

sent to him by the Pope. At the Battle of the Standard, fought between the Anglo-Normans and the Scots, August the 22nd, 1138, the Scottish ensign was—"a simple lance, with a sprig of the blooming heather wreathed round it." That of their enemies was quite remarkable in its size and construction. On a large four-wheeled car was a ship's mast, strongly fastened, surmounted with a crucifix, in the centre of which was a silver box containing the sacred sacramental wafer; below this floated the banners of the three English saints. And it was around this great banner-emblem that the battle raged the fiercest. On the flag, or pennon, of Henry V. were the red cross of St. George (next the staff), a dragon, and six or seven roses.

Our Union Jack dates back to 1801 only, in its present appearance. Prior to that time there were but two crosses:—the broad, red cross of St. George with the white edge, and the white, saltire cross of St. Andrew on the blue field; to these were added the narrow, red cross of St. Patrick, at the time of the union with Ireland.

The name of "Union Jack" has been said to owe its derivation to James I. (*Fr. Jacques*) of England and VI. of Scotland; but, as the *real* union of these countries did not take place until 1707, the story may well be doubted, though this double-cross banner was constituted the national flag of Great Britain by a royal proclamation dated July 28th, of the same year,—just eighty-two years after "the British Solomon," James, by the grace of God, was laid to rest in the cool shades of Westminster Abbey.

A much more plausible reason for the name is that it is derived from the *jacque*, or surcoat, worn by soldiers in olden times—notably during the wars of the Crusades. The *jacque* (jacket) had on the breast and on the back a large colored cross, so that those of the same division of the army might recognize each other. "The *croisé*" (crusader) from France wore a red

cross; those from beyond the Rhine wore yellow. The cross of the Flemings (Netherlands) was green; while those worn on the surcoats of the English were white; but all the crusaders displayed a small red cross, of woollen fabric, on the right shoulder. At a later period it appears that the cross of St. George was recognized as emblematic of England, and the crosses of St. Andrew and St. Patrick as pertaining to Scotland and to Ireland respectively. Now, in these days, it was customary to place a *jacque* above the bowsprit of a ship, so that vessels approaching each other might see the distinguishing badge; and on ships belonging to the fleets of the British Isles the three crosses, together, formed the *jacques-unit* or "Union Jack." To this day the little pole above the bows of a British man-of-war is called the "Jack-staff."

In France the national ensign has undergone many changes. The sacred banner of the Abbey of St. Denis—called the *oriflamme*—was succeeded, in the 15th century, by the "white flag with the *fleurs-de-lis*." The Imperial standard was blue, eagle in centre, and studded with golden bees. The tri-color of the republic, the blue, white and red, is symbolic of the city of Paris (red and blue), and the army of France (white); it was first used about the time that the Bastille fell—July, 1789. The flag of three colors is, evidently, very popular; Germany has black, white and red; Belgium has black, yellow and red; in Italy it is green, white and red; Holland has red, white and blue, in horizontal stripes; and Mexico, like Italy, has green, white and red.

In America, prior to the War of Independence, the devices on the flag of the Colonies were changed many times. Even the "star-spangled" banner of the United States has undergone considerable alterations since the day when the arms of the English family of Washington were first utilized as the standard of the new republic.