THE FUTURE BATTLESHIP

BRITAIN'S DREADNOUGHTS AND COMING DESIGNS.

Two Monster Ships Begun This Year, One of 19,200 Tons With Turbine Engines.

The coming of the Dreadnoughts, as all the world knows, has meant a complete revolution in naval construction. In the opinion of most naval officers the future is to the Power which possesses most of these ships and can use them well, writes H. W. Wilson in the London Daily Mail.

It will be of interest, then, in view of the pause which has been made during the present year in shipbuilding, to examine how the British navy stands in this latest type of ship and what are the designs likely to be adopted in the near future. The Admiralty is committed to the large battleship and it will scarcely go back. Nor would it be wise to do so in view of the fact that almost all foreign Powers are faithfully copying British designs.

For the present year two monster ships—a battleship and a cruiser—have been voted. The battleship, contrary to the reports circulated, will be similar in all important respects to the St. Vincents. That is to say, she will displace 19,200 tons or thereabouts, will carry ten or twelve 12-inch guns, and will be propelled by turbine engines actuated by steam. Thus she will make up the group of four St. Vincents, and when she is completed for sea the British navy will possess two groups, each four strong, of all big gun battleships. The other vessel will resemble the Invincibles, with improvements, and will complete the group of four 25-knot cruiser battleships.

TOO MUCH FOR THE PRESENT.

It will be seen that there is nothing sensational in the design of the ships for this year which are meant to fill gaps in the existing organization. But next year it is possible that there may be new and startling departures. From hints which Ministers and others have dropped, the Admiralty will be compelled to ask for no fewer than five monster battleships. More may be needed, but this must necessarily depend on the progress which foreign ships make in the next few months.

Germany, it must be remembered, has to day building or sanctioned seven battleships of Dreadnought type (against the British eight) and two, or possibly three, cruisers of the Invincible type against the British four). And under her fixed programme she will lay down three more monster battleships and one more monster cruiser next year, the battleships, it is believed, displacing 21,000 tons or even more. A British programme of five battleships and one cruiser would bring the British total of Dreadnoughts up to only eighteen, as against the German total of thirteen or fourteen. The British margin of four or five ships, which it would give, would be far less than what the strict two Power standard demands.

If, then, we assume that the British programme consists of five battleships and one improved Invincible—and nothing less will satisfy the claims of national security—it is probable that the Admiralty will lay down one group of four improved St. Vincents—four battleships, that is to say, each carrying twelve 12-inch guns. But the fifth battleship may quite possibly be

AN EXPERIMENTAL SHIP,

a new type, built rapidly and tested with the object of gaining experience for a new class which will figure in the programmes of 1910 and 1911. Here much will obviously depend on the action of foreign Powers and whether the reports prove correct which credit the German Admiralty with the intention of building vessels far larger and more powerfully armed than any yet designed.

If such an experimental ship is to be built with great speed to obtain experience the orders for her guns, barbettes and machinery will be given well in advance, before she is even voted, and they may be placed in the summer or autumn of the present year. The same course was followed in the case of the Dreadnought.

The new ship will not improbably carry a new monster gun, the 13.5 inch, eight or ten of which may be mounted, and will thus carry out the policy of "out-Dreadonughting the Dreadnought." One or two of these guns, according to report, have been building for some months and the employment of them in the St. Vincent class is known to have been considered and only reluctantly abandoned All the details are confidential, but the German naval handbooks will supply the public with what is certainly an intelligent guess and possibly accurate information. According to them the new 13.5 inch gun will weigh 86 tons, or nearly 30 tons more than the existing 12 inch weapon; will be about 52 feet long, and will fire a shell weighing about 1,300 pounds or 1,400 pounds, as against the 12 inch shell's 850 pounds. Such huge projectiles would pierce five feet of iron and tear their way through the best modern armor at battle range.

To mount guns of the size and length so that they will be able to fire on either broadside is a matter of extreme difficulty so long as funnels remain. But there is some hope of getting rid of them and thus giving

A CLEAR FIELD OF FIRE.

The Belleville company is said to be designing a boiler which needs no funnel above water to discharge the waste products of combustion and there is the bare possibility that producer gas engines might be adopted. The firm of Vickers-Maxim has prepared designs for battleships driven by producer gas, and it is understood that it is ready to turn out a Dreadnought using gas forthwith if it finds any power adventurous enough to try such an experiment. The Admiralty, however, is not at all likely to install the gas engine in battleships until it has been thoroughly tried in merchantmen and smaller cruisers. But that it will finally come may be taken as certain.

The British battleship of 1910 may thus be a vessel of 25,000 tons, mounting eight or ten 86 ton guns, which will be so arranged as to fire on either broadside. She will resemble the new Brazilian ships in carrying twenty 4.7 inch or 6 inch guns for defence against torpedo attack, and will thus be exempt from the most serious failing of the original Dreadnought—the entire absence of a medium battery.

Mademoiselle Elise

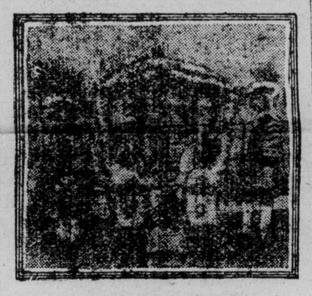
"MON PERE, I have an idea—the grandest idea one could possibly think of!" exclaimed pretty Elise.

"And what is this clever idea?" smilingly asked Elise's father.

"Eh, bien! Thou knowest how our lovely queen, Marie Antoinette, often escapes from wearisome court life and runs out to her country retreat at Trianon, where she and the noble folk play at being simple peasants. They make hay, milk the cows, and they say that even the king grinds out flour in a little mill there."

"Yes," nodded the father, "so they do."

"And why cannot I invite some of my friends out to the chateau, father?" Elise went on, enthusiastically. "Life here in Paris is, oh, so tiresome; and we would have a most splendid outing!"



"BORNE IN A CHAIR"

Elise's father gravely considered this request, and, to Elise's great delight, finally gave his consent.

Thus it was that the following week many little noble girls and boys, who were so fortunate as to possess Elise's friendship, made their way toward the charming little chateau. In all sorts of conveyances they came. Elise herself traveled in a cozy chair, and was carried from the neighboring chateau, where she had been spending a short visit.

Then how they romped! "It's such a relief," merrily remarked Mademoiselle Lucie, "to forget all one's grand manners for a time and play at being peasant children." Every one agreed with her.

You may be sure they were sorry when the day ended. And you may know that they promised themselves similar treats in the near future.

But as Queen Marie Antoinette herself was forced to forego her delightful visits to Trianon, so Mademoiselle Elise and her friends found it impossible to carry out their plans. This was because the horrible French revolution was upon them—a dreadful time when Elise's father and mother and all the other noble ladies and gentlemen were in gravest peril, and were fortunate if they escaped with their lives.

Flower Enemies

IT IS rather interesting to note that certain flowers have great dislike for each other. For instance, if you will make up a bouquet containing, among other flowers, roses and mignonettes, and place the bouquet in a vase for an hour, you will find that while the other flowers remain perfectly fresh, the roses and mignonettes have wilted—that is to say, they have killed each other.

Lilies-of-the-valley also kill without pity any other flower with which they come in close contact.

On the contrary, carnations and heliotropes have the greatest affection for each other.

Yet some people say that flowers cannot feel!

Gentleman—"Waiter, bring me some rabbit pie." Waiter—"Yes, sir. And what'll you have to follow?" Gentleman—"Indigestion, I expect."

"Our Johnny is in love!" "Pshaw! He's only a youngster!" "All things must have a beginning. He has commenced to wash himself behind the ears."

Mistress (angrily)—"How dare you talk back to me in that way? I never saw such impudence. You have a lot of nerve to call yourself a lady's maid." New Maid—"I don't call myself that now, ma'am; but I was a lady's maid before I got this job."

GERMAN "FLOWER CITY"

CITY OF ERFURT HAS 2,000 ACRES OF GARDENS.

Large Quantities of Farm Seeds Are Cultivated in Great Variety.

A correspondent writing from Weimar, says that Erfurt, a thriving commercial city of southern Prussia, with more than 100,000 inhabitants, is known throughout Germany as the "flower city." It has a world-wide reputation for flower and farm seeds and plants, the trade in which the correspondent portrays as follows:

"The origin of the industry dates from the tenth century, and it was developed by the monks of the Peters monastery. The growth to the present large proportions is of much more recent date. Since 1880 the business of raising flower and garden seeds and plants in Erfurt has increased rapidly, until it is now five times as large as it was a quarter of a century ago. When the land failed to produce good wine grapes the people turned their attention to the seed industry as a means of saving

THEIR WANING FORTUNES.

In former years the hills about Erfurt and Jena were famous for their vineyards. The wine was sold mostly at Weimar, about half way of the distance between those two cities, giving this place its original name of Weinmarkt, which was changed later to Weimar.

"The soil about Erfurt is especially adapted to the culture of vegetables and plants. It is deep, rich and well watered. The annual rainfall is heavy, and the surrounding hills afford good protection from the cool winds which sometimes sweep down from the Thuringerwald. There are 108 concerns engaged in the seed industry, also 35 seed exporters and 24 florists. An idea of the extent of this business may be gained from the area of glass employed. The total is 113,735 square meters (square meter equals 10.764 square feet), of which 30,867 square meters cover propagating houses, and 82,858 square meters are used over specially fertilized beds. Nearly 3,000 people are employed in various capacities.

"While there are no statistics available in regard to the total annual output of the Erfurt seed and plant concerns, a single firm produces each year 70,000 to 80,000 cyclamen, 400,000 lillies of the valley, 60,000 apple sprouts (in pots), 20,000 pear sprouts, 10,000 plum, apricot, peach and quince sprouts, 30,000 strawberry plants, 300,000 short stemmed and 40,000 long stemmed roses.

"About 2,000 acres of land in the city and the immediate vicinity are

DEVOTED TO GARDENS.

This land is owned by the Crown, the city and private individuals. It is leased to the various concerns at rentals depending on the location and on the productiveness of the soil. Owing to the rapid growth of the city, which rivals the percentage of a Western boom town in this country quite an area of the best garden land has been plotted into city lots and is fast being covered with fine villas and houses.

"The cultivation of the gilly flower in Erfurt dates from 1810. It first appeared in the window of a citizen, and from this one pot hundreds of thousands of these flowers have been promulgated. The estimated annual production is 680,000 plants. To the same extent, or nearly so, is the cultivation of the calceolaria, verbena, petunia, gloxinia, zinnia, pansy, carnation, balsam, phlox, hollyhock, perlargonium, fuchsia, azalia, etc., in almost endless variety. It is estimated that the annual output of flower seeds is not much under 1,000,000 marks ($238,000).

"Vegetable and farm seeds are cultivated in large quantities and in great variety. Among them are included 101 kinds of peas, 168 of beans (700 bushels shipped this year to Boston to help make up the deficit in its staple food), 269 varieties of kitchen herbs, 38 kinds of radishes and 30 of other roots, 34 of onions, etc., 65 of grass for fodder, 30 of clover, 320 species of potatoes. There are 1,542 varieties of vegetable seed cultivated in Erfurt."

A MAJESTIC ICE-WALL.

In a letter from Prof. Edgeworth Davis, a member of the British Antarctic Expedition now seeking a way toward the south pole, addressed to Prof. W. J. Sollas, in England, there occurs a vivid description of the Great Antarctic Ice Barirer, which was reached by the little ship Nimrod on January 23rd. "It is a sight," says Professor Davis, "that beggars all description. Imagine a continuous ice-wall, 500 miles long and 100 to 200 feet high, the exquisite blue of the crevasses contrasting finely with the dazzling white of the weathered ice on either side of them." They followed the barrier 80 miles without finding a place where they could establish a base. "Balloon Inlet," used as a base by the expedition of 1901, had completely disappeared. Finally they went to Mac Murdo Sound, as the only base now available.

IN MERRY OLD ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE.

Occurrences in the Land That Reigns Supreme in the Commercial World.

A white seal in the London zoological gardens has turned black

In the past six months the little Metropolitan Railway carried 48,243,951 passengers.

Devonshire farmers say that hawks are very audacious this year, even attacking caged birds.

The embarking and disembarking of 40,000 passengers at the Isle of Man the other day was a record for the island.

Several thousand Egyptian quail, worth about $8,500, were burnt to death in a fire at an aviary at Wood Green.

Another unsuccessful attempt has recently been made to raise the sunken cruiser Gladiator off Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

For sleeping in the open air at Stowupland a man was sentenced to a month's hard labor at Stowmarket on Friday.

Much damage has been done to larch trees on the Manchester waterworks estate at Thirlmere by a plague of saw flies.

At present more than 10,000 women are engaged in factories and workshops in London, 8,000 of them in the clothing and allied trades.

Rates collected in Sunderland for the period ending with July are $40,000 lower than the amount received in the corresponding period of last year.

The Nottingham City Council has decided to raise a loan of $110,000 in order that works designed to alleviate the unemployed may be proceeded with.

General Booth says he is going to South Africa in search of a new Canaan, in which the unemployed of this country can receive a welcome and a home.

Over sixty members of the Bristol Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans' Association were entertained by the Duke of Beaufort at Badminton on Friday.

The winning bunch of wild flowers in a petition among the pupils of the Thomlinson Girls' Grammar School, Wigton (Cumberland), contained 229 different specimens.

A party of Liverpool motorists passed through the village of Astley, in South Lancashire, where reckless motoring is causing much indignation, were pelted with rotten lemons.

During the last few months four cases of cattle maiming have been reported to the Grimsby police. In each instance the outrage was committed at night in mysterious circumstances.

A Fulham mother, to keep her baby safely in bed, tied a band round the little one. The child must have moved or fallen as the band tightened round its throat and strangled it.

The Phoenix Assurance Company, Limited, of London, recently received $260 "conscience money." The money was sent in an old mustard tin, and there was not the slightest clue as to the identity of the sender.

At an inquest on the body of Thos. Hooper, 73, a greengrocer, of Bath street, City road, London, it was stated that he lived for 16 days after breaking every rib and his collar-bone in a fall down the stairs.

QUEENS AND BULLFIGHTING.

Victoria of Spain Hopes to Win Even If Others Did Fail.

Queen Victoria of Spain is, it is said, anxious to abolish in her country the enormities of bullfighting; she has hitherto consented to attend at this favorite national sport, but the last time she went, shortly before Don Jaime's birth, what she witnessed filled her with horror and grief.

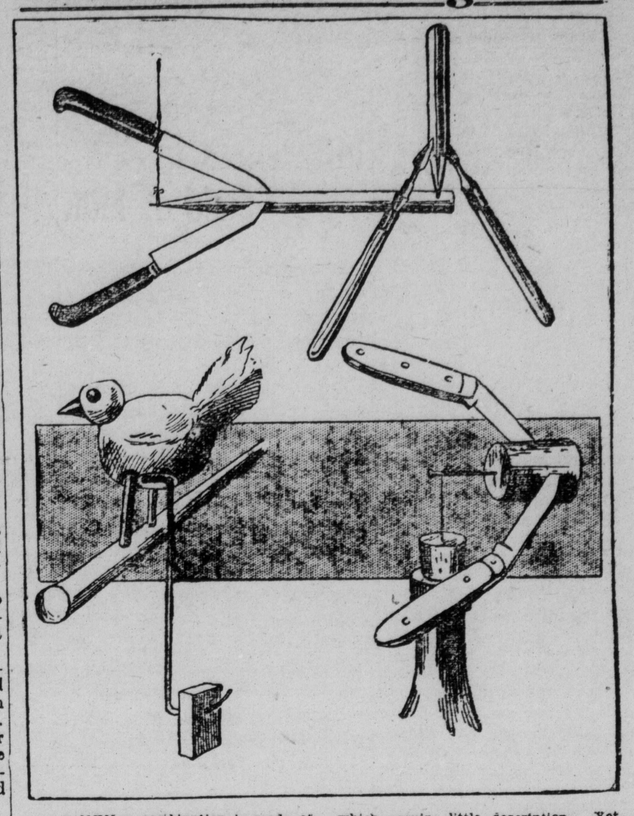
So she has caused to be revived the memory of the fact that the great Queen Isabella, when she returned from conquering the Moors, declared that it was her wish to abolish bullfighting as a cruel sport which, she asserted, had been introduced by the Paynim Moors and which was unworthy of a Christian race.

If the Spaniards of to-day are reminded that the Queen whose memory they adore was only prevented by her death from putting down the cruel sport it is hoped that they may allow their present Queen to make it at least unfashionable for ladies to attend on such sights.

Queen Christina tried to do so in the early days of her rule as widowed Regent, says the London Illustrated News, but she had so much else to contend with that she had to abandon this unpopular reform.

It seemed impossible not long ago for duelling ever to be abolished as a means of settling personal disputes and wiping out insults among gentlemen, but Queen Victoria achieved it. Acting through her husband, she so arranged that duelling should never again be resorted to by men in the army to end their quarrels or to defend their own honor, and this was speedily accepted as possible and right in civil life too.

To Find the Balancing Point



WHEN a combination is made of different articles — stuck together or poised in midair—it takes considerable skill to find the center of gravity, that balancing point where the objects used remain stationary.

Above are pictured several "stunts," which require little description. Yet, simple as they appear, you probably won't accomplish these balancing feats the first time you try—nor the second.

The rod upon which the bird rests is placed at an angle. If balance is accurately preserved, the bird will walk down the entire length of rod, bobbing from one stilt-like foot to another

SON OF BELTED EARL

MAKING MONEY BY SINGING ON THE STREETS.

He Wears a Mask and Sings to the Accompaniment of a Street Piano.

That some peers' sons can eke out more than a bare living by their talents when put to it has been demonstrated during the last week in London, England. Two street musicians, dressed in immaculate evening dress, wearing across their clean-shaven faces black domino masks and attended by a servant in scarlet livery have been making their progress through the west end of London, their pathway, strewn with gold and silver, and it now transpires that one, at least, is the son of a belted earl and the other a gentleman by birth. One of the couple—the scion of the earl—has a well trained tenor voice, and sings to the accompaniment of a piano played by his companion. The liveried servant's duties consist of pulling the piano through the streets between the songs.

When the identity of the two singers was first established by a well-known London solicitor, who, by the way, refuses to pass on to the curious world the full extent of his knowledge, it was thought that the two men were engaged in their strange vocation as a lark, but according to the peer's son such is not the case.

"We went into this to see if there was any money to be made," the singer said recently between songs. "We are pretty well satisfied so far and intend to stick to it as long as we can maintain our incognito. Last week we collected about £60 (300), and are doing better this week. One evening at Earl's Court I collected £7 ($35) in less than half an hour. That's not so bad, is it?

"The majority of those who give us anything, recognizing that we are not ordinary street performers, give us silver and many of them think nothing of throwing us a half sovereign. A couple of days ago I approached a gentleman who was just leaving his house.

"'I suppose you are doing this for sport,' he remarked as he paused on the step of his motor car. 'I am sorry to say this is all I have about me in change,' and he took from his vest pocket two half sovereigns and dropped them into the collection bag.

"I will sing for two hours every evening and during that time I manage to get through about twenty songs. Then we adopt very elaborate means of throwing curious people off the scent; the piano is taken by our footman and dragged some distance when it is handed over to another man. My companion and I jump into a closed carriage and at a convenient time take off our masks. We then take a roundabout route home or, if we have reason to believe we are being followed, drive up to one of my clubs and escape through the back door. Nobody has succeeded in tracing us yet, and I do not believe anybody ever will. I wouldn't have father find out this for the world."

The piano player beat out the opening bars to the latest music hall success and the peer's son cleared his voice for the opening note. In a few moments he was in the midst of a shower of coins from the hands of fair listeners who crowded the windows of the aristocratic houses that lined the street.

Wonderful Map

ONE of the greatest objects of interest in the Louvre, Paris, is a map of France made of precious stones, which was presented to that country by the present czar. The map is forty inches square, and is made of gold and precious stones. The gold came from Siberia and the precious stones from the Imperial Russian mines. It is framed in slate-colored jasper. The sea is represented by pale and precious marble, and foreign countries (necessarily included)—England, Germany, Italy and Spain—are represented in dark gray onyx. Some of the gems are so rare they are never found in commerce. One hundred and six of the important towns in France are given, their names being inlaid in gold, and the towns themselves are marked in jewels. Paris is represented by a huge ruby, Havre by an emerald, Rouen by a sapphire, Lille by rock crystal, Rheims by a chrysolite, Lyons by a tourmaline, Nantes by a beryl, Bordeaux by an aquamarine, Nice by a garnet, Cherbourg by an alexandrite from the Urals (which is green by day and a red blue at night), and so on for all the towns. The map is valued at $500,000, and came out of the czar's private purse. The French jewelers said if such a map was ordered from them they would charge double that sum.

Had Given it Away

LUCILLE'S mother had taken her for an outing in the Luxembourg Gardens. Now that the hour for luncheon had arrived, she called to the little girl:

"Lucille, we will now have a little roll and some chocolate, and you shall pay with the two sous I gave you but a short time since."

"Oh, mama," cried Lucille, "I have already given the two sous away to an old woman!"

"I am so glad you have disposed of the money in such a charitable way. How did you happen to present it to the old woman?" asked the mother.

"Well, you see, I gave it to her in payment for two nice apples," confessed Lucille.

SENTENCE SERMONS.

Faith in God is best evidenced by fellowship with men.

Too many measure their means by their meanness.

Trouble that might break us may be made to make us.

The hardest seats in the world are those on Easy street.

Nagging people are always praying for peace in glory.

Worms of the dust make poor leaders of men to the divine.

Social sympathy is the solvent of many theological barriers.

The world is not lifted to virtue by picturing it as wholly vicious.

You cannot have harmony within yourself without conflict without.

No preacher ever caught men who was fishing for compliments.

Formalities are the substitutes with which the empty heart tries to make up for faith.

Many an aggressive man strikes an attitude and lets it go at that.

It sometimes happens that a man who has the sand isn't able to raise the dust.

"Hear me, dearest," implored the young man at the door. "I'm all on fire!" "Well," replied the sweet girl, "I'll call papa downstairs to put you out."