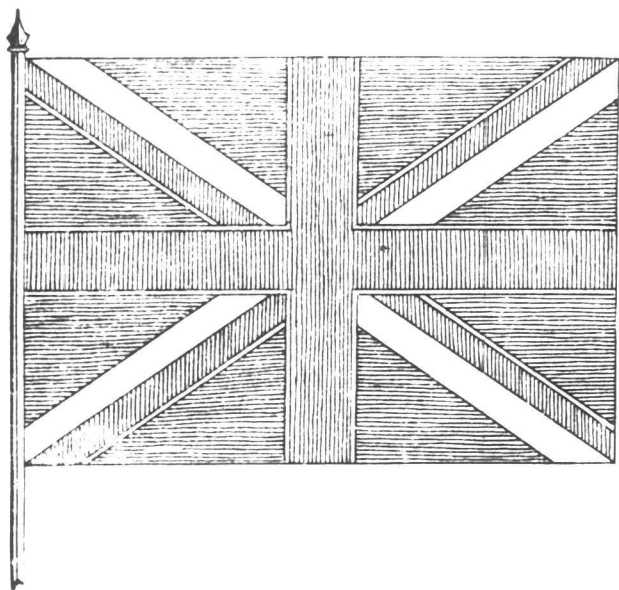


OUR FLAG.



THE UNION JACK.

The winds which press the rolling waves
In phalanx o'er the deep,
And from the Indian palm trees blow
O'er Afric in their sweep,
Until Columbia's mountain pines
Sway on their rocky steep,
Keep streaming in the endless gale
O'er cloud-capped peak and distant sail,
Our meteor flag.—Britannia, Hail!

— *Kaymah.*

TEACHER. When we hoist our flag on the 24th of May, or on the 1st of July, what do we really pay our respects to, when we honor the flag. Is it the cloth or the design?

S. No. Of course not. There may be better cloth and more beautiful designs which we never treat with similar respect.

T. Your argument is good. What do we really pay our respects to, then?

S. To what the flag represents.

T. What does the flag represent? The Queen, is it?

S. No. The flag was before the Queen was.

T. The government then? There was no flag before there was some kind of government.

S. I think it represents more than the government, although I can't say exactly what it is. We never think about the government when we cheer for the flag.

T. What do you think about, then, when you cheer for the flag?

S. Of the great things done by people who carried it as we do.

T. Very good. You have a very clear idea. The flag represents the people and what they did. Now what have the people done?

S. They won great victories over other peoples.

ANOTHER S. When they conquered other people they left them better off than they found them.

ANOTHER S. They made good laws.

ANOTHER S. They tried to become good and noble, to put down what was wrong and to help others to be good and noble.

T. Yes. A great many of them have been distinguished in that way; what more?

JACK. The people have also made their own government, so that the flag represents the government, the people, and what the people have done.

T. Capital, Jack. Your idea is quite comprehensive. What is our flag called?

S. The British flag.

ANOTHER S. The British Ensign.

ANOTHER S. The Union Jack.

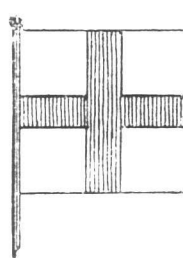
ANOTHER S. The Meteor flag of England.

JACK. The flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze.

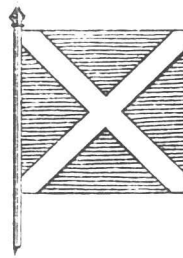
T. Well, you are right and wrong. We shall see how. While England's flag has braved the battle and the breeze for a thousand years, the *Union Jack* figured above has been in existence only eighty-nine years to date.

S. How is that?

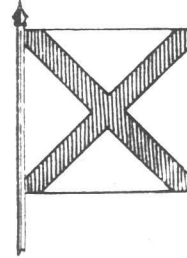
T. The Union Jack is not England's flag any more than it is that of Scotland or Ireland. The English patron Saint was St. George; and St. George's cross was a red vertical and horizontally armed cross on a white banner. St. Andrew's cross was a white diagonally armed cross on a blue banner; St. Andrew was the patron Saint of Scotland. The patron Saint of Ireland was St. Patrick, whose cross is a diagonally armed red one on a white banner. And the English, Scotch and Irish, were once separate kingdoms, with their own banners. Here they are.



ENGLISH.



SCOTTISH.



IRISH.

In heraldry vertical shading lines represent red, horizontal shading lines blue, and the absence of any marking white.

T. When were England and Scotland united?

S. In 1603.

T. Well, it is then the first Union Jack came into existence. It was a Union of the banners of St. George and St. Andrew.

S. What was it like?

T. A blue banner with the St. Andrew's cross covered with the red cross of St. George. When was Ireland united to England and Scotland.

S. In 1801.

T. Well, on that occasion the red cross of St. Patrick was added to the Union Jack; and so that it would not cover out of sight the white cross of Scotland, the Scottish and Irish arms of the cross are matched alternately against each other.