No Ship, under any Circumstances, to neglect Proper Precautions.

Art. 24. Nothing in these rules shall exonerate any ship, or the owner, or master, or crew thereof, from the consequences of any neglect to carry lights or signals, or of any neglect to keep a proper look-out, or of the neglect of any precaution which may be required by the ordinary practice of seamen, or by the special circumstances of the case.

Reservation of Rules for Harbours and Inland Navigation.

Art. 25. Nothing in these rules shall interfere with the operation of any special rule, duly made by local authority, relative to the navigation of any harbor, river, or inland navigation.

Special Lights for Squadrons and Convoys.

Art. 26. Nothing in these rules shall interfere with the operation of any special rules made by the Government of any nation with respect to additional station and signal lights for two or more ships of war or for ships sailing under convoy.

Distress Signals.

Art. 27. When a ship is in distress and requires assistance from other ships or from the shore, the following shall be the signals to be used or displayed by her, either together or separately, that is to say :—

In the daytime—

1. A gun fired at intervals of about a minute ;

2. The international code signal of distress indicated by NC ;

3. The distant signal, consisting of a square flag, having either above or below it a bell, or anything resembling a bell.

At night—

1. A gun fired at intervals of about a minute ;

2. Flames on a ship (as from a burning tar barrel, oil barrel, &c.) ;

3. Rockets or shells, throwing stars of any colour or description, fired one at a time, at short intervals.