

*The Waterloo Room.*

The Waterloo Room contains three historical Models of great interest, viz., the celebrated Model of the Battle of Waterloo; by the late Captain Siberd, of the South of the Crimea; and Siege of Sevastopol, by Lieut. General F. W. Hamilton, C. B., late Grenadier Guards; and of the Defences of Lintz, by Captain Estreley.

*Military Model Room.*

In this Room, there are elaborate Models of the Attack and Defence of a Town fortified on Vauban's first system; of Plymouth with its detached Forts; of the "Lines of London," as planned by Colonel Sir Shufto Adair, Bart., F. R. S. (now Lord Wavenny); of the Fortress of Metz and the surrounding country; of Paris and the German Lines of Investment in 1870-71; of the Battle Fields of Konigraiz; of Sedan, Beaumont, &c., &c.; there are also Models of the various systems of permanent fortification, of Field works, Pontoons, Military bridges, Mining tools, Camp equipage; and many other objects of interest.

*Trophies, Relics, &c., &c.*

Amongst these will be found the Sword worn by Lord Nelson at the capture of the *San Josef*, some of his Autograph Letters and other interesting Relics; the Chronometer used by "Captain Cook" when he sailed round the world; the Signal Book of the *Chesapeake*; the Main Truck of *L'Orient*, blown up at the battle of the Nile; with many others of a similar character.

The Museum also contains, besides several Presentation Swords, the Swords of "Cromwell" and "Wolfe"; the Sabre by which "Sir John Moore" was lowered into his grave; "Napoleon's" Fusil, the skeleton of his charger Marengo, and other Relics; "Tippoo Sahib's" Pistols, and the dress worn by him when he was killed; with Trophies from Waterloo, Sevastopol, Inkerman, and other places.

*Geological and Mineralogical Collections.*

As the sciences of Mineralogy and Geology are included in the Programme of Examinations for Commissions and for Staff Employment, these Collections have been retained in the Museum. Candidates who are preparing for such Examinations, and Officers who are desirous of qualifying themselves for conducting Geological and Mineralogical surveys, will find them interesting and instructive.

Soldiers, Sailors, Policemen, and Volunteers in uniform, have free admission to the Museum. The Public may obtain admission to the Museum by tickets, to be obtained of the Secretary.

Information respecting the Institution is advertised in the Weekly Professional Papers, and in the Times and other daily papers.

The Royal United Service Institution, under the patronage of Her Majesty, aided by the Government, and supported by the different branches of Her Majesty's Services, has now become a National Institution. It will seek in the future, as in the past, not only to cultivate the Sciences connected with the Profession of Arms, but also to concentrate in the Capital of the Empire whatever may tend to illustrate the Services of the Army and Navy of the Country.

B. Burgess, Captain,

Secretary.

**The United States Navy.**

**OUR FLEET MANŒUVRES IN THE BAY OF FLORIDA, AND THE NAVY OF THE FUTURE.**

A paper read before the Naval Institute, December 10th 1874, by Commodore Foxhall A. Parker.

Circumstances have made it necessary for our Government at the commencement of the present year to assemble a fleet in the waters of Florida, the Hon. Secretary of the Navy thought the occasion favorable for the instruction of its officers in the various branches of their profession, and especially in naval tactics, that part of it to which enlightened Europe had given most attention, America and Asia least; and it seeming but reasonable that the author of a theory to be practically tested should be permitted to test it himself, provided he desired so to do. I who had drawn up both the tactics and the tactical signal book, was detailed for this service; and, on the 16th of January, reported at Key West to Rear Admiral Cise, as "Chief of Staff of the United Fleets under his command."

It being found that the collective fleet would not be ready for manœuvring before the 1st of February—some of its vessels ordered from distant stations, not having yet reported—the intervening time was passed in boat, great gun, howitzer and infantry exercises; and on the afternoon of the 20th of January a force of seventeen hundred blue jackets and marines was thrown ashore on the South beach of Key West, formed in line of battle and advanced in this order through a dense chaparral to the light house, distant a half mile from the landing, whence, after a brigade dress parade, it was marched in column of companies right in front, to the Government store house wharf, which had been designated as the place of embarkation. Taking into consideration the fact that at least one half of the men were greenhorns, recently shipped, the affair was an exceedingly creditable one. There was neither straggling nor drunkenness; and although the irregular awaying of the bayonets on the march, betrayed the recruits, yet the manual of arms and the various changes of formation were executed with a precision and style which reflected the highest credit upon the young drill officers, all of whom, with three or four exceptions, were graduates of the Naval Academy.

The howitzer firing from the boats, however, on this occasion, was neither rapid nor well sustained, nor was the howitzer manipulated aloft as dexterously as it should have been. Ashore it appeared to better advantage, yet neither aloft nor ashore did this truly sailor arm compare favorably with the infantry.

Of the boat exercises in fleet manœuvres, the less said the better. They were decided by a failure, and showed clearly how little importance had been attached to the study of fleet tactics by the Navy generally.

On the 31st of January the rear admiral commanding issued the following general order:

The North Atlantic fleet is hereby separated into divisions as follows:

Van, or Right Division.—1. Congress; 2. Ticonderoga; 3. Canandaigua; 4. Fortune. Centre Division.—5. Colorado; 6. Wachusett; 7. Shenandoah; 8. Wyoming.

Rear, or Left Division.—9. Lancaster; 10. Alaska; 11. Kansas; 12. Franklin.

Reserve Division.—Monitors and torpedo vessels.

The senior officer of each Division will

command it, and will wear a division flag at his main. He will lead his Division when the right is in front, and bring up the rear with the left in front. He will report the Admiral's signals, and when all the vessels of his command have answered his signal, will hoist an answering pennant as an indication to the Admiral that the command are prepared to obey it. When all the Division officers have hoisted their answering pennants, and the Admiral is ready, he will haul down his signal; the Divisional officers haul down their signal and answering pennants at the same instant, and the signal is executed.

From the moment of sailing each vessel will keep her distinguishing pennant hoisted until she comes to anchor, when she will haul it down.

When signal 413—*Get Underway*—is hoisted with the preparatory over it, and answered in the manner prescribed above, it will be hauled down, when each vessel will leave in to a short stay, and hoist her distinguishing pennant. So soon as all have their distinguishing pennants flying, signal 413—*Get Underway*—will be made by the Admiral, and when replied to as above directed, and the Admiral is ready, will be hauled down. All now weigh together.

When signal 34—*Anchor*—is hoisted with the preparatory over it, and properly answered, it will be hauled down. At this instant the fleet will slow to three knots.

The Admiral will next hoist signal 32—*Anchor*—and the moment it is man headed each vessel will stop her engine (without waiting for a signal from Divisional officers), letting go her anchor the moment it is hauled down.

When the signal is made to "get underway," the fleet will move out in "columns of vessels" with the van leading, unless another formation is signalled.

If not otherwise directed, vessels will "come to" with their starboard anchors.

All courses signalled are magnetic. Tactical signals at night will be made with Coston lights, and the moment of execution denoted by the discharge of a gun.

In conclusion the Commander-in-chief calls particular attention to the "Explanations," U. S. Navy Signal Book—Navy Tactics, 1874, whose precepts must be rigidly adhered to by Commanding Officers.

A. LUDLOW, Cass.

Rear Admiral, U. S. N.

Commanding U. S. Naval Force, North Atlantic Station.

Flagship *Wabash*, 1st Rate, Key West, Fla., Jan. 31, 1874.

On the 3rd of February, the fleet (the reserve excepted), which had been lying in irregular order off Key West, shifted its berth to the "outer buoy" near Sand Key Light, where it anchored in columns of vessels abreast by divisions, commanded by Captain Rhind, being on the right. At daylight on the following morning, general signal was made to get underway, and as no formation had been prescribed, and the vessels were then heading S. S. W., the van division moved forward, while the centre and rear divisions obliqued to the right until in the van's wake, when they steered S. S. W., thus forming a column of vessels; which formation the fleet preserved very badly during the day, coming to an anchor at night in line off buoy No. 9, Dry Tortugas, by a movement analogous to the right into line of the army, the vessels heading S. N. W., and bearing from each other, reciprocally, E. N. E., and W. S. W., the Congress flag ship of the van division, having anchored first and farthest to the N'd and N'd.