

198 Heligoland to Keeling Island

Fleet of England is her all in all," was surely inspired, since it exactly expresses the relation in which the Navy stands to the national weal.

Early in September the Grand Fleet, which had remained quietly on the alert at its appointed stations since the brilliant dash into the Bight of Heligoland, hoping against hope for the appearance on the horizon of Admiral von Ingenohl's Dreadnoughts coming forth to accept battle, saw fit once more to demonstrate its absolute and undisputed command of the North Sea, formerly miscalled the "German Ocean."

On September 10th the Admiralty communicated the following :

"Yesterday and to-day strong and numerous squadrons and flotillas have made a complete sweep of the North Sea up to and into the Heligoland Bight. The German fleet made no attempt to interfere with our movements, and no German ship of any kind was seen at sea."

It was easy to read between the lines of this laconic announcement the certain fact that another hazardous operation had been carried out with great skill and splendid courage, though, as luck would have it, the results were negative. Into the death-strewn waters of Heligoland Bight our squadrons and flotillas had penetrated once more, and once more the German Fleet had declined what was clearly intended as a deliberate challenge.

The average layman can form no true conception of the manifold difficulties and perils which must have attended the operation. A "complete