

centrated the strain on a small part of the hull, and there was a great tendency to leakage there. With a fair wind, an ancient merchantman could sail within about seven points of the wind, that is, at rather less than at right angles to it. Ships of war and some others were propelled by rowers, galley slaves, who sat on benches in three rows on each side, one above the other, and their

oars varied in length according to the row. The hinged rudder was unknown in ancient times, and the vessel was steered by one or two broad bladed oars, one on each side of the stern, and handled by two men. Later, a device was invented whereby the ends of the two oars were fastened together, so that one steersman could handle them both. (See Illustration in *QUARTERLIES*.)

APPLICATION

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Offend not in word... a perfect man, v. 2. The tongue is like the coast line of Britain, the part which is most exposed to attack.

The fortifications of the United Kingdom are just at the edge of the sea. The huge battle-ships patrol the ocean in order to protect the coast. If the enemy can be kept from landing, all the cities, homes and people are safe. When the vast Spanish Armada sailed up the channel in the days of Queen Elizabeth, the whole might of England was hurled against it to prevent its landing. The tongue is the part of the body most exposed to temptation. If we can keep our tongues under control, we can master our feet and hands. Let us watch our words, and we shall spare ourselves many regrets for the good words that we did not speak, and probably far more for the unworthy words we did speak. And the more carefully we keep watch over our lips, the more earnestly should we call upon God to guard them from evil speaking. "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

Bits... rudder (Rev. Ver.), vs. 3, 4. The steering gear is always small. The colonel can steer his regiment by a word. He calls out "Forward", and the tier of companies proceeds straight ahead. He shouts, "Right wheel", and the line of advance swings a quarter circle to the right. He shouts "Left turn", and each man turns in his tracks and the regiment has a new front. He commands, "Right about turn", and the advance becomes a retreat. And many words that are spoken in other than military circles turn out to be effective commands. Lockhart, son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott, never forgot

the dying words of the old author, "Be a good man, Lockhart; nothing else is worth while." You may say some word that will change the whole direction of another's life. Therefore speak wisely. You may hear some word that will change the whole direction of your own life. Therefore listen wisely.

A fire, v. 6. One Sunday evening, in the fall of 1871, a cow kicked over a lantern in a stable in Chicago. Before the fire was extinguished, by a whole line of houses being blown to bits with gunpowder, it burned a district four miles long and a mile wide. One hundred thousand people were rendered homeless, and the loss of property amounted to nearly two hundred million dollars. The apostle James says that the tongue can act like that. It starts a story about some one. The story spreads. It grows worse as it spreads. It becomes more destructive as it grows worse. It becomes impossible to stop. It travels faster than any denial can. An innocent life is wrecked, and people who deserved nothing but happiness are made wretched. Who did it? It almost did itself. Just start the fire or the slander, and it will find its own way of spreading. Therefore we won't start it, nor help it on if it comes our way.

Poison, v. 7. When hunters in Africa kill a poisonous snake, they dig a hole in the ground and bury its head. For they know that if a barefooted native Bury the Poison stepped on the head, even long after, the native might be poisoned, so deadly is the venom. Othello, in Shakespeare's play, was a high-spirited, honorable soldier who loved his wife Desdemona with the deepest affection. The crafty Iago was able, by means of sly words, so to

Like Britain's
Coast Line

When the
Colonel Speaks