

THE VICTROLA AND THE FAMILY—No. 3

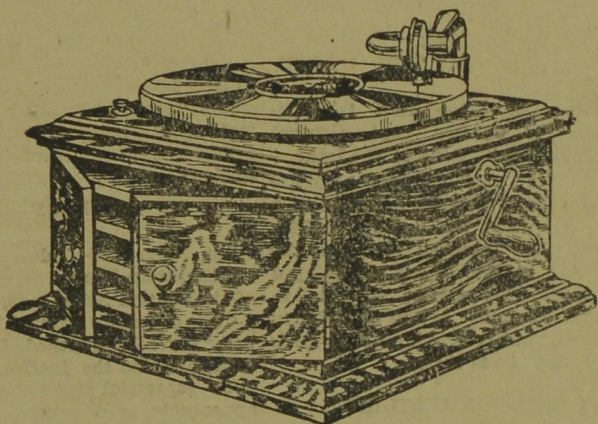


Father

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ARMY CHAPLAIN'S EXPERIENCES AT THE FRONT

In a letter from an army chaplain at the front which has been published in the Morning Post, he says: "I have been able to do a fair amount of spiritual work. It is remarkable how at such times as this the men look for it if ever human nature showed that at

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bottom the consciousness of God is in it, is it at times like this when men cannot tell what the day will bring. I have been able to hold Communion, and wish you could see the officers and men in big circles not such ones as one sees in times of peace, but hundreds. And round the camp fire, where they can be lighted, we hold evening service and sing hymns, 'Abide with me', 'Lead, Kindly Light,' and 'Holy Father in Thy Mercy,' which goes so well to 'Art Thou Weary?'—the real tune they do not know. Well, a great deal of good is done, and the desire and response of all shows that the work done has been good. Our men are wonderful, but the Germans—well, if the way they carry on here is any criterion of how they would carry on if they got to England, God help us, for no one else could. England is waking up, I see, but the full extent of the need cannot be driven home too deeply."

Some harsh things have been said of Premier Fleming during the past few months but he is determined that nobody shall be able to call him a quitter.

WHAT THE GERMANS THOUGHT BEFORE THE WAR BROKE OUT

(By Canadian Government Censors.)

A journalist who is particularly well informed with regard to naval affairs is Mr. Hector C. Bywater, who for some years was the Berlin correspondent of The Navy, the organ of the Navy League, and of the Naval and Military Record. In the latter paper he not long ago made some interesting remarks upon the German attitude towards the British navy. He first commented upon the exploit of the British submarine E-9 in sinking the German destroyer S-126, and continued:

German papers recently to hand contained allusions to the British navy which read somewhat strangely when contrasted with German press utterances on the same subject before the war. We are now given to understand that the enemy entertains a wholesome respect for our fleet. The events of the last two months appear to have convinced them that there may, after all, be something in the fighting traditions of the British sea service, which they had been assured by their "experts" were largely based on legend and myth. A great change in the tone of their press comment set in after the fight off Heligoland. The consummate skill, dash and courage which distinguished the conduct of that engagement obviously came as an eye-opener to the Germans. We may be sure that later events at sea, including the dual exploit of E-9, has deepened the same salutary impression. Even the leading German papers now admit that the Fatherland must look to the land campaign both for its laurels and substantial successes, as the prospect at sea is not encouraging. In a word, they are beginning to realize that the British fleet is a factor whose power had been grossly underrated, and it is clear from their guarded admissions that they have no great confidence in the ability of the German navy to fulfil its much-advertised mission of protecting the commerce and the colonies of the Fatherland. It may be remarked, in passing, that unless it does something, and that very soon, the German navy will suffer a severe loss of prestige in Germany itself. German patriots, we may well imagine, are already beginning to ask themselves what return they are getting for the enormous expenditure on naval armaments during the last fourteen years. It is literally true that up to the present this great fleet has been utterly powerless to affect the course of the campaign in any direction whatever. It has, perhaps, prevented a hostile landing on the German coasts, but this elementary form of coast defence could have been equally well undertaken by small flotillas costing but a fraction of what the high sea fleet has cost. Indeed, the reliance which has always been placed on shore batteries and mine-fields proves that the navy was never intended for coast defence, in the narrow sense of that term. Sooner or later the German public will demand some decisive action by the fleet. Whether the hands of the navy department could be forced by public opinion is another question, but the officers and men of the fleet cannot be feeling very happy in the knowledge that their comrades of the army are doing all the work while they remain absolutely idle.

THOUGHT NAVY EFFETE.

One of the most widely held opinions in Germany before the war was that the British navy was a thoroughly effete institution. Time after time it has been the writer's duty in these columns to record statements by prominent Germans which showed how completely they believed this to be the case. To take the material first, every type of vessel in the British navy, from super-dreadnought to submarine, was subjected to the most scathing criticism by German writers. Our ships were ill-designed, badly built, unstable and unseaworthy, owing principally to the absence of scientific methods in naval design and the decadence of the British workman. Our guns were of very inferior quality, inaccurate and short-lived, while the very last issue of Nauticus, published in July, contained an article in which British gunnery methods were treated with supercilious contempt. It was the personnel, however, which these critics professed to consider responsible for the alleged decline of British naval power. Certain amiable writers, who were supposed to know the sentiments of German naval officers, were wont to assure us that these gentlemen had a high respect for the personal character and professional attainments of the British naval officer. Such, however, was not the impression one gained from a perusal of German service literature, in which our officers were uniformly set down as lacking in that zeal for hard work and the purely professional side of their duties that were held to distinguish the German "see offiziere." As for the men, they were mercenaries who had taken to the sea because they were not much good for anything else. Drunkenness was rife among them and insubordin-

ation frequent, with the result that discipline was at a low ebb and the war training of the fleet suffered in consequence.

Much as we may smile at these views, the fact remains that they were commonly shared by the vast majority of intelligent Germans, and there is reason to believe, by many high naval authorities in Berlin. The prevalence of such opinions helps to explain the supreme confidence with which the Germans looked forward to an encounter with Great Britain. They knew their fleet to be much smaller, but they really believed that the superior skill and devotion of their personnel, together with the incomparably finer ships they manned, would achieve victory in the teeth of the heavy odds.

As we have said, Heligoland came as the first rude shock to this characteristic self-complacency. Other events followed, minor in themselves, but all pointing the same way. Meanwhile it must have been brought home to the meanest intelligence in the Fatherland that Britain's grip on German sea commerce is remorselessly complete. With the exception of some good work by its submarines, the "successes" of the German navy to date have been of the negative order.

IF CHILD IS CROSS, FEVERISH AND SICK

Look, Mother! If Tongue is Coated Give "California" Syrup of Figs.

Children love this "fruit laxative" and nothing else cleanses the tender stomach, liver and bowels so nicely. A child simply will not stop playing to empty the bowels, and the result is, they become tightly clogged with waste, liver gets sluggish, stomach sours, then your little one becomes cross, half-sick, feverish, don't eat, sleep or act naturally, breath is bad, system full of cold, has sore throat, stomach-ache or diarrhoea. Listen, Mother! See if the tongue is coated, then give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the constipated waste, sour bile and undigested food passes out of the system, and you have a well, playful child again.

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Father's Bald Head

A little boy reached school with very untidy hair, and his teacher asked him:

"Why don't you brush your hair?" "Ain't got no brush, sir," replied the boy.

"Why don't you use your father's brush, then?" asked the teacher. "He ain't got no brush either," was the reply.

"No brush! Why hasn't he a brush?" asked the teacher again, in astonishment.

"He's got no hair," was the gloomy reply.

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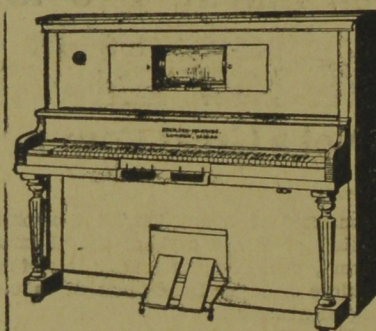
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