

Britain and the allied forces of France, Germany, and Russia. The Germans effect a landing at Harwich while the Channel fleet is off guard, but are repulsed by the British with the capture of 60,000 men. The combined French and Russian fleet annihilate the British Mediterranean squadron and the Spaniards destroy Gibraltar; but a British fleet destroys or captures, not without severe loss, the combined French and German fleet off the coast of Portugal, and so saves the nation. The description of the manoeuvres, of the clash and crash of the ironclad destroyers, and a new swift class of "exterminators," which steam forty miles an hour, and discharge tremendous submarine projectiles, and of "battle forts" impervious to torpedoes, are bloodcurdling in their vividness. The Armageddon of the seas is a hideous nightmare. Twenty-five battleships of both sides, worth twenty million pounds, are sunk with their crews of 17,500 brave men. The Americans save many lives with their hospital ship "Maine." Devout thanksgiving is offered "to Him who indeed fought for us against a greater Armada than even that which Howard and Drake met and overthrew."

We doubt the utility of books of this sort, they don't make for peace, but tend to incite international hate. Nevertheless, they give a realistic description of the mighty fleet in action which is now holding a peaceful review at Spithead. It is for just this fearful destructiveness that these ships are at such enormous cost built and manned, and just such havoc was wrought by the Japanese and American navies in their recent wars. For Britain, with its world-wide empire, depending for the food of her people and their very existence on the freedom of the seas, we suppose such a navy is necessary. For Germany, with few seaports, and Russia with fewer still, a great navy is not needed, and its creation is only a menace against the world's peace. But God forbid that these great sea krakens should ever meet in the shock of battle.

"Is it, O man, with such discordant noises,  
With such accursed instruments as these,  
Thou drownest Nature's sweet and kindly  
voices,  
And jarrest the celestial harmonies?"

We must protest against the profanity put in the mouths of British admirals, captains, and lieutenants by this author. We refused to believe that they indulge in the fearful oaths common in the days of Admiral Benbow and the sea-dogs of Smollett's time. In those days judges swore upon the bench, lawyers at the bar, fine ladies over their cards, "the nation was clothed with cursing as with a garment"; but now no gentleman swears, and these officers are gentlemen.

"The Seigneur de Beaufoy." By  
Hamilton Drummond. Toronto:  
The Copp, Clark Co. Pp. 32.

The book last noticed was a look into the future. This is a look into the past, to the stormy days of the parricidal war of the bigot Louis XI. against his father, Charles VIII. five hundred years ago. It gives a vivid picture of those turbulent times, of the terrors of the plague, the valour and chivalry yet ruthless cruelty of the Seigneur de Beaufoy, of the saintly ministrations to the sick and dying of the fair dame Bonne de Salice, or the pride and pomp and power of the Bishop de Grandfrai. Any one who idealizes those days of faith and deeds of chivalry will be disillusioned by the study of this o'ertrue tale.

We have received from their publisher two excellent little books, one the life of a famous Methodist revivalist, Charles G. Finney, by A. M. Hills, and "Coals From the Altar," a treatise on practical religion, by Rev. H. T. Davis. Price, 20 cents each. Neither of these books has much literary merit, but they are instinct with the spirit of the Christian life. Mr. Hills is described as President of Texas Holiness University. The books are issued from the office of "God's Revivalist," Mount of Blessings, Cincinnati, Ohio, in the monthly "Pentecostal Holiness Library." We do not wish to criticise adversely any one who is trying to do good, but we seriously question the wisdom and propriety of assuming titles which seem to imply special favour in the counsels and commission of the Almighty.