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A Glimpse at Great Britain during War Time

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(Part I.)

NOTE:—We believe the following impressions may prove specially interesting to our Canadian readers who have not yet visited Britain. To others with residential experience of conditions in the Old Countries, as well as in Canada, Mr. Haney's comparisons are likely to be amusing and refreshing. His observations are otherwise noteworthy as those of a Canadian lawyer and literary man visiting the Island Centre of the British Empire for the first time.—[Ed.]

In this article the writer will endeavour to give as far as possible an idea of the things which impressed him most during his recent short visit to the Old Country and to mention a few of the apparent differences between conditions there and in Canada which he observed when for the first time he saw the "Great Little Island" and its people, particularly a portion of the Scottish section of it.

We may begin when the good ship "Corsican" Captain Hall, commander, is nearing Fastnet Light on the South-west of Ireland off Cape Clear. Fastnet Light is a powerful revolving white light visible at a distance of 25 miles. Contrasted with any Canadian light-house that I can recall it has a giant lantern. The light seen at a distance of some miles gave one the impression of a solid, evenly distributed white flame about four feet square, or, roughly speaking, a light area six times as large as that shown by Point Atkinson light viewed from West Point Grey.

Between the Devil's Hole and Fastnet Light we had received instructions from a cruiser, so I was informed, as to the direction we were to take and before long we were speeding along, with the South shore of Ireland occasionally visible as we passed some of its points or capes, making our way between two lines of trawlers which were distant from us about a mile and were placed at intervals of say three or three and a half miles, patrolling, seeking mines and submarines. Each, I was told, contained three naval reserve men and carried a gun large enough to sink a submarine. Such were the Admiralty's precautions against the German "blockade" which, according to Berlin's announcements, was to begin the following day.