## Northern Messenger

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## Gibraltar.

(Buffalo 'Express.')

When people wish to give the idea of a grim, defiant, monitory, impregnable fortress, or seat of power, they call it a 'Gibraltar.' Halifax, with its powerful defences and armament, is called the 'Gibraltar' of America.' There is something mighty in the sound of the word. This is because the British have kept Gibraltar for nearly two hundred years, holding it as a rod above the Mediterranean, and defying all attempts to wrest it away.

Gibraltar is the southern promontory of Spain, an outlying rock, hanging directly southward from the province of Andalusia by a low, sandy strip of land. To the west of the strip or isthmus is the Bay of Gibraltar, with the Spanish town of Algeciras on its western shore. To the east of the isthmus is the Mediterranean. Gibraltar forms one of the gateposts of the Mediterranean, the other gatepost being the rock of Ceuta, in Africa, now held by Spain, Ceuta (of old Abyla) and Gibraltar (Calpe) were the two pillars of Hercules, which the ancients considered the western boundary of the earth. You can see the emblematic representations of these pillars to-day on the coins of Spain; they also appear on the old 'pillar dollar,' the Spanish colonial or Mexican coin, famous in freebooter history as the 'piece of eight.' But in fact one of the



GIBRALTAR BATTERIES.

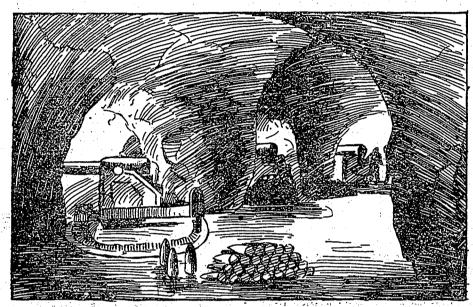
pillars was torn from Spain long ago; and to be truthful, the Spanish coins would bear only one symbolical pillar, instead of two.

In 1704 the British took Gibraltar from Spain, during the war of the Spanish Succession, and they have retained it ever since, as the key to the Mediterranean, and have fortified it so that it is supposed to be impregnable. It was formally ceded to Great Britain in 1713. In 1727 it was besieged again, and from 1779 to 1783 the French

and Spaniards (then for a time our allies) blockaded it once more, when it made one of the most obstinate and heroic defences recorded in history. Since then England's enemies have let Gibraltar alone. The work of constructing new defences in the rock, or of perfecting the old ones, is supposed to go on continually. The visitor is allowed to see only a part of the fortifications, but it is known that in tunnels of the rock and masked behind shrubs and

260 acres is being formed, and for the new dockyard some 50 acres of waste space have been reclaimed. The harbor will be made secure against torpedo attack.

During the Spanish-American war, the Spaniards began to mount new guns at Algeciras, threatening the bay and Gibraltar. British sympathy for the Americans evidently was the cause of this expression of feeling on the part of the Spaniards. Great Britain at once protested against a continu-



INTERIOR OF BATTERIES.

other disguises there are guns innumerable. The Strait of Gibraltar is fifteen miles wide, and no cannon can command it all; but the position of Gibraltar, so near the meeting point of Mediterranean and Atlantic, is of vast strategic importance. In the old days of sailing ships, Gibraltar was practically able, in most cases, to bar the passage of the strait to an enemy's squadron.

Gibraltar has been compared in appearance, to a couchant lion, looking across the waters. It is a rock 1,440 feet high, almost perpendicular on the south and east, and sloping and accessible on the north and west only. On the north and west the fortifications are specially elaborate. The rock is a mass of limestone, honeycombed by caves and pierced by military tunnels. The town lies on the north-western slope, facing Algeciras across the bay. It has a population of about 20,000, besides the garrison that England always keeps there. Its position makes it a depot of Spanish and Moorish products intended for Great Britain.

The rock of Gibraltar, which has so large a place in history and is so impressive of British power, is less than two square miles in area. It is a crown eclony, and the governor is the commander-in-chief of the British garrison. The town of Gibraltar is under military regulations. The gates are closed at sunset, and patrols traverse the streets. The governor exercises all the functions of government and legislation. The garrison numbers 5,000. The home government makes no contribution to the support of the colony, which maintains itself by port dues, rents, excise, etc. To all intents and purposes, Gibraltar might be an island instead of a little peninsula of Spain. It is a naval base of great strength. upon the harbor and naval establishment is going on all the time. A deep harbor of

ance of the work at Algeciras, and the armament stopped.

The bizarre mixture of nationalities is one of the curiosities of Gibraltar. Another is its batteries. There are water batteries, protected by submerged embankments almost level with the surface of the sea. There are masked batteries armed with guns of 38 tons and even bigger, moved by hydraulic gear carefully buried underground. There are batteries ranged in three galleries hollowed out of the rock, the highest more than two hundred yards above the water. The value of these last batteries is doubtful, because of the discomforts and hindrances incidental to serving them. But the 'old woman's teeth,' as the Spaniards call the cannon, have an impressive effect when their mouths are perceived from the foot of

Life at Gibraltar is not delightful. The climate is disagreeable and the sensation of living all the time under a state of siege soon becomes wearisome. But Gibraltar is one of the most picturesque places in all the world.

Dr. Cuyler's Talk to Princeton College Men.

(Notes of a talk given by Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler to the students of Princeton University.)

Make a life. Do not simply make a living. We have a solemn responsibility. Daniel Webster said the greatest thought that ever entered his mind was his responsibility to God. Our duty is that of a witness. Cases are often ruled out of court on account of poor witnessing. Our character must stand inspection. It is what you are, more than what you say.