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OUR UNION JACK.

By the very great kindness of Mrs. C. Fessenden, of Hamilton, Ont., we are able this month to offer to our readers a beautiful illustration in colours of "Our Union Jack" and its three components, together with a clear account of the gradual building up of our Flag into its present form. Those who would like to have the illustration and the history of the Flag in a more permanent and lasting shape can obtain it, printed on card in the form of a four-page folder, most suitable for presentation to children as a little gift, highly calculated to instil into their young minds the true spirit of loyalty and patriotism. (Prices: Single copy, 5 cents; 25 copies, \$1.00; per hundred, \$3.00. Address: Mrs. Clementine Fessenden, 254 Macnab St. North, Hamilton, Ont.) School Inspectors, it seems to us, might well recommend a purchase of these cards as a gift to the school children in their several districts.

"From the earliest records were read of such national emblems as banners and ensigns, and all through Holy Writ we have an ever-recurring allusion to them.

In the early centuries, when the Church and not the State was supreme,

we find the cross a prominent figure, and recognized as the highest symbol of dignity and honor. The red cross of St. George—the redresser of wrongs, the protector of women, the model of Christian chivalry—is still the visible sign to us of all that his glorious name would suggest, wherever floats the British flag. And, quartered on many a diocesan coat of arms, especially the Church's own, is this flag of St. George, under whose blood red sign the army of the living God goes forth under Bishops and Clergy to slay that great dragon Sin, and strug in His might to conquer the world for Christ.

Church of Christ! upon thy banner,
Lo! His passion's awful sign;
By that seal of His redemption
Thou art His and He is thine. Alleluia.

Until the year 1606 the red cross was the flag of England, and its subsequent position on the Jack indicates the predominant share the English nation bore in creation of the Union, and the powerful position it now holds in its Councils. It was under this flag England defeated the Armada and became the proud mistress of the sea.

To-day she has five hundred great men-of-war, her merchant navy of forty thousand ships is manned by ten times that number of sailors, and she