

clouds upon the background of a blue sky. The colours of this flag stand for Purity and Truth.

The flag of St. Andrew was used by some of the great pirates of the North Sea. In the reign of Richard the Second, Mercer flourished. In Henry the Seventh's reign, Sir Andrew Wood of Leith challenged the English Royal Navy in contest, three ships were chosen, and Sir Andrew Wood overmastered them and carried them off as prizes to Dundee. James the Fourth of Scotland returned the ships and men to Henry the Seventh, saying, "The contest had been for honour, not for booty."

The last of these Scotch rovers was Sir Andrew Barton, who was the terror of the North Sea, and flourished when Henry the Eighth was King.

It was owing to the seas being infested by pirates of all nations that the British Fleet for 400 years of its existence was primarily necessary. Naval engagements as such were few, the chief work of the Navy being the protection of commerce and the suppression of privateering, which was engaged in by smaller nations when at war with Britain.

THE IRISH JACK

Two hundred years later, 1801, the Irish Jack was added to the two-crossed Jack. The Patron Saint of Ireland is St. Patrick. Not much is known of