

# HOME SCHOOLS



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## Gibraltar.

GIBRALTAR is said to be the strongest fortress in the world. It is a high cliff, connected with the main land by a narrow spit of sand. About three miles of galleries are hewn in the solid rock. The walls are pierced for heavy guns, of which over 1,000 are in position. Immense sums of money have been expended in making this fortress impregnable. It was captured by the British and Dutch in 1704, and held by the former ever since. From 1780 to 1783 it was besieged by the French and Spanish without success. Forty-seven ships, 1,000 guns and 40,000 men failed to capture this stronghold defended by 7,000 men. It is 15 miles across the Straits to the African shore.

## The "Benbow."

It is almost impossible to realize the tremendous power for offence and defence of the best modern ships of war. The most powerful ship afloat has been launched near London. She is to be fitly named in honour of stout John Benbow, one of the men who helped to make England the mistress of the seas. The *Benbow* is constructed wholly of steel, and no less than 10,000 tons of this metal have been used in her construction. If the steel used in this ship were loaded upon waggons, each waggon carrying a ton; and if these waggons should be started from Hamilton for Toronto, the teams following each other as closely as possible, the first would reach Toronto before the last could leave Hamilton. The engines by which this marine monster is to be propelled will have the nominal power of 9,500 horses, actually a far greater power, and they will drive her through the water at the rate of 17½ knots, or more than 20 statute miles an hour. The *Benbow* will be used as a ram, and one may have some idea of the consequences if her 10,000 tons of dead weight should be sent crashing into the side of another

monster like herself. The principal guns of the *Benbow* will be only two in number, but they will be no pop-guns. They will weigh 110 tons each; the projectiles to be fired by them will weigh 2,000 pounds each, and 900

the gun, the projectile and the powder multiplied by from 200 to 500 and he will begin to understand what a monster one of the *Benbow* guns really is. In addition to the two great guns she will have a number of smaller pieces, as well



GIBRALTAR.

pounds of powder will be burned at each discharge. One who stands beside an ordinary field piece throwing a projectile weighing about nine pounds, and using perhaps a pound and a half of powder will be satisfied that the power exerted is quite respectable. Let him imagine—if he can—

as machine guns. She will be provided with netting to protect her against torpedoes, and will also have torpedoes with which to assail her enemies. Altogether the *Benbow* will be the mightiest engine of offensive and defensive warfare ever constructed.—*Ontario Packet.*

## Rescued from the Flames.

DURING one of the great storms of the past year, the lightning struck a barn in the village of Lowenberg, setting it on fire, and a stork's nest, in which there were some young storklings was threatened by the flames.

The two parent birds contemplated the horrible situation from a distance with evident distress. At last the mother bird darted down upon the nest, and seizing one of her family with her beak, bore it off to a safe spot in a meadow. The father followed her, and settled down to keep watch over his offspring.

When the mother returned to the scene of danger the fire had reached the nest, in which one bird still remained, but while she was flying round it, preparing for a descent, the young one fell through the charred nest into the burning barn. Down darted the mother into the smoke and fire, and coming up again with her *sprossling* in her beak, flew off, apparently unhurt.

The next day a wounded stork fell to the ground in the market-place of the neighbouring town of Trobbin. She was unable to stand, and the policeman of the little town carried her into the guard-house, where it was discovered that both her legs were sorely burned; and she was recognized as the heroic mother who had done the brave feat of rescue at the fire at Lowenberg.

A physician was sent for, and the burgomaster found her a temporary hospital in the Rathaus. Meanwhile the spouse of the sick stork had discovered her whereabouts. He attended diligently to the young ones, and paid daily visits to the mother, as if to inform him-

self how the patient was getting on and to assure her that their children were doing well.

The kind school children of Trobbin readily charged themselves with the task of finding food for the patient, bringing her every day far more than was necessary, and the burgomaster