



INTRODUCTORY

The investigation of so important a subject as the origin, history and meaning of our national banner, the *Union Jack*, cannot but awaken a deep interest to know something of that grand old flag we all love so well, and which we have so solemnly pledged ourselves to protect under all circumstances, even at the risk of our lives, if need be.

Many of us, for want of better advantages in youth, are forced to confess our ignorance upon so personal a matter. There is no need to continue longer in that state with this little work to consult, the object of which is to aid every loyal British subject, old and young, to come to a knowledge of the faith that is in him and impart it to others.

In all countries where public education exists, those in authority make it a special feature from the first hour of a child's school life to teach him the history, meaning and significance of his national flag, prompted, no doubt, by the well-founded belief that the impressions made in youth, when well directed, prove most lasting, yielding good fruit later on in life.

Our children who are to be the men and women after we have passed away, and who are to bear up this grand old standard, preserve its good name and fame, and carry it again to victory, demand that we do our whole duty towards them as British subjects.

It is the natural instinct of the human race to have an emblem. We have seen our little children with all pride possible parading up and down with a small stick in hand, held aloft, on which a colored bit of cloth, paper or ribbon is attached, stepping out briskly to the time beats of a small drum. Even