

NAVAL UNIFORMS.

The first mention of anything like a uniform for the Royal Navy is contained in an order issued by King James, April 6, 1609, in which he commands "his principal masters of ships to be most bravely in liveries of scarlet cloth, embellished with velvet, silk lace, buttons, and gold embroidery;" and the precept mentions its being a renewal of the late Queen Elizabeth for the same purpose, but, by reason of her death, not acted upon. No attempt, however, to establish a regular uniform for all grades of officers appears to have been made until the reign of George II.

Epaulets are the palettes of Henry IV.'s time, which were circular plates of metal to protect the shoulders. They were not ordered to be worn as part of the English naval uniform until June, 1796. Their French origin was sufficient to incur the detestation of Lord Nelson who, speaking to Captains Ball and Sheppard, said, "They wear fine epaulets, for which I think them great coxcombs." In most, if not all, of the battles of Trafalgar, he descended to his cabin, where decorated himself with the insignia of all his orders, and remounted the deck in conspicuous splendour, and on being told by Captain Hardy that his stars and medals would mark him to the enemy, he exclaimed, "In honour I have gained them, and in honour I'll die with them." Capt. Hardy's own version of the story is, that Nelson dressed himself in the same coat which he had commonly worn since he left Portsmouth—it was a plain blue coat of coarse cloth, which is still preserved in the Greenwich Hospital—on which the star of the Bath was embroidered, as was customary. While walking the deck and after the firing had commenced, Hardy remarked that the badge might draw attention from the enemy's tops, to which Nelson coolly replied, "He was aware it might be seen but it was now too late to be shutting a coat." "I had the watch on deck," said Prince William Henry, afterwards Wm. IV., "when Cap. Nelson, of the *Albemarle*, came alongside in his barge. He appeared to be the merest boy of a captain I ever beheld, and his dress was worthy of notice. He had on a full faced uniform; his lank unpowdered hair was tied in a stiff Hessian tail of extraordinary length; the old fashioned flaps of his waistcoat added to the general quaintness of his figure, and produced an appearance which particularly attracted my attention, for I had never seen anything like it before, nor could I imagine who it was or what he came about. My doubts, however, were removed when Lord Howe introduced me to him."

The custom of placing the uniform, sword, epaulets, cocked hat, etc., upon the coffin of a deceased officer at his funeral is a relic of the Church of Rome. It was formerly the custom to offer the gorget, sword, helmet, etc., of a deceased officer at the mass said for the repose of his soul prior to interment.

It is not known from any document in the British Admiralty, nor does it appear by the *Gazette*, when the first uniform for the Royal Navy was established by George II.; but the first mention of one is found in the *Jacobite Journal* for March 5, 1748, which says: "An order is to be issued requiring all His Majesty's naval officers—from the admirals down to the midshipman—to wear an uniformity of clothing, for which purpose pattern suits for dress and frock coats for each rank of officers are lodged at the navy-yard, and at the several dockyards, for

their inspection." (Drawings of these coats, which were destitute of collars, can be found in one of the volumes of the *London Nautical Magazine*.) The *Gazette* of July 17, 1757, refers to this order in noticing the first alteration that was made.

Mr. Locker, a commissioner of Greenwich Hospital says.—"In the Navy Gallery of this Institution, I can show you every variety of out and complexion of dress. Nottingham, Reiga, and Torrington expended their dignities in courtly costume. Lawson, Harmon, and Monk frown in buff belts and jerkins. Sandwich, Munden, and Benbow shine forth in armour; while Rooke, Russell, and Shovell, the heroes of a softer age, are clothed in crimson and Lincoln green, surmounted with the flowing wig, which then alike distinguished the men of the robe and of the sword. A portrait of Commodore Brown, who, with Vernon, took Porto Bello in 1739 exhibits him, sword in hand, in a full suit of russet brown. In 1746, Captain Wyndham and all the officers of the Kent (70) wore grey and silver, faced with scarlet. Such foppery was not unfrequently combined with check shirts and petticoat trousers. The same year (1746) a club of officers, who met every Sunday night at Wells' Coffee House, Scotland Yard, "for the purpose of watching over their rights and privileges"—a club that has its parallel in the United States Navy to-day—determined February 15, 1746, "that a uniform dress is useful and necessary for the commissioned officers agreeably to the practice of other nations;" and a committee was appointed to wait upon the Duke of Bedford and Admiralty, and if their lordships approved, introduce it to His Majesty. Mr. Locker says, Mr. Forbes the admiral of the fleet in (1746) informed him that he was summoned to attend the Duke of Bedford, and was introduced to an apartment surrounded with various dresses and his opinion was asked as to the most appropriate. The Admiral said, "Red and blue, as these are our national colours." "No," replied His Grace, "The King has determined otherwise; for having seen my Duchess riding in the Park a few days ago in a habit of blue faced with white, the dress took the fancy of His Majesty, who has appointed it for the uniform of the Royal Navy."

There is no trace of the order on board warrant at the Admiralty for this regulation, though the year of its institution is proven by the *Gazette* of 1757, where an Order of Council appears superseding the embroidered uniform established in 1748, and appointed in its stead a laced uniform for the flag officers and others under their command. In succeeding years, and under the different reigns, the facings have been more than once changed from white to red, and vice versa, and the distinguishing marks for rank have been repeatedly changed, varied, and modified. To show the difficulty of making any regulations of a uniform that could not be varied from, it is stated that Frowbridge once took his place at the Admiralty Board wearing a white cocked hat, the colour of the cocked hat not having been specified in some regulations just issued, and which were considered perfect, and so clear that none could mistake them.

A family consisting of six persons, named Jones, who arrived from the West a few days ago, were found in the street of Chicago almost starved to death. They were carried to a police station and cared for.

THE SONS OF HAM.

Though the negro is an African, all Africans are not negroes. There are the same varieties to be observed in the descendants of Ham as in those of Shem and Japheth. All are distinctly African, but the retreating forehead, prominent jaws, and ill formed body with which the negro is generally credited, are not common. It is not only the Manyema, of whom we have lately heard from Dr. Livingstone, who are beautiful in form and features, for I have met with counterparts in regions less unknown. In South Africa there is a remarkable illustration of the physical and mental differences which may exist in tribes that are almost contiguous. The Basjamen are dwarfed in body and stunted in mind. The language in its utterances seems not to be far removed from the unintelligent gibbering of the ape. Their habits are those of wild beasts rather than those of human beings. They occupy about the lowest position in the scale of humanity. Yet we shall look in vain for finer specimens of the "genus homo" than the Zulu Kafirs. They are tall in stature, manly in bearing, and graceful in movements. Their language is pleasant to the ear, and capable of expressing almost any thought the human mind is capable of conceiving. They are logical in reasoning patient in argument, and acute in observation. They are warlike, for they are pastoral in their pursuits; and since the days of the Hyksos, the old shepherd kings who were the terror of Egypt, the lovers of flocks and herds have been fond of fighting. When their blood is up their anger rages unchecked by tender regard or the claims of pity; but they do not brood over their wrongs, and they readily forget and forgive. "They fought us like men, and during a truce they behaved themselves like gentlemen," was said of them by a friend of mine who had been engaged in a war against them. In times of peace they are courteous to strangers, liberal in hospitality, and to the trust reposed in them they respond with an Arab like fidelity. When once the host has kissed the hand of his guest there need be neither guards or weapons, for his life and property are perfectly secure. It is quite true that they in common with all Africans, are black, or nearly so; yet you cannot be with them or with other of the higher races of Africa; long without feeling that the affinity between them and the fair skinned man is perfect in every material point; and the sympathies of a common nature soon bridge over a chasm which at first seems to exist between ourselves and them on account of the difference of colour. Indeed, I soon nearly forgot that they were black; and when I recollected it was sometimes to their advantage, for in Africa black is a far better colour to wear than white inasmuch as a white man's complexion, after he has had three or four touches of the fever, is apt to turn into a dirty looking yellow; and then, as my glass assured me more than once, he is not a pleasant object to look at. As a matter of taste I should not like to see the skin of my own country.