

"SPARE SUPERFLUITIES TO PROVIDE NECESSARIES."

was deposed, and the barbarian government was wholly overthrown, since which time Algiers has been retained by the French. The capture of Abd-el-Kader and the complete subjugation of the Algerines by the French, are matters of modern history.

Piracy on Western seas is now almost totally unknown. The great national navies of Europe have become so numerous, so irresistibly powerful, and so spread over the great highways of European commerce, that pirates have no means of coping with them. The application of steam, too, has done wonders in putting a stop to this nefarious system, so terrible in its working in times gone by, and the high seas are now well guarded by the ships of war of every nation. It is true that piracy still prevails in the Chinese waters; but even there it is gradually and steadily disappearing; and indeed the pirates of that part of the world are fast extinguishing themselves, for, unable to obtain their coveted booty, they are compelled to prey on each other.

It is always pleasant to read about England's naval heroes, and it may not be out of place to give a brief sketch of the life of Admiral Keppel. He was the second son of William, earl of Albermarle, and was born in the year 1725. At an early age he entered the navy, and accompanied Commodore Anson in his voyage round the world. Being appointed to a command, he soon distinguished himself by capturing Belleisle from France, but not until after a desperate resistance on the part of the French. In 1778 Keppel commanded the Channel fleet, and in the same year fell in with the French fleet under Count d'Orville, off Ushant. A partial action lasting three hours ensued, which the English admiral intended to renew on the following morning, but when day dawned, the enemy, taking advantage of the night, withdrew into the harbour of Brest. The failure of a complete victory was attributed to Admiral Sir Hugh Palliser's non-compliance with Keppel's signals. This affair gave great dissatisfaction to the nation, which was aggravated by Sir Hugh Palliser, second in command, preferring a charge against Admiral Keppel, who was honourably acquitted by a court-martial at Portsmouth. Public feeling was much excited in favour of Keppel, and Palliser was fain to make his escape out of Portsmouth at five o'clock in the morning, in order to avoid the insults of the mob. The news was received in London with great rejoicings and illuminations, whilst the windows of obnoxious persons were broken. Sir Hugh was then tried and censured. In 1782 Admiral Keppel, for his distinguished services, was raised to the peerage. He subsequently acted on two different occasions as First Lord of the Admiralty. He died on the 3rd of October, 1786, greatly regretted.

Additional Notes to April.

THE IMPEACHMENT OF LORD MELVILLE.

(29).—HENRY DUNDAS, Viscount Melville, was the son of Lord Arncliffe, a Scotch judge. After filling several offices under Government, he eventually became First Lord of the Admiralty. In the month of April, 1805, a charge was preferred against him, founded on the report of the Commissioners of Naval Enquiry. It was brought before the House of Commons by Mr. Whitbread,* who, after referring to the Act passed in 1785, for

* In the impeachment of Lord Melville, the management of which principally rested upon Mr. Whitbread, one of the sternest and most undaunted senators of his day, and who, in regard of his duty, seemed quite regardless so far as related to himself, whether he stood alone or had the support of the House. He displayed great ability in the memorable trial, and in closing the proceedings he combined a happy vein of satire with much powerful reasoning. The counsel for Lord Melville had attempted to ridicule the fact of tracing bank-notes. Mr. Whitbread, in reply, observed:—"If the history of all the bank-notes could have been unravelled, what a history might it not have disclosed! All have heard of the book called 'Chrysal, or the Adventures of a Guinea.' Suppose some such communicative guinea could now be found; it might tell them it found its way from the Exchequer into the iron chest at the Navy Office; from thence, it might say, I ex-

regulating the Department of the Treasurer of the Navy, of which Lord Melville, then occupying that post, was himself the supporter, and which act advanced the salary of the place from £2,000 to £4,000 per annum, in place of all emoluments which might have previously been derived from the public money in the Treasurer's hands, stated three heads of charges against him. These were—his applying the money of the public to other uses than those of the Naval Department; his conniving at a system of speculation in an individual for whose conduct he was responsible; and his having been a participator in that speculation. The accused was heard at the bar of the House of Commons, when he acknowledged having appropriated public money entrusted to him to other public purposes, but solemnly denied having derived any benefit therefrom, or that he had participated in the profits made by the person alluded to. And this gave Lord Ellenborough the opportunity of pungently remarking:—"Not know money! Did he see it when it glittered? Did he hear it when it chinked?" Nevertheless, Melville confessed that he had applied the sum of £10,000 in a way which he could not reveal consistently with private honour and public duty. Fifteen days after, he was impeached, in the name of the Commons of Great Britain; but on account of the lateness of the session the prosecution was postponed to the following year. The trial commenced on the 29th of April, when the evidence and arguments having closed on the 17th of May, a verdict of *not guilty* was returned on the 12th of June. Lord Melville after this took no part in public affairs. He died in 1811.

The following humorous passage in Lord Melville's life is related:—

"Being on a visit to Edinburgh, shortly after the passing of some unpopular measure to which he had given his support, on the morning after his arrival he sent for a barber to shave him at his hotel. This functionary, a considerable humorist, resolved to indicate his sentiments respecting his lordship's recent procedure as a legislator. Having decorated his lordship with an apron, he proceeded to lather his face. Then, flourishing his razor, he said, 'We are much obliged to you, my lord, for the part you lately took in the passing of that odious bill.' 'Oh, you're a politician,' said his lordship; 'I sent for a barber.' 'I'll shave you directly,' added the barber, who, after shaving one-half of the chin, rapidly drew the back of his instrument across his lordship's throat, saying, 'Take that, you traitor!' and rushed out of the room. Lord Melville, who conceived that his throat had been cut from ear to ear, placed the apron around his neck, and with a gurgling noise shouted 'Murder!' The waiter immediately appeared, and at his lordship's entreaty, rushed out to procure a surgeon. Three members of the medical faculty were speedily in attendance; but his lordship could scarcely be persuaded by their joint solicitation to expose his throat, around which he firmly held the barber's apron. At length he consented to an examination; but he could only be convinced by looking into a mirror that his throat had been untouched. His lordship, mortified by the merriment which the occurrence excited, speedily returned to London."

It has been remarked of Lord Melville, "that his influence was for many years supreme in Scotland, and he did not always wield his power with much consideration for opponents. In fact, his will was law, and the 'fiat of the Dundasses' was sufficient to repress all comment on public matters in that part of the country. A monument was, however, erected to his memory in Edinburgh."

pected to be transported to the pocket of some brave seaman or seaman's widow. But judge of my surprise when I was taken out to pay a bill of the treasurer of the navy. Soon afterwards I found myself in the House of Commons, and to my astonishment, heard Lord Melville say that he had applied me and ten thousand others to public purposes, but which he never would name. Subsequent to that, when I had made a few more transactions, I found myself in Westminster Hall, in the pocket of a councillor, who was pleading the cause of Lord Melville, and strictly endeavouring to controvert both the law and the fact; but what surprised me most was to hear another councillor, who professed to be on the same side, contradict his colleague point blank."