

## "Our Flag"

By W. BELLAMY, B.A., COLBORNE.

"THE flag on which the sun never sets," has a significant name—"The Union Jack."

In the earlier days of chivalry, even before the time of the Norman Conquest of England, each knight and soldier on the field wore a surcoat or "jacque"—abbreviated into "Jac"; extending over his armour from the neck to the thigh, gleaming upon it the blazon sign either of their lord or nationality. When the Christian nations of Europe combined to rescue Jerusalem and the Holy Land from the rule of the Mohammedans, the warriors recruited from the different countries wore crosses of different shapes and colors upon their surcoats, which came in time to be known as the "Jacks" of the warrior nations represented. It was thus that the Cross of St. Andrew and of St. Patrick became known as "Jacks." Such was the origin of the name "Jack," and it was from the combination of the three national Jacks of England, Scotland and Ireland in succession, that the "Union Jack" has grown to its present form.

Until the year 1606 the flag represented only a small area consisting of the Cross of St. George, which was known as a red Greek cross on a white ground. In this year when Scotland joined England under one Parliament, the St. Andrew's Cross of Scotland, a white saltire on an azure blue field, was added to the Cross of St. George, to form the "Union Jack." In 1801, the Parliament of Ireland joined Great Britain, and the St. Patrick Cross, a red saltire on a white field, was combined with the two former crosses to form a flag for the United Kingdom. In this way the imaginative poetical Irishman, the shrewd obstinate Scotchman, and the slow, just Englishman united to form the greatest nation of the earth.

There is a peculiarity in the design of "Our Flag" which needs explanation. The Scottish and Irish Crosses are not placed side by side continuously across the whole flag; they are counterchanged so that in the first and second quarters the white of Scotland as the senior kingdom is uppermost, while in the second and fourth, the red of Ireland has the precedence. The narrow white border around St. George's Cross, and on the outer edge of St. Patrick's Cross, is added only to meet a rule in heraldry that color must not touch color, but rather be separated by a border of one of the metals, in this case silver, which separates the red color of the crosses from the blue color of the fields, or ground of the flag.

The flag of England is not only seen flying in the British Isles, but it floats o'er Canada, Australia, India, South Africa, and numerous small countries and many islands in the far off seas. It is the emblem of freedom, justice and religious protection. No matter in what country a person may be, if he is loyal to the British flag no one will harm him; for they know the power of England and how quickly she redresses the grievances of her subjects.

When the Transvaal surrendered to England in the late war, England at once proceeded to give it just form of Government. Although millions of money had been spent on the war, South Africa was asked for only a comparatively small amount as her share. This new colony was not subdued by England merely for a commercial gain, but to give the people a just form of Government, such as the English people receive. On account of these things the South Africans have

learned to love and honor the flag of the nation which has so benefited them.

The flag, seen on every war-ship and on every battlefield, has been the means of arousing soldiers to deeds of courage and bravery. It floated on the top mast of the "Victory" when Nelson roused his soldiers to action by his British watchword, "England expects every man will do his duty." It led the brave "Six Hundred" at Balacava where they proved that it was

"Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs not to make reply,  
Theirs but to do and die."

It floated above the Birkenhead when five hundred brave men went down to death inspired by its call to duty.

We Canadians love and honor the flag because of the liberty and protection it gives us. When we are called to fight for the Mother Country we rally to its standard,

"For thousands have died for its honor  
And shed their best blood for the flag."

## The Old Flag

By H. C. EUNNER.

Off with your hat as the flag goes by!

And let the heart have its say;

You're man enough for the tear in your eye,

That you will not wipe away.

You're man enough for a thrill that goes

To your very finger-tips—

Ay! the lump just left then in your

throat that rose,

Spoke more than your parted lips.

Lift up the boy on your shoulder high,

And show him the faded shred—

White lines would be red as the sunset

sky

If death could have dyed them red.

The man that bore it with Death has lain

This twenty years and more;—

He died that the work should not be

vain

Of the men who bore it before.

The man that bears it is bent and old,

And ragged his beard, and gray—

But look at his eye free young and bold,

At the tune that he hears them play.

The old tune thunders through all the

air,

And strikes right into the heart:—

If ever it calls for you, boy, be there!

Be there, and ready to start.

Off with your hat as the flag goes by!

Uncover the youngster's head!

Teach him to hold it holy and high,

For the sake of its sacred deed.

## Our Country

By MISS MINNIE MCKENNEY, COLBORNE.

BEFORE the year 1867 the present Dominion of Canada had no existence. The legislative union of that date between Upper and Lower Canada was unsatisfactory, and the leaders in Parliament recognized the danger, and saw the need of a closer relationship between the four then existing provinces.

The Act which brought this about is known as the British North America Act. Since then five other provinces have cast in their lot with this growing Dominion. Thus our national life began in peace and has peacefully continued during the forty years that have since elapsed.

A single glance at an ordinary map shows Canada to be

one of the most favored of lands. It would seem as if Providence had kept His best gifts for this latest born of nations. This great country, bounded by three oceans, has an immense extent of coast line, and as a means of access to the interior, nature has broken our eastern coast with mighty rivers and great lakes, which furnish a continuous waterway to the verge of the great tableland of the West, where turn and wind the Assiniboine, Saskatchewan, Red, and other rivers.

Canada possesses the greatest mileage of river and lake navigation, the greatest extent of forest, the greatest coal measures, the most varied distribution of minerals, the most