

HOUR OF DESTINY

navigation requires, since sailing ships have been completely replaced in the navy and largely in the mercantile marine by steamships. As all human progress can only be won by sacrifice, navigation has had to surrender its unlimited freedom of action as against the great advantages of steam: it is absolutely dependent on supplies of fuel for its boilers. But as a warship has to carry considerable loads in the shape of armour, guns and ammunition, even the largest battleships cannot exceed a certain load of fuel and to that extent the duration and length of the voyage, with supplies sufficient to maintain a certain rate of speed without re-coaling, are limited; that is to say, the useful activity of the ship suffers. Therefore if supplies cannot be renewed the ship is just as incapable of continuing her voyage as a locomotive, which has run out of coals and water.

With the introduction of steamships all seafaring nations were therefore obliged to take into consideration the acquisition of