

## 192 Heligoland to Keeling Island

These ships defied the enemy's submarines. Their immunity under attack was no doubt due to a technical difficulty which baulked the enemy. As a rule his torpedoes are set to run about 12 feet below the surface; the monitors are submerged only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and consequently the torpedoes fired passed under them without doing any damage. Of course, the immunity is not complete; torpedoes can be made to run at almost any depth. But it takes time, when they are adjusted to one depth, to change over to another.

Gradually the strength of the bombarding flotilla was augmented. Beside the three powerful monitors, several old cruisers, gunboats, and destroyers were added. Obsolete vessels were specially selected for the work, in view of the grave risks which the flotilla inevitably ran from the enemy's heavy artillery, and particularly from his marauding submarines. We have already seen that the cruiser "Hermes" was torpedoed in the Straits of Dover, an incident which strikingly demonstrated the enterprise and daring of the German submarine commanders.

The following statement given out by the Admiralty on October 24th, well describes the conditions under which the naval operations were conducted:

"All yesterday the monitors and other vessels of the British bombarding flotilla fired on the German right, which they searched thoroughly and effectively, in concert with the operations of the Belgian army. All German attacks on Nieuport were repulsed.

"Much damage was done to the enemy by naval