

THE BRITISH UNION JACK.

By H. SPENCER HOWELL.

Mankind, in all the ages and in nearly every land, has shown a desire to have associated with his own identity some peculiar mark or symbol, as an emblem characteristic of his family, his attainments, or his place of residence; and, as a people of one state or commonwealth, a distinctive cognizance or token to perpetuate the remembrance of some valiant deed of arms, or some special act pertaining to the welfare of the community, and which has become national in its significance: typical of the honor and integrity of a country. These insignia—carved in stone, in ivory and in gold, painted on wood, or worked in silk or woollen fabrics—have represented almost everything in the animal and vegetable world, celestial forms and geometrical figures; yet they were not chosen in an indiscriminate manner and without meaning, but, on the contrary, with due consideration for the appropriateness thereof. The earliest chronicles give evidence of these symbols being worn and used; and the ancients were particularly careful that there should not be any misconception of the implied meaning, for nothing was employed that was not truly emblematic. In the 2nd verse of the 2nd chapter of the Book of Numbers, we find these words:—"Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house." The Romans began the system of a regular code of heraldry; and this was the origin of personal, family and national devices. Nothing of an emblematic character has played a more conspicuous part in the history of the world, than the flag; for, whether it has been as an armorial pennant of the knights-errant of olden times, or as the standard of an Empire in later days, around it has clustered the traditions of nations; the best and the bravest have fought and died to maintain its supremacy, countless thousands have followed without fear where'er it led them, it has inspired hope in the face of despair, and time and circumstances have hallowed it and made it sacred. Well may our people of Canada love and bless "The flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze!"

The origin of the British national flag can be traced back to the first Crusade, which took place eight hundred years ago. This great military expedition, which left the shores of Europe in 1096, to struggle for the possession of Jerusalem and the Holy Land (then in the hands of the Turks), was composed of the very flower of the chivalry of Christian nations. Although recognizing one leader, Godfrey de Bouillon, they were, necessarily divided into many camps; and these various divisions of the army were distinguished by certain flags, bannerets and badges. While on the *jacque* (or jacket) of each knight and soldier there was a large coloured cross, so that those belonging to the same legion might the more readily recognize one another.

The *Croix* (Crusader) from France wore a red cross; those from beyond the Rhine wore Yellow; the cross of the Flemings (from the Netherlands) was green; while those on the surcoats of the English were white. But each of them displayed a small red cross of woollen fabric on the right shoulder. At a later period, it appears that the cross of St. George became recognized as emblematic of England (red c. on a white ground); the cross of St. Andrew as that of Scotland (white saltire c. on a blue ground); and the cross of St. Patrick as pertaining to Ireland (narrow red saltire c.). In those days it was customary to place a *jacque* above the bowsprit of a ship, so that vessels approaching might see the denotative badge; and on the ships belonging to the fleets of the British Isles the crosses, together, formed a *jacque-unit*—or "Union Jack." While, to this day, the little pole above the bows of a British man-of-war is called the "Jack-staff."

The Jack was adopted as a national ensign in 1606; and it was confirmed, by a royal proclamation in 1707.

Prior to the year 1801, there were but the two crosses on the flag: those of England and Scotland; but at the time of the union with Ireland, on the above date, the Irish cross was added to the others, and the three form the Jack of the present day. So that neither the Scotch nor the Irish might feel jealous because of one flag being "surcharged" upon the other, it was deemed advisable to show the St. Andrew's cross as preponderating in the first and third quarters, (i. e. the white margin broader at the top), and the cross of St. Patrick in the ascendant in the second and fourth quarters (red margin uppermost). The white border to the large red cross of St. George is doubtless indicative of the original appearance: a red cross on a white field; besides, it is in keeping with heraldic rules and requirements.

The British ensign is the Union Jack on a red "fly" (or field), without any badge, crest, or arms.

The flag of a British man-of-war is the cross of St. George on a white "fly," in the first quarter of which is the Union Jack.

The flag of the Royal Naval Reserve is the Jack on a blue "fly."

The flag of an Admiral is a red cross on a white ground, only, and is carried at the

main mast-head; Vice-Admirals display theirs at the fore and Rear-Admirals at the mizzen mast-head.

The Royal Standard is simply the arms of the United Kingdom—three lions, passant guardant, in the first and the fourth quarters; a lion, rampant, in the second; and a harp in the third quarter; but without "supporters," crest or motto. This is the sovereign's own banner; it is flown wherever she resides, or wherever she happens to be—on land or sea. It is (or should be) displayed in Canada, over the Governor General's residence:—on the anniversary of Her Majesty's birth, accession and coronation. When the Princess Louise was in Canada, the standard was flown whenever Her Royal Highness accompanied His Excellency on an official visit.

The Canadian Ensign is—the British (red) ensign, on the "fly" of which is a badge composed of the arms of the four original Provinces, only; Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; without any maple-leaf or oak-leaf wreaths, without a beaver or a crown. This badge must not be larger than one quarter the size of the Jack. (Most of the so-called Canadian flags which we see are incorrect in design; and the owners are liable to a fine of five hundred pounds sterling if they display these ensigns on vessels or on public buildings.) In the military service the "Queen's" colour is the Union Jack with the numerals of the regiment and the crown in centre. The "Regimental" colour is generally the same as the facings; the territorial designation and numerals are in colours in the centre, and ornamented with the Thistle, Rose and Shamrock. Sometimes a small Union Jack is in the first "canton," or quarter next the staff. Rifle corps do not carry colours.

The Governor General's flag is the Union Jack with the arms of the Dominion (four Provinces, only) in the centre and surrounded by a garland of maple-leaves surmounted by a crown. The flag of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario is a Union Jack, in the centre of which are the arms of the Province, surrounded by a wreath of maple-leaves; but with no crown above them. These flags, the Royal Standard, and the Queen's and Regimental flags are nearly square in shape. The proper size of the Ensign is twice as long as it is wide; and the Jack must occupy one quarter of the whole; though these points are not strictly adhered to. On all vessels, forts, public buildings, and at military camps, flags should be hoisted at sunrise, or gun-fire, and lowered at sunset. Flags lowered to half-mast is evidence of respect to the dead. Ensigns displayed reversed mean a signal of distress.

When heraldic devices of flags, arms, etc., are printed in one colour or by one impression, the proper colours are designated by certain lines and characters:—thus, red is represented by perpendicular lines, blue by horizontal, green by diagonal (from first quarter to fourth), black by perpendicular and horizontal lines crossing each other closely, purple by diagonal lines (from second to third quarter), yellow or gold by spots on white ground, silver or pure white. Metals (silver or white, and gold or yellow) are never blazoned one on the other; but metals on colours and the reverse.

St. George became the popular, tutelary saint of England in the days of Richard Cœur de Lion; and was made the patron saint of the kingdom in the reign of Edward III. The national festival (April 23) is inaugurated by the Council of Oxford, in 1222.

St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, was one of the disciples; after suffering martyrdom by crucifixion on a saltire cross, his remains were removed from Patrae, Greece, to Constantinople, and thence (tradition tells us) to St. Andrews, a seaport in Fifeshire, Scotland. St. A. is also venerated in Russia as the founder of the church.

St. Patrick, the apostle of the Irish, was a son of Calpornius and a grandson of Potius, a priest. He was first sold into captivity by the Picts, about the year 411, and taken to Ireland; after gaining his liberty he devoted himself to the church. At 45 years of age he was consecrated bishop and died in 457, A. D.

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In the Senate on Thursday a vote was taken on the Cannon amendment, providing an export bounty for agricultural products, and it was defeated: Yeas, 10; nays, 51.

Her Reason.

A peddler of doorplates met with a curious experience in Salem recently. He went to a widow's house to sell her a doorplate, and when he took the name for the plate was surprised to get only the last name, the first initials being objected to. When questioned as to the reason for leaving them off the widow replied: "I might get married soon, and if my initials were on the plate it would be of no use. If they are not put on the plate they can be used by my son."

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Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart is without a peer. This great remedy relieves instantly the most aggravated and distressing forms of heart disease. It is the surest and quickest acting formula for heart trouble known to medical science, and thousands of times has the hand of the grim destroyer been stayed by its use. If there is palpitation, shortness of breath, pain in left side, smothering sensations—don't delay, or you may be counted in the long list of those who have gone over to the great majority, because the best remedy in the world to-day was not promptly used. Sold by W. W. Short.

Better to know about it

I have often heard people say they wished they knew nothing of the interior of their own bodies. Their fancy is, that knowing nothing they would fear nothing; and somehow, too, be in less danger of being taken ill. Even competent and studious doctors have expressed that wish in my hearing; for many of these men have very impressionable minds and often imagine themselves victims of the diseases they treat in others.

All the same, we have reason to be thankful for the progress that has been made in the cognate sciences of physiology and pathology—the body and its ills. Otherwise we should not be able this day to explain the facts set forth in the following letter.

"For over twenty years," says the writer, "my wife has suffered from chronic asthma and bronchitis. It came on first owing to a severe cold she took. Her breathing was short and difficult, and very often she had to fight for her breath."

At night she had to be bolstered up in bed, for she could not lie down properly. She had an awful cough and was constantly spitting up phlegm. During the night she would expectorate over a pint of this matter, and had to wipe it out of her mouth.

"For weeks together she would be laid up and unable to leave her room. Year after year she continued like this, sometimes better and then worse, and what she suffered is past description."

"I had several doctors attending her, who gave her up as being incurable, and I thought she could not live."

In December, 1890, a customer recommended my wife to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. After taking this medicine a short time the breathing was much easier, and the distressing cough was not so bad. She steadily persevered with it, and gained ground every day, being in better health than for twenty years.

"Since that time, whenever she feels her breathing bad, a few doses of Mother Seigel's Syrup relieves her. But for the use of this medicine I think she would have been in her grave. You can use this statement as you think fit. (Signed) Joseph Sheppard, grocer and draper, Malches r House, Mark, Somerset, Nov. 27th, 1895."

Now, what does science teach us in a case like this? It teaches that asthma is not an organic disease of the lungs (there is radically differing from consumption), but an affection of the nerves which control the action of the lungs. Its actual cause has nothing whatever to do with the function of breathing. Asthma is caused by poisons in the blood arising from fermented food in the stomach and bowels. These poisons, acting in concert with the bile acids which should be (but are not) abstracted from the blood by the sluggish liver, weaken and demoralise the nerves and bring on the wheezing and whistling in the chest, staring and bloodshot eyes, and (often) congested face and lips—called asthma. Bronchitis, an affection of the branches of the lungs, accompanied with more or less inflammation, is another result of the same cause. In plain English asthma and bronchitis are consequences and ultimate symptoms of a condition known as dyspepsia; and we are confident that Mrs. Sheppard's case has a contemporary history of habitual indigestion. As Mother Seigel's Syrup acted upon the digestive organs and purified the blood, the asthma and bronchitis virtually disappeared, as might have been expected.

One of the excellent results, my friend, of knowing something about the interior of the human body.

Shall it come to this?

He—Darling, ever since I first looked into your great, beautiful eyes, I have loved you. Surely you have known it from the beginning. Now I throw myself at your feet. Will you—can you be mine? Don't, oh, my divinity, don't keep me in suspense!

She—Pardon me, but I have signed a contract with The Daily Blast to talk only through its columns. Look in tomorrow's issue for your answer.

Children Cry for
Fischer's Castoria.

Can't Eat

This is the complaint of thousands at this season. They have no appetite; food does not relish. They need the toning up of the stomach and digestive organs, which a course of Hood's Sarsaparilla will give them. It also purifies and enriches the blood, cures that distress after eating and internal misery only a dyspeptic can know, creates an appetite, overcomes that tired feeling and builds up and sustains the whole physical system. It so promptly and efficiently relieves dyspeptic symptoms and cures nervous headaches, that it seems to have almost "a magic touch."

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The Schooner "WELCOME," 45 tons, and now lying at Buctouche, is for sale. For information apply to JOHN SMITH, Buctouche

His Occupation.

They had not seen each other for a long time, and they talked about old friends as they rode out east the other night, on the rear platform of a street car.

"By the way," said one of them, "what-ever became of Charlie Kinkhead? He used to be an unusually bright fellow in school and I've often wondered if he had fulfilled the promise he gave in the old days."

"Yes," replied the other, "he was a bright fellow. He's still living here. You can see him any day down on the docks watching the tugs come in."

"Watching the tugs come in? What does he do that for?"

"Because he can afford to. His wife's teaching school."

Two Bottles Cure Pimples.

GENTLEMEN,—For a long time I had pimples breaking out all over my face. I was told about B. B. B., and started its use. After taking one bottle I was much better, and the second bottle made a complete cure. I have recommended it to others of my friends, and they have found it uniformly satisfactory.

A. F. BEST,
Whitebread, Ont.

Sherlock Again

"Ah," said Sherlock Holmes, sitting down on the corner of the editor's desk. "I see you have just received a story from a young woman in a lawyer's office."

"How can you tell?" asked the editor. "Can you recognize the type-writing?"

"No. Don't you see the string is tied in a regulation love knot? That is the young woman end of it. And instead of ribbon she has used red tape."

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