

INTRODUCTION

THESE letters were written by our eldest son, Edward Ashley Baird, late Lieutenant-Commander, H.M.S. *Britomart*: some from the *Britannia*, where he went as a naval cadet when thirteen years old, and the remainder from H.M.S. *Triumph*, the ship in which he went for his first cruise at the age of fifteen.

The *Triumph* was commanded by Captain (now Admiral) H. Rose, R.N., and was the flagship of the Pacific Squadron, then commanded by Admiral J. K. E. Baird, our son's uncle.