had persuaded the Director of France that England could be best opposed by a feint at India, so a fleet and army were dispatched to Egypt, in order, as Napoleon expressed it, "to take Europe in the rear." The feint was a tremendous success, for never before and seldom since was there such a panic in England as was inspired by the news that the French had gone into Egypt. The commercial element is always nervous, and the lucrative trade which the East India Company had built up between Asia and Europe constituted at that day the greater portion of the expert business of the English ports. The sailing and arrival of the semi-annual East India fleets were the great event of the year, and the bare thought of an attack on the East India trade gave every banker, broker, merchant and manufacturer in England a cold chill. But the proposed attack upon England's possessions in the East never amounted to more than a proposition. With the utmost haste Nelson, with a powerful fleet, was dispatched to the rescue, and with an instinctive perception of the proper point of attack, he saw that India was to be saved, not by sending ships around the Cape, but by defeating the French in the Mediterranean. In its way

THE BATTLE OF THE NILE

was as conclusive as the battle of Trafalgar, for of the unlucky 13 vessels of the French fleet nine were taken, two burned and but two escaped. The movement toward the East was instantly stopped, the remnant of the French army left in Egypt was defeated and surrendered. Napoleon escaped by stealth and in disguise, and every Englishman drew a long breath of relief, for India was safe.

Nelson made more naval history than any other Admiral who ever sailed the seas, for he returned from the Nile to help crush a formidable movement close to her own shores against the England that he served. In 1801 there was a strong prospect that Denmark then a considerable naval power, would join the coalition Napoleon had formed against Great Britain, but the attempt was nipped in the bud by the attack of Nelson and Parker upon Copenhagen. Of the Danish fleet of twenty-three ships, eighteen were captured or destroyed, and in self-possession Denmark was forced to abandon the cause of Napoleon. There was one other notable naval victory won at Copenhagen, this time after Nelson had received the tribute that a grateful nation pays to a dead hero. Irritated by the chastisement administered by Nelson and Parker, Denmark again embraced the cause of the continent against England, and in 1807 the Danish power was forever crushed by Admiral Gambier and Lord Cathcart. On this occasion, besides the bombardment of the city with immense destruction of property, the entire Danish fleet was lost; eighteen ships of the line, fifteen frigates, six brigs and twenty-five gunboats became a part of the British navy, and an immense quantity of naval and military stores was shipped to England for use in the war. Denmark never recovered from these two cruel blows. Before that time the Danish King held a place in the North of Europe corresponding to that held by Victor Emanuel in the south twenty years ago; since then Denmark has been a nullity.

"There was a man sent from God whose name was John" was the enthusiastic utterance of Pius V. when news came to Rome in 1571 of

THE BATTLE OF LEPANTO.

Ninety-one years before the date on which Don John sailed in command of the combined naval strength of Spain, Venice, Genoa, and the Pope to meet the Ottoman fleet the crossing of the Adriatic by the Turks and the capture of the City of Otranto spread a panic over Europe the memory of which had not been effaced by a century of time. The Pope summoned European sovereigns to forget their differences, to reconcile their mutual animosities and unite against the Turks, but they refused, and little by little the tide of Saracenic invasion crept toward the centres of European civilization. Long before this it had completely overspread the shores of Northern Africa, and the Moorish pirates were known and dreaded on every shore of the continent. In the Eastern Mediterranean the Turks were supreme, and the proud Sultans on the Bosporous fondly imagined that the reign of the Prophet's faith was destined to become universal. The battle of Lepanto annihilated the Turkish naval power and reestablished that of the Christian states in the Mediterranean. "God has given to the infidels the rule of the sea, as to the faithful that of the land," was the comment of Selim II., when tidings of Lepanto came to Constantinople but he was mistaken; after Lepanto came, at long intervals, the defeats at Vienna and at Belgrade, and the power of the Turk began to wane. Once more, toward the close of the last century, the Sultans made an effort to regain control of the sea, and built another fleet, but Navarino, in 1827, was as conclusive as Lepanto. The Turkish Empire began to shrink, and the process of contraction has gone steadily on since the day when Don John annihilated the Turkish naval power.

In Creasy's decisive battles of the world, he mentions Marathon, but omits Salamis. From almost every point of view Salamis was

THE MORE IMPORTANT

of the two. At the time when the invasion began, the Persian Empire surrounded the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean. All of Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine and the delta of the Nile were under the rule of the Persian Emperor. The contest between the Greeks and Persians was at first one of commerce, and little by little the competition between the merchants of the two nations led to an embittered state of feeling that finally resulted in war. This would have come anyhow, for the Persian power was steadily advancing to the West, the Greek toward the East and it was only a question of time when the two would come in conflict. At Marathon it was shown that the undisciplined Persian rabble was no match for the Greek phalanx; Salamis furnished evidence that Greek seamanship was superior to that of Persia.

The poetic imagination has magnified the numbers of the Persian fleet. Byron speaks of the ships by thousands. It is now known that Xerxes had no more than 1200. The Greeks had better ships and the advantage of position, for, crowded as they were in a narrow strait, the numbers of the Persians were a hindrance rather than a help. Salamis was won by tact and skill as much as by bravery; like Agincourt, like Plassy and Tours, Chalons and Tel-el Kebir it was a triumph of brains over brawn, the victory of civilization over barbarism.

A SHARK'S QUEER DEATH.

Crushed in His Native Element by a big Stone.

A shark, over three metres long, met with a singular death in the Vera Cruz port works a few days since.

In the prosecution of the works in question, enormous stone blocks are raised on derricks and thrown into the water on the mattresses which have been previously sunk. About the beginning of the week the workmen on the surface of the water were horrified to observe that immediately after they had dropped in the water one of these huge rocks an immense cloud of blood came up from below, so that the water all around the wharf was soon tinged a deep red. They thought that one or more of the divers had been crushed beneath the tremendous weight.

Soon the rope which attached one of the divers was violently shaken as a signal that the man down beneath the water wanted to be raised. When he was safely back on the wharf the workmen gathered around him to learn the worst. To their great relief he told them that a big shark which had been swimming at the bottom of the bay, near where he was at work, had been crushed to death by the boulder which they dropped on him.

SENSIBLE INTENTION.

What are you going to do when you grow up? asked an inquiring citizen of the four-year-old boy next door, and the boy answered after some consideration:

I am going to be a man!

And the inquiring citizen said he thought that was a good idea.

SLAV VS. ANGLO-SAXON.

RUSSIAN VIEWS ON THE UNITY OF THE ANGLO-SAXON RACE.

The Greatest Conflagration in the World's History Is Predicted—Power of the Orthodox Church in Russia.

The London Daily Mail's correspondent at Odessa presents some considerations from the Slav point of view upon the suggested confederation of English-speaking peoples by means of an Anglo-American alliance. Many people have been looking forward, he remarks, to a desperate fight between the Slav and Anglo-Saxon races for the world's supremacy. Mr. Chamberlain's recent speech was like a brand cast into the burning.

I have had a conversation, the correspondent states, with a high Russian military authority, and he ventures to prophesy that the next five years will see the greatest conflagration that has ever been witnessed in the world's history. His words strike home.

"We can never," said he, "see Great Britain at the head of any coalition against us. The Slav race will stand up as one man to combat the pretensions of the Anglo-Saxon, and under this name, mind you, I include the Germans, to rule the world. After distinguished diplomatic and political victories such as we have achieved in the last decade, we could never lag in the race in which we mean to win should it cost us our last drop of blood.

"We are weaving such a network around India that when we choose to draw the meshes you will be strangled out of existence, for once you lose your prestige in one part of the globe, your vassals all over the world, who are only waiting for the signal to rise up against you, will annihilate you. With our railways we have spanned all gulfs that might have served our enemies in a crisis. You cannot bridge the seas, and there we have you. From the Pechili gulf to the Dardanelles, nay, to the Adriatic, the territory thereby bounded is

RUSSIA'S HERITAGE,

and she will barter it to no nation for a mess of pottage.

"We are nearing our destiny, and must reach it ere long; 200,000 troops and Tal Lien Wan, an dten timmes that number at other points. This will give you a slight idea of our onward march, and we have not reached our goal as yet."

With reference to the self-confidence of this military view, the correspondent proceeds to explain how the Slav system operates.

First and foremost in the process of unification of the vast multitudes of diverse nationalities over which the Great White Czar holds sway undoubtedly comes—strange as it may seem—religion. Some will call it coercion, whatever the proper term, it comes in the cloak of the Orthodox Church.

The Russian "Tchinovnik"—he is ubiquitius, and scarcely anything is done except at the instigation of the Government—no sooner plants himself among, let us say, the Samoyedi or the Bokharans then he erects a cross and fetches a priest to sprinkle the ground with holy water. This being done, the next thing to follow is the church, with its ornate Eastern architecture and scintillating golden domes, which is to inspire the inhabitants of the country with awe for the mighty Russian Emperor, who speaks, by God's grace, through the Church to his children, wherever they may be. The "Tchinovnik" may only get his thirty roubles, £3, per month, but his perquisites, or peculations, as we would be inclined to call them, amount often to ten and twenty times this sum; he is not badly off. Consequently he occupies, with the power he naturally wields, as an administrator of the State, and the respect he commands as a representative of his Imperial Majesty, an important and influential position in whatever society he chooses to move. He becomes in time elected president of the commission appointed to construct the barracks for the soldiers who invariably follow in the wake of the priest, if they have not had to clear the way for him, as sometimes happens. The "Tchinovnik" gets a bosom friend of his to tender for the work at a fancy price, and then they divide the spoils between them. The Czar and his ministers are cognizant of these abuses, and occasionally an example is set by some flagrant offender, who has exceeded all possible bounds, being exposed and cashiered; but things again assume the even tenor of their way, and the State continues to be

ROBBED RIGHT AND LEFT.

Naturally the position of "Tchinovnik" is much coveted, and the natives commence to think how they can manage to have a share of his pickings.

As only "pravoslavnie" or those professing the Orthodox religion, are eligible as candidates for public offices, in the service of the State, except in particular cases, as in the telegraph service, where Germans, Lutherans, are admissible, it follows that all those of other than the Russian faith who are excited by cupidity or ambition to aspire to a post in the Government department must change their religion before they can be accepted.

Thousands and tens of thousands, for various reasons—greed of gain or out of social considerations, or to get their children admitted into technical colleges, universities, etc., where the percentage of scholars and students of the Russian persuasion is overwhelming—annually change their religion and become orthodox Russians.

And so the assimilating process goes on, and the empire becomes welded together into one solid mass. The Government and Administration is one seething mass of corruption, and yet this Colossus moves on and grabs here and there, taking a slice of this and that part of the world's surface to satisfy his raveneus appetite for territorial aggrandizement, and we are powerless to stop him.

We make counter moves, and he increases his armaments and sends fresh troops to threaten any position we may take, thinking thereby to paralyze his action. Every fresh movement he makes seems to add to his strength and lend him a new lease of life. We feel his far reaching influences in all parts of the globe, and try to possess our souls in patience, for we know not what the morrow may bring forth.

If, as it is stated, an Anglo-Saxon alliance is effected, then the Slav race from the Vistula to the Volga and beyond will unite as one man and make common cause to combat with all their might the new coalition.

"You have no patriotism," said a Russ to me, "it's only interest."

Well, if the much talked of alliance becomes a realized fact, the patriotism of the Slav race will be aroused, and we shall see whether it will win the day against so-called British, or will it henceforth be termed Anglo-Saxon interest.

TRITE SAYINGS.

Silence is the pantomine of truth.

Selfishness is a suicidal mania in man.

Slanderers cannot buzz long without biting.

Cities are the tombs of nature, the cradles of art.

Fate can tie a knot, but only folly can knit it.

Fools are too unique and bizarre to be classified.

Patriotism begins at home, but does not end there.

Conceit is superior to small envies and jealousies.

Life is a crazy-quilt arrangement in flesh and blood.

We suffer more from the devil within than without.

War is organized murder; death is its proper penalty.

All dread the hand-to-hand conflict with gladiatorial life.

Heaven trusts us with intellect but puts irons on our will.

Temptation is a spy upon our virtue, to be shot at sight.

Children are naturally ungrateful—God's children especially.

The experienced handle life cautiously—they dread its fangs.

It is hard to be imagined how simultaneously we can love and hate.

Nature is formless and valueless until reflected in the soul of man.

Our ideal moments are our best ones; our practical moments are risky.

God teaches socialism; man elects to study individualism at his peril.

Gratitude is in inverse proportion to the benefit—hence our ingratitude to God.

What we learn with our sweat and our blood is worth our ink.

Improved experience is worth what it costs, misimproved experience what it will bring.

We are well aware that Death is angling for us, yet we swallow his sweet baits with a rush.

There are more spoiled men and women than spoiled children—only we do not hear so much about them.

THE MOTHER OF SHIPS.

Ark Was the First Vessel Within Human Sympathy.

The Ark is the first ship, then, to appeal to human sympathy. Let her be called the mother of ships. Though we need not too curiously consider her, it is a strange fact, nevertheless, that the dimensions of this ship (taking the cubit about eighteen inches) correspond very nearly with the proportions of a sailing ship of to-day. Her burden was 15,000 tons. The Great Eastern was 7,000 tons larger than the Ark. Noah, when he laid his keel, designed with strict reference to the animals and to the living sheets of water that were to descend from the heaven. He would have need to build with great caution, nevertheless, for unless animals were stalled a sudden panic among them would occasion a dangerous "list." Noah seems to have provided against this by building his extraordinary stables upon a gigantic spoon-shaped hull. He required neither sails nor helm. When the ark was once awash she lifted easily to the tremendous weight of rain, and floated off into the gray vapors of steam, which rose hissing midway to heaven from the fierce stroke of God's pitiless storm, says the Pall Mall Magazine.

Sir Thomas Browne, a genius of gloriously quaint imaginations, who saw things, as Coleridge puts it, by the light of the halo of genius that shone about his head, wonders whether Noah might not have been the first man that compassed the globe. "Since," says he "if the flood covered the whole earth and no lands appeared to hinder the current, Noah must be carried with the wind and current according to the sun, and so in the space of the deluge, might even make the tour of the globe. And since, if there were no continent of America, and all that tract sea, a ship setting out from Africa without help would at last fall upon some part of India or China."

PURELY CANADIAN NEWS.

INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT OUR OWN COUNTRY.

Gathered from Various Points from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Nelson is the first town in the Kootenay to own its electric lighting plant.

Coal merchants in Hamilton are cutting prices. Farmers in other parts are cutting hay.

J. McNerhanie, of Shoal Bay, B. C., was found dead on the trail near Fanny Bay. Heart disease.

Winnipeg has an agitation for a by-law to prohibit bicyclists carrying children on their machines.

Twenty-five thousand persons have gone to the Klondike via the Chilkoot Pass so far this season.

Of the $50,000 required to wipe out the debt of the London Y.M.C.A., all but $1,000 has been raised.

In the Slocan riding of West Kootenay there are 1,510 voters, and in the Nelson riding there are 1,000 voters.

Owing to the ravages of grubs, the foliage is completely stripped off the trees at Horse Shoe and Heron Islands.

A Brantford lineman, Ed. Lanthier, seized a live wire. He wrestled with 2,000 volts, and came out with no injuries save burned hands.

The Massey-Harris Co. will spend $15,000 on their Brantford works as soon as the Council assures them flood prevention will be adopted.

Kent county jail, according to the grand jury, is a disgrace to the county. Tramps will please take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Mrs. Howard McLeod, of Rat Portage, moved to Fort William, taking some doves with her. The doves flew back home, a distance of 300 miles.

The model farm at Guelph, with its lunch attachments, attracts almost daily excursions of farmers from different parts of the province.

William F. Coulson, of Kingston, Ont., is one of the marines who put up such a plucky fight against the Spanish at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Berlin Board of Trade had a conference with C. P. R. officials, and made satisfactory arrangements as to freight rates when the new line reaches the city.

In fifteen years Lake Huron sturgeon have advanced in value from nothing to $3 a piece. The eggs are now shipped to Germany to be made into caviare.

A man entered a law office in Vancouver, B.C., gagged the office boy emptied the till of $25, and disappeared It is thought he was either a robber or a collector.

A Vancouver man recently married and started for Dawson on his honeymoon. And now opinion is divided as to whether he borrowed trouble or went looking for it.

Old John McKenzie of Brantford, who was recently removed to the House of Refuge, was literally starving to death and had undergone such privation that his recovery is doubtful.

Two St. Thomas ball players cuffed a small boy who said nasty things about their playing. The boy told his troubles to a policeman, and the police magistrate will act as umpire in the dispute.

The Conger Lumber Co., of Parry Sound, have sold their winter's cut of logs, in all 19,000,000 feet, to Messrs. Turner & Fisher, of Bay City, Mich. The logs are all to be taken away by September 1st.

Three Peterboro' boys, of respectable parentage, raided a fruit store, and the police authorities, bothered by the mixture of inherited respectability and contracted "cussedness," hardly know what to do with them.

The two-year old son of D. J. Slater was operated on at Guelph for a supposed tumor in his nose. The tumor proved to be a button that had gone into the little fellow's nose, and got completely grown over.

A Hamilton boy who preferred the open air to the somewhat closer atmosphere of the school-room, when pursued by the truant officer, ran into the water up to his neck, and smiled complacently at his pursuer. The officer knew his name, however.

There is a rumour in the Kootenay that the British American Corporation is trying to buy the breweries at Trail, Rossland, Kaslo, Nelson and Revelstoke, and thus monopolize the beer trade of the Kootenay.

INSECTS AND MUSIC.

Tarantulas do not dance to the sound of the violin, but let the people that bite do the dancing; scorpions, however, enjoy fiddling, according to the Quarterly Review, and lizards go crazy for music of any kind. As for serpents, the boa constrictor and python are senseless to melody, but the cobra is fascinated by the flute and still more by the fiddle. Polar bears enjoy the violin; so do ostriches; wolves will stop in the chase to listen to a cornet; elephants are fond of the flute, especially the upper notes; tigers show appreciating violin and flute, cannot stand the harmonica, while the alligator shows no emotion on hearing any instrument, not even the big drum.