

NAVAL UNIFORMS.

mond, to the team of rifleman from Canada who came over to compete at Wimbledon, by members of the Royal Colonial Institute and others. The Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M. P., and Sir Richard Graves Macdonnell occupied vice-chairmen's seats, and there were also present among others, Mr. Otway, M. P., Major Arbuthnot, M. P., Mr. Macfie, M. P., Captain Bedford Pim, R. N., Colonel Donville, Colonel Cole, Captain Colomb, Sir Peter Tait, Mr. Donald Smith, Mr. Edward Jenkins, Mr. R. G. Haliburton, Mr. H. E. Montgomerie, Mr. G. W. Eddy, Mr. Peter Watson, Mr. A. Rivington, and Mr. A. Prentice, together with the Canadian Team and their officers, Colonel Peters and Major Otter. The noble chairman, in giving the usual loyal toasts, alluded to the Colonial experiences and popularity in the Colonies of the Prince of Wales, and associated the Naval and Military toasts with the name of Captain Bedford Pim, R. N., Colonial Donville, Lieutenant Watson, H. A. C., and Major Montgomerie, formerly of the Montreal Light Horse, and now of the 1st Kent Administrative Battalion. In proposing "Prosperity to our Canadian friends," Lord Bury said, with reference to the Kolapore Cup, it is hardly fair that the colony of Canada alone should have to contend against a picked team from England, Ireland, and Scotland, it would be a more equal contest if the best shots of the home kingdoms were formed in separate teams from each. Nevertheless the Canadians had taken the Cup in 1872, and he trusted that next year a Canadian would take the Queen's prize. That ought not, however, to be the only colony which sent competitors to Wimbledon, and he hoped we should see teams in future years from Australia, the Cape, New Zealand &c. He thought something should be done to mark that occasion; we should give an Inter-Colonial Cup, and leave the Colonial teams to fight for it at Wimbledon. So this dinner would be the first of a long series to do honor, not to Canadians alone but to men from all our colonies. Colonel Peters, in returning thanks, said the Canadians had everywhere received the most cordial greeting, and that night it had been repeated by representatives of every branch of the service. Nor, indeed, had the Queen in her great empire more loyal subjects than the people of Canada. The Rifle Association of the Dominion of Canada is formed on the same model as that of England, and the officers of the Association and the riflemen of Canada esteemed it the highest honor they could bestow upon marksmen to send them to England. He was happy to say that the representatives of the Dominion this year had done themselves and the Colony credit, and one of them was among the first sixty for the Queen's Prize. They had not won the Kolapore Cup, but it would not rest long in the hands which now held it. He congratulated the Colonial Institute upon its success in recording and imparting information concerning our dependencies, and finally thanked the Committee of Arrangements which had received the Canadians; and Sir Peter Tait, its chairman. Major Otter also responded to the toast, and Colonel Peters proposed the health of the Chairman. The other speakers were Colonel Cole, Sir R. G. McDonnell, Mr. Arthur Kinnaird, Mr. Otway and Mr. Haliburton, all of whom spoke "in telegrams" as Lord Bury said, the hour for the last train in town being near at hand. Mr. Arthur Kinnaird, in the course of a few vigorous remarks, observed that separation from the Mother Country not to be thought of—that the British Empire was only now in its infancy, and we were nursing it.

The first mention of anything like a uniform for the Royal Navy is contained in an order issued by King James April 6, 1609, in which he commands "his principal masters of ships to be most bravely in liveries of scarlet cloth, embellished with velvet silk lace, buttons, and gold embroidery," and the precept mentions its being a renewal of the late Queen Elizabeth for the same purpose, but, by reason of her death, not acted upon. No attempt, however, to establish a regular uniform for all grades of officers appears to have been attempted until the reign of George II.

Epaulettes are the palettes of Henry IV.'s time, which were circular of plates of metal to protect the shoulders. They were not ordered to be worn as a part of the English naval uniform until June, 1795. Their French origin was sufficient to incur the detestation of Lord Nelson, who, speaking to Captains Ball and Sheppard, said: "They wear fine epaulettes, for which I think them great coxcombs."

In most, if not all, of the battles of Trafalgar he descended to his cabin, where he decorated himself with the insignia of all his orders and remounted the deck in conspicuous splendor, and on being told by Captain Hardy that his stars and medals would mark him to the enemy, he exclaimed, "In honor I have gained them and in honor I'll die with them." Captain Hardy's own version of the story is that Nelson dressed himself in the same coat which he had commonly worn since he left Portsmouth; it was a plain blue coat of coarse cloth (which is still preserved in the Greenwich Hospital), on which the star of the Bath was embroidered, as was customary. While walking the deck, and after the firing had commenced, Hardy remarked that the badge might draw attention from the enemy's tops, to which Nelson coolly replied, "He was aware it might be seen, but it was now too late to be shifting a coat."

"I had the watch on deck," and Prince William Henry, afterwards William IV., "when Captain Nelson, of the *Albema*, came alongside in his barge. He appeared to be the merest boy of a captain I ever beheld, and his dress was worthy of notice. He had on a full laced uniform; his lank unpowdered hair was tied in a stiff Hessian tail of extraordinary length; the old-fashioned flaps of his waistcoat added to the general quaintness of his figure and produced an appearance which particularly attracted my attention, for I had never seen anything like it before, nor could I imagine who it was or what he came about. My doubts, however, were removed when Lord Howe introduced me to him."

The custom of placing the uniform, sword epaulettes, cocked that, etc., upon the coffin of a deceased officer at his funeral is a relic of the Church of Rome. It was formerly the custom to offer the gorget, sword, helmet, etc., of a deceased officer at the mass said for the repose of his soul prior to interment.

It is known from any document in the British admiralty, nor does it appear by the Gazette, when the first uniform for the Royal Navy was established by George II., but the first mention of one is found in the *Jacobite Journal* for March 5, 1748, which says: "An order is to be issued requiring all His Majesty's navy officers—from the admirals down to the midshipman—to wear an uniform of clothing, for which purpose pattern suits for dress and frock-coats for each rank of officers are lodged at the navy-

yard, and at the several dockyards, for their inspection." (Drawings of these coats, which were destitute of collars, can be found in one of the volumes of the *London Nautical Magazine*.) The *Gazette* of July 17, 1757 refers to this order in noticing the first alteration that was made.

Mr. Locker, a commissioner of Greenwich Hospital, says, "In the Naval Gallery of this institution I can show you every variety of cut and complexion of dress. Nottingham, Raleigh, and Torrington expended their dignities in courtly costume. Lawson, Harmon, and Monk frown in buff belts and jerkins. Sandwich, Munden, and Benbow shine forth in armor, while Rooke, Russell and Shovell, the heroes of a softer age, are clothed in crimson and Lincoln green, surmounted with the flowing wig, which then alike distinguished the men of the robe and of the sword. A portrait of Commodore Brown, who, with Vernon, took *Porto Bello* in 1739, exhibits him sword in hand in a full suit of russet brown. In 1746, Captain Wyndham and all the officers of the *Kent* (70) wore grey and silver, faced with scarlet. Such foppery was not unfrequently combined with check shirts and petticoat trowsers. The same year (1746) a club of officers who met every Sunday night at Wells Coffee House, Scotland Yard, "for the purpose of watching over their rights and privileges"—a club that has its parallel in the U. S. Navy to-day—determined, February 15, 1746, "that a uniform dress is useful and necessary for the commissioned officers agreeable to the practice of other nations;" and a committee was appointed to wait upon the Duke of Bedford and Admiralty, and if their lordships approved, introduce it to His Majesty. Mr. Locker says Mr. Forbes, the admiral of the fleet in 1746, informed him that he was summoned to attend the Duke of Bedford, and was introduced to an apartment surrounded with various dresses, and his opinion was asked as to the most appropriate. The Admiral said, "Red and blue, as these are our national colors." "No," replied His Grace, "the King has determined otherwise, for having seen my Duchesse riding in the Park a few days ago in a habit of blue faced with white, the dress took the fancy of His Majesty, who has appointed it for the uniform of the Royal Navy."

There is no trace of the order on board warrant at the Admiralty for this regulation, though the year of its institution is proven by the *Gazette* of 1757, where an order of council appears superseding the embroidered uniform established in 1748, and appointing in its stead a laced uniform for the flag officers and others under their command. In succeeding years, and under the different reigns, the facings have been more than once changed from white to red, and vice versa, and the distinguishing marks for rank have been repeatedly changed, varied, and modified. To show the difficulty of making any regulations of a uniform that could not be varied from, it is stated that Trowbridge once took his place at the Admiralty Board wearing a white cocked hat, the color of the cocked hat not having been specified in some regulations just issued, and which were considered perfect, and so clear that none could mistake them.

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A writer in the "Archiv für Artillerie und Ingenieur Offiziere," on the theory that the winter air is drier than that of summer advises that powder magazines be aired in the winter and closed as tight as possible in the summer.