

BRITAIN'S UNKNOWN NELSON.

The Life Story of Admiral Sir John A. FISHER, G. C. B.
(London 'Titbits'.)

Ask the ordinary individual the name of the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army and he will promptly answer Lord Roberts, and express surprise at your asking such a question. But hardly any one outside the Navy knows anything of the man who would be called upon to command our fleet in case of war. This interesting and highly responsible individual is Admiral Sir John Fisher, known throughout the Navy as 'Jacky Fisher.'

In the service he is regarded as a strong and able admiral. The officers of foreign navies respect him for his strategical skill and technical ability in handling a fleet. In a sense he may be said to hold the greatest post in the British Empire to which a subject can aspire. His work is more responsible than that of the Prime Minister, because he is the first man in the fighting fleets, 'whereon,' as the Articles of War say, 'under the good providence of God, the wealth, peace and safety of the country doth chiefly depend.'

The strangest thing about this man, who bears upon his shoulders the weight of the British Empire, is that he is not an Englishman at all in the strict sense of the word. His father was a captain in the 78th Highlanders, who settled in Ceylon, and his mother was a Singalese woman of high rank. Thus he has a strain of Oriental blood in his veins. It shows very slightly in his face, but only those who have lived for some time in the East are able to detect it.

In appearance he is a typical British admiral, of bulldog tenacity, with a simple, bluff, hearty manner. Many are inclined to regard him as sullen, but this is because he is naturally silent, with a horror of notoriety. In a career extending over a period of forty-nine years he has never spoken or written a word for publication. That is the reason, no doubt, why those outside the service know hardly anything about him.

A well-known naval writer in describing Sir John Fisher remarked that he had 'risen by dint of sheer brain power, continuity of purpose, clearheadedness, and conspicuous ability to the position he now holds.' Although the son of an obscure man he has attained the highest rank in the naval service, through his own individual efforts and dogged perseverance. He entered the Navy in 1854, and four years later occupied the post of lieutenant. He has seen much active service, having taken part in the Crimean War of 1855, the China War of 1859-60, and the Egyptian War of 1882.

He showed the sternness of his nature after the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882. As captain of the 'Inflexible' he had the task of organizing a police force and repressing the disorder and looting after the capture of the city. He shot the guilty at sight and restored order in a few hours. He caught many of his friends and even officers of his own ship among the looting party, and although they begged for mercy he had them all court-martialled and severely punished. Several years ago he was at Lisbon with a squadron. The relations between this country and Germany were decidedly strained.

Just before the English ships left a German fleet of twice the strength entered the harbor, with the idea of impressing the Portuguese, and drew up in double line off the town. Fisher exchanged salutes, and then led his vessels out of the harbor at full speed between the two German lines, with only twenty or thirty yards clear on either side. It was a manoeuvre that might have wrecked a dozen ships, and only a man of iron nerve could have carried it out successfully. But he had trained his squadron well. Not a single vessel swerved a yard from the wake of his flagship. Amazed at his daring the Germans cheered as he passed by their ships.

In 1890 Fisher was promoted to the rank of rear-admiral, while from 1899 to 1902 he held the responsible post of Commander-in-Chief of our most important fleet, the Mediterranean, when he became Second Naval Lord of the Admiralty.

Although all his subordinates respect him, and many admire him, it cannot be said that they all love him. Stern and a hard worker, with no pleasures excepting an occasional dance, his entire life is devoted to keeping the British Navy in perfect readiness to fight an enemy in any part of the world at a moment's notice.

Sir John rises regularly every morning at five and works on until eight or nine o'clock at night. In this connection he is fond of telling a story of an old boatswain who served under him in several ships. The boatswain eventually retired on a pension, and Fisher paid him a visit at his country cottage in Devonshire. He noticed a man-servant about the place, who seemed to have nothing to do, and asked his host:—

'What on earth do you want him for?'

'Well, sir,' said the boatswain, very gravely, 'he has to call me every morning at five o'clock and say, 'Admiral wants to see you sir.' I roll over on the other side of the bed

and reply, "Tell the Admiral to go to Jericho." Then I go to sleep again, feeling good. This happens half a dozen times a day, and I feel better every time. I've been waiting twenty years for it.'

Although stern towards men, he is pleasant to women. He never goes in to port if he can help it without giving a ball on his flagship. He was a great favorite with Queen Victoria, and was deeply attached to her. When the French Admiral Gervais visited Portsmouth some years ago with his fleet, Fisher was told off by the Admiralty to do him honors. The Queen called him to Osborne and said: 'Sir John, we have sent for you especially to ask you to be very nice to Admiral Gervais, as he was so very kind to us when we were recently at Cimiez.'

'Madam,' replied Jacky Fisher, gallantly, 'I will even kiss him, if your Majesty wishes it.'

Sir John Fisher has just been appointed Naval Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth.

LIFE ON A FARM.

PARTICULARLY TRYING TO THE WIVES AND DAUGHTERS.

A Place Where Woman's Work Is Never Done—The Reason Why There Are So Many Prematurely Aged and Worn Out Women.

It has been very truly said that "woman's work is never done," and this is, perhaps, especially true when applied to the wives of Canadian farmers, who are kept busy with their manifold duties from daylight till dark, and who find, even under the most favorable circumstances, but little time for relaxation and social enjoyment. They are a class of women whose pluck and endurance everyone must admire; they are helpmates in the broadest sense of the word, and unfortunately too often pay the penalty either in a complete breakdown of health, or in prematurely aged appearance. A case in point is that of Mrs. J. Marais, the wife of a well known and well-to-do farmer, living near Riviere du Loup, Que. Mrs. Marais is the mother of a large family, and like her husband, was ambitious for their welfare. As a consequence she overtaxed her strength, and after the birth of her last child failed to regain her former health. Several months passed and still Mrs. Marais was confined to her bed. Her strength had completely passed away. She was troubled with headaches, was extremely nervous, subject to pains in the back, and unable to take food with relish. She was under the care of more than one doctor, but did not regain her strength, and her family and friends believed that there was but little hope of her recovery. Then a neighbor strongly advised her to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and she began doing so. Soon, under the use of the pills, she began to recover her strength, was able to be up and go about. Day by day further beneficial results followed the continued use of the pills until after the use of eight boxes Mrs. Marais was fully restored to her old-time health and vigor. She speaks of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in very warm terms, and loses no opportunity to praise them.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a boon to overworked, weary and despondent women everywhere. Every pill helps increase the flow of rich, red blood through the veins, stimulates the nerves, and in this way restores health, strength and vitality. Only the genuine pills can do this, however, and the purchaser should see that the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," is printed on the wrapper around every box. If in doubt send direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and the pills will be mailed post paid at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50.

A Plea for Simplicity.

'I pray you, O excellent wife, not to cumber yourself and me to get a rich dinner for this man or woman, who has alighted at our gate, or a bedchamber made ready at too great a cost. These things, if they are curious in, they can get for a dollar in any village. But let this stranger, if he will, in your accent and behavior read your heart and earnestness, your thought and will which he cannot buy at any price at any village or city, and which he may well travel fifty miles, and dine sparsely and sleep hard in order to behold. Certainly let the board be spread and let the bed be dressed for the traveller, but let not the emphasis of hospitality be in these things. Honor to the house where they are simple to the point of hardship, so that there the intellect is awake and reads the laws of the universe.'—Dunsmuir.



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To make good pastry is perhaps one of the nicest operations in the culinary art. It requires much lightness and dexterity of the hand, as well as practice, and also considerable expedition, as it must be made, and put into the oven in the shortest time possible, or the paste will be heavy. The past-board and rolling pin ought never to be used for any other purpose than making pastry, and should be perfectly clean and free from dust; if possible, a marble slab is better to use than a paste board in warm weather. Pastry should be made in a cool place, and touched with the hands as little as possible.—*Catholic News.*

To the Point.

He: "And so you refuse me?"
She: "I must."
"It is because I am poor, I presume?"
"No, that is not the reason."
"Because my family is less aristocratic than yours, perhaps?"
"No."
"I see. You want to marry a title."
"No, I have no such ambition."
"Hum! Very strange! Then why is it you refuse me?"
"It's because I can't bear the sight of you."

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