

ONE particular feature of the Union Jack is that when properly hoisted the broad white stripe of the Cross of St. Andrew appears uppermost in the quarters next the staff, and beneath in the quarters farthest from the staff; whereas the red cross of St. Patrick, with the narrow white fimbriation, is uppermost on the quarters away from the staff and beneath on the quarters next to the staff, exactly reverse, displaying symmetry, beauty, and historical order.

A FLAG flying upside down is a sign of distress. Care should be exercised to see that the flag is right at all other times.

MAJOR W. J. Wright, of Brockville, Ontario, has drawn attention to the improper flying of flags, and points out that the flagstaff should be surmounted only by a small circular cap, flat on the under side, called the truck, and that there should be two holes in the truck for the cord to run in or a suitable block, and that the flag should be *run right up to the masthead*. The fashion of putting a gilt ball or sphere on a slender stem above the truck is to be deprecated, as it often gives the flag the appearance of being at half-mast.

AS is well known, a flag is placed at half-mast as a sign of mourning for some public or important personage. The origin of this custom is a beautiful one, and can be thus described: When a nation was conquered, its flag was lowered on the staff to make room for the flag of the conquering nation, which