

by Spanish ships from Cadiz. Nelson made ready to follow them. Napoleon's plan was that his three fleets should sail from Brest, Rochefort and Toulon at about the same time, meet at Martinique, and returning all together gain control of the channel and open the way for the invasion of England. The Rochefort squadron sailed in January, waited in Martinique for the time agreed upon, then returned alone; the Brest fleet was blockaded so closely by Cornwallis that they could not get away at all. Villeneuve's ships were pursued by Nelson to the West Indies, and when the French admiral found that he had missed his colleague and that Nelson, with fourteen ships, was close upon him, he thought it wiser to return to France. Nelson, misled by false information, sailed for Trinidad, but finding no trace of the enemy, and deciding that they had gone back to Europe, he made for Gibraltar, where in June, 1803, he set foot on shore for the first time in two years. On the 22nd of July Villeneuve's fleet was met by fifteen British ships under Sir Robert Calder, and an indecisive action was fought; but Villeneuve turned southward and anchored in Cadiz Bay. When Nelson, who had returned to England, heard this, he said: "Depend upon it, I shall yet give Mr. Villeneuve a good drubbing." On September 14th, 1805, he left England for the last time, embarking at Portsmouth in the "Victory." He joined the English fleet off Cadiz on September 28th, and was received with great joy. The enemy had thirty-six ships, while Nelson had but twenty-three. He kept urging the authorities at home to send him out more ships. He realized that the French fleet must be destroyed. "It is annihilation that the country wants, and not merely a splendid victory. * * * Numbers only can annihilate." He planned the method of attack in all its details, and explained and discussed the plan with the admirals and captains of the fleet; so that when, on the morning of the 21st, the enemy's ships came in sight, every officer in command knew what was to be done.

When he had seen everything arranged for battle, Nelson went down to his cabin and wrote a brief note of what was happening. Then, on his knees, he wrote the following prayer: "May the great God whom I worship grant to my country—and for the benefit of Europe in general—a great and glorious victory; and may no misconduct in any one tarnish it; and may humanity after victory be the predominant feature in the British fleet. For myself, individually, I commit my life to Him who

made me, and may His blessing light upon my endeavours for serving my country faithfully. To Him I resign myself and the just cause which is entrusted to me to defend." At half past eleven Nelson made the celebrated signal, "England expects that every man will do his duty." At twenty minutes past twelve Vice-Admiral Collingwood's ship, "The Royal Sovereign," fired the first gun upon the enemy, though she had been under heavy but ill-directed fire for some time. The "Victory," attacking the enemy's centre, was also exposed to heavy fire. Nelson's secretary, standing by his side, was killed by a round-shot, and another passed between Nelson and Captain Hardy. At twenty minutes past one a musket ball from the mizzen top of the French ship "Redoubtable" struck Nelson on the left shoulder and passed through his lungs and spine. As Captain Hardy raised him, he said, "They've done for me, Hardy." "I hope not," answered Hardy, "Yes," replied Nelson, "my back-bone is shot through." He was carried below, covering his face with his handkerchief that his men might not know that he was wounded. He lived for three hours, still anxious about the battle, still caring for the safety of his men. "Will no one bring Hardy to me? He must be killed!" And when Hardy came,— "How goes the battle?" When the message was brought that fifteen ships had struck, "Only fifteen! I had hoped for twenty." "Anchor, Hardy, anchor!" he repeated, fearing for the safety of crippled or disabled ships in the bad weather that threatened. Then "Kiss me, Hardy," and the last words, "Thank God, I have done my duty."

In less than an hour after his death the battle was over, having lasted five hours. Eighteen of the enemy's ships had been captured and the rest had fled.

The news of the battle reached England on November 6th. The "Victory," with Nelson's body, arrived at Spithead on December 5th. The body lay in state in Greenwich hospital from the 4th to the 8th of January, and on the 9th it was placed in the crypt of St. Paul's cathedral in a sarcophagus made by Cardinal Wolsey for Henry VIII. Above in the cathedral is a monument by Flaxman. There are many other memorials of him in different parts of the kingdom, the most notable being Trafalgar Square in London. In the centre of this great open space rises a granite column 145 feet high, crowned with a statue of Nelson. The pedestal is adorned with reliefs in bronze, cast with the metal of cap-