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## **No. II.**

# **WHAT CANADA OWES TO THE BRITISH NAVY**

BY

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Canadians owe more to the Navy than they can ever pay; and this apart from the service rendered by it to civilization throughout the world generally. A great commentator on English law wrote in 1758 (half a century before Trafalgar): "The Royal Navy of England has ever been its greatest ornament; it is its ancient and natural strength, the floating bulwark of our Island."

But for that Navy the expansion and preservation of the British Empire had been impossible. But for the Navy Canadians would not be in possession of the better part of the North American Continent and enjoying, as they do, the happiest possible system of Government. And yet the gigantic burden, ever-increasing, for the maintenance of this indispensable force and influence for good has substantially fallen on the British Islands alone.

For many years our flag has been flown on every sea. What organization can compare with the British Navy in respect to benefits conferred on mankind? We hear now much of the "Freedom of the Seas." For all this freedom (in its true sense) our Navy is responsible. Piracy was stamped out by it—the Gospel could not have been preached throughout the world but for it. Many a noble ship would have gone to its ruin but for the timely aid rendered her by ships of the Navy.

When Germany's aim was being made clear the main strength of the Navy was placed in a narrower sphere in order to save the Empire and maintain the cause of justice and right; and splendidly was this duty done. Yet so great was Britain's sea-power that, with the Grand Fleet in the North Sea, there was still left sufficient force to maintain the freedom of the seas all around the world and to guard the movement of millions of troops required for the Allied forces in France, Belgium, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Greece, Gallipoli, Egypt, West and East Africa, as well as vast quantities of food, ammunition and equipment—including in the four years of