

# Northern Messenger

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## Be on the Watch.

It was the eve of May 28, 1672, the English fleet, led by James, Duke of York, was lying in Sole Bay, off the town of Southwold. One of the officers serving under the Duke was the Earl of Sandwich.

'Sir,' said the Earl to the Duke, 'would it not be wise for us to be on the watch? Any moment, under cover of darkness, the Dutch might surprise us.'

James, who loved merry-making, replied carelessly, 'Oh, I've no fears about De Ruyter now. We're best without cowards who are always imagining false alarms!'

Earl Sandwich was stung to the quick. His was not a cowardly nature, as next day's action proved.

And he was right in his fears. The Dutch

ship, 'The Royal James'; but it was this sacrifice that opened the way for others to enter, to hold the position which the noble Earl had won with his life.

He was no coward who wished to strain every nerve to be on the watch. Nor was his selfish service, who laid down his life to prevent the inertness and pleasure-lovingness of another, higher in command than himself, from proving fatal to the success of the English arms. Earl Sandwich thought not of his own honor. It was the cause, the welfare of his country, that he cared about. God grant to us the same spirit of unselfish service in whatever He may call us to take up.

The spirit in which Earl Sandwich acted in this fight with the Dutch in Sole Bay reminds us of the words of the Japanese admiral,

taught the class. The girls laughed in my face. I never felt so tempted to turn any one from Sunday-school as I did those girls. I never saw such frivolous girls. I couldn't make any impression on them. The next day the teacher came into the store. I noticed that he looked very pale, and I asked him what was the trouble. "I have been bleeding at the lungs," he said; "and the doctor tells me that I cannot live. I must give up my class and go back to my widowed mother in New York State." As he spoke to me his chin quivered and the tears began to flow. I said I was sorry, and added: "You're not afraid of death, are you?" "Oh, no, I'm not afraid to die, but I shall soon stand before my Master. What shall I tell him of my class? Not one of them is a Christian. I have made a failure of my work."

"I had never heard anyone speak in that way, and I said: "Why not visit every girl and ask her to become a Christian?" "I am very weak," he said, "too weak to walk." I offered to get a carriage and go with him. He consented, and we started out. Going first to one house and then to another, that pale teacher, sometimes staggering on the sidewalk, sometimes leaning on my arm, he saw each girl, and, calling her by name, Mary, or Martha, or whatever it was, he asked her to become a Christian, telling her that he was going home to die and that he wanted to know that his scholars had given their hearts to God. Then he would pray with her and I would pray with her. So we went from house to house. After he used up all his strength, I would take him home and the next day we would go out once again. Sometimes he went alone. At the end of ten days he came into the store, his face beaming with joy, and said: "The last girl has yielded her heart to Christ. I am going home now; I have done all that I can do and my work is done."

"I asked when he was going, and he said, "To-morrow night." I said: "Would you like to see your class together before you go?" He said he would, and I asked if he thought the landlady would allow the use of her sitting-room. He thought she would. So I sent word to all the girls, and they all came together. I had never spent such a night up to that time. I had never met such a large number of young converts. The teacher gave an earnest talk and then prayed, and then I prayed. As I was about to rise I heard one of the girls begin to pray. She prayed for her teacher and she prayed for the superintendent. Up to that time I never knew that any one prayed for me in that way. When she finished another girl prayed. Before we arose every girl had prayed; what a change had come over them in a short space of time. We tried to sing, but we did not get on very well,

"Bless be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love."

We bade one another "Good-by," but I felt that I must see the teacher again before he left Chicago, and so I met him at the station, and while we were talking one of the girls came along and then another until the whole class had assembled. They were all there on the platform. It was a beautiful summer night. The sun was just setting down behind the western prairies. It was a sight I shall never



THE ENEMY'S FLEET CAME UP IN THE NIGHT.

were close upon the English fleet. Had he not exercised all the power he possessed, independently of his chief, that the fleet might not be taken unawares, defeat would certainly have attended the English arms next day, instead of the victory which was so hardly won that to this day some still claim that a drawn battle was fought.

When the surprise did come, in the early hours of the next morning, and the English awoke to the fact that the Dutch were indeed close upon them, the Earl fought with all his might, despite the hard words that the Duke had spoken of him. And in the terrible strife that was to save his country from defeat, his life was laid down. He was burnt with his

Yuasa, before he and his men steamed into Port Arthur. 'It is a mistaken idea of valor,' said he, 'to court death needlessly. Death is not our object, but success; and we die in vain if we do not attain success.'

Well would it be, too, if, not only in the Japanese army, but in every department of the life-work of each, the spirit of some further words of Yuasa prevailed: 'Let every man set aside the thought of making a name for himself—let us all work together for the attainment of our object.' The words of the Japanese admiral are an illustration of what St. Paul said: 'None of us liveth unto himself; and no man dieth unto himself.—S. Johnson, in 'Friendly Greetings.'

## How Mr. Moody was Led to Preach.

'Everything beckoned me to remain in business. I had a widowed mother, whom I ought to help support. My business was prosperous for those days. I had no education. I could not put a sentence together properly. I didn't have a friend who would not call me mad to give up my business. But louder and louder came the call. I gave up my business, and people called me crazy; but thank God that I took that stand when I did.

I will tell you how I got waked up on this

point and came to a decision. I had a large Sunday-school in Chicago with twelve or fifteen hundred scholars. I was very much pleased with the numbers. If the attendance kept up I was pleased; but I didn't see a convert. I was not looking for conversions. There was one class in a corner of the large hall made up of young women, who caused more trouble than any other class in the school. There was only one man who could ever manage that class and keep it in order. If he could keep the class quiet, it was about as much as we could hope for.

'One day this teacher was missing, and I