



THE PRESENT UNION JACK.

one and two, and the two lower three and four, and that the widths of the two saltire crosses are differently placed in each quarter; the reason is that Scotland being the senior of the two, occupies the higher position in the first and third quarters, which are nearest the flagstaff, and that the positions are reversed in the second and fourth cantons, that is, that in the first and third quarters the broad white of St. Andrew is placed above the red cross and its border, while in the second and fourth the red of St. Patrick and its border are above, so that they are thus counterchanged, while laid over this or surmounting it is the red cross of St. George with its white border, indicating clearly the leading part England has taken in the Union and the leading position the English nation has held, while each cross has been preserved intact and rests upon its own proper ground or field, the white St. Andrew's on a blue field and the red St. George's and St. Patrick's on white grounds, the whole forming a most beautiful combination and one of the handsomest flags that has ever floated to the breeze. Further symbols may be taken from the heraldic meaning of the colors, namely, red for courage, white for purity, and blue for truth; thus each combination was carefully thought out in our flag and explicit instructions given for the different proportions, which have never been changed, the correct measurements being as follows, first bearing in mind that the length of a flag should be double its width:

Red cross of St. George, 1-5 of width of flag.

White border to St. George, 1-3 of red of St. George.

Red cross of St. Patrick, 1-3 of red of St. George.

White border to St. Patrick, 1-6 of red of St. George.

Broad white of St. Andrew, 1-2 of red of St. George.

It will be seen from the above that the crosses of St. Andrew and St. Patrick have an equal share on the flag, because the one-third of the red and one-sixth of the border of St. Patrick together are equal to one-half of the broad white of St. Andrew, although Scotchmen may claim to have a larger share, as the blue ground they can call their own. It will be seen that in the proclamation of January 1st, 1801, the flag was called the Union flag and is the correct name; though still called the Union Jack the latter term is really more applicable to the flag or Jack used on the bow of a ship of war, and flown on what are called Jack staffs; to make a correct Union Jack it is necessary to draw two diagonal lines from the corners, when it will be found that these are the centre and dividing lines of the saltires, but while in a square flag these lines will intersect the corners of St. George's cross in an oblong flag they will not, so in making a flag it is best to draw the saltires first and the St. George's cross over all; a little study will soon enable anyone to become familiar with the proper design and proportions, so there is no excuse for the Union Jack being wrongly made or placed; a correct flag shows the broad white of St. Andrew