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CENTRAL SHOW ROOM

CENTRAL SHOW ROOM

The Part Played by Sea Power in the History of the World.

(From an Exchange.)

The part played by sea power in the world's history has received little recognition at the hands of most historians of the past. The pomp and pageantry of land wars has filled their eyes with a blaze of glory in which the Army has been the hero. The Navy, working on the sea in isolation, with little of the public eye, has been overlooked, and its real influence in history has been but scantily recognized.

In the struggle in early European history between the Greeks and the Persians, the famous battle of Marathon, though the Greeks won a splendid victory, was not, as often represented, decisive. The Persian Navy, undefeated, and strong to invade the Greek shores again. The sea fight at Salamis, on the other hand, was decisive, securing not only the independence of the Greeks from the powerful enemy, and supremacy of the sea for Athens, but deciding the fate of European civilization. The historic contests between West and East. In the inter-war period, the sea was the determining factor in any struggle for world power, and that Greece stood or fell on the sea. Salamis confirmed his conviction, especially following as it did close upon the splendid but futile stand of the Greeks in the Pass of Thermopylae, following which Xerxes and his army marched on to storm, burn, and sack Athens itself. Everywhere his armies had triumphed,

yet the defeat at Salamis spread panic in land as in sea forces, and both were soon beating a hasty and inglorious retreat to the Hellespont. A remnant of the Persian Army, that Asiatic force which for long had been the scourge of the then known world, was, it is true, left in occupation of part of the Greek territories, but it was defeated at Plataea in 479 B.C. by a smaller force, and the Persian hordes finally expelled from Europe. The lesson of Salamis has been illustrated over and over again in later history, the role of the Athenic Navy being played by that of Britain, and now to the names of Philip II., Louis XIV., and Napoleon must be added that of William of Hohenzollern.

The Overthrow of Spain.

It was in 1588 that, by deposing Spain from her proud position of Mistress of the Seas, England saved Europe from despotism while laying the foundations of the future British Empire. Spain at that time was the mightiest of European Powers. Columbus had given her the New World, and its vast treasures were being poured into her lap, gold, silver and jewels untold. Portugal, with its great navy, and its colonies in Indian and Pacific Seas, the best parts of Italy, the flourishing Low Countries, Flanders and its great manufacturers, with Antwerp the central mart of world commerce, all these came under the sovereignty of Philip II. of Spain. But his ambitions ranged further yet, over Europe, and far eastward, and to England. Drake and the other great seamen of the time urged Elizabeth

not to wait for his coming, but, taking to heart the lessons of history, to go out to meet and check him, to "seek God's enemies and your Majesty's where they may be found." But the seadogs of England were held in leash, though Drake himself carried out daring victorious raids in the West Indies and along the coasts of Spain and Portugal—"singeing the Spanish King's beard," he humorously called it. So the great, "Invincible" Armada of Spain, sailed out in all its pride, and with something of scorn, to punish and destroy the English fleet, the smaller, lighter vessels of which Spanish commanders called contemptuously the "Beggars of the Sea." But Philip discovered that man-power and high moral and fine seamanship may make up for relative weakness in the details of a navy, and that Drake and Hawkins, Howard and Frobenius, and the rest of them had not challenged his supremacy without knowing what they were doing. So the Grand Fleet of Spain that set out to conquer England as another step towards world-conquest came instead to disaster and humiliation.

The Great Louis.

A century later Louis XIV. of France, had taken the place of Philip of Spain, and anticipated Napoleon, as a possible dictator of Europe, if not of the world. France had become the dominant and the richest power. But Louis came up against British sea-power, supplemented in this case by that of Holland, and went down before it in the battle of La Hogue, 1692. This engagement, while having no claim to rank as a great naval feat, destroyed the possibility of that sea-supremacy without which the ambitious plans of Louis could not be carried out. Not long before his fleet had threatened invasion, defeating a smaller British and Dutch force off Beachy Head, and had landed an army in Ireland to fight for James II. against William III. But his command of the sea was short-lived. La Hogue not only saved these shores from invasion and established Britain finally as mistress of the seas, but broke the spell of French triumphs and marked the first step in the downfall of Louis XIV.

After a lapse of a century, Napoleon, emerging triumphantly after surmounting many difficulties and dangers, as First Consul of France, climbed to the throne as Emperor. The sea supremacy of Britain was a great block in his onward way, waiting, watching, battling incessantly against him; never sleeping, isolating him from countries overseas, checking his moves, exercising tireless pressure upon him through all the years of his great and victorious campaigns. Strengthen his own fleet as he might by alliance with those of Spain or Holland, still Britain remained mistress of the seas. Whether in the famous fight of the first of June 1794 or those of Cape St. Vincent and Camperdown in 1797, or other lesser engagements, victory lay with her. When he tried to establish his power in Egypt as a base for the conquest of India, and destruction of British authority and standing in the East, Nelson won his great victory of the Nile, cutting off Napoleon's great army from communication with Europe, and destroying his chance of conquest in the Orient. When applying the lesson of history, he determined to attack British Power at its base, using the whole French Navy, together with a fleet of flat-bottomed boats for the transport of his army, for a great invasion of England, our Navy was ready. "Let us be masters of the Channel for six hours," he said, "and we are masters of the world," and Nelson replied by the

glorious victory of Trafalgar in 1805. History has repeated itself again in our own time, for after another interval of a hundred years the British Navy has once more interposed between Europe and a tyrant, and set a bound to his ambitious schemes.

The Fourth Challenge.

Amid the clash of mighty land battles, the ex-Kaiser, joining hands with his allies, and dreaming his dream of a Germanized Europe spreading into Asia and reaching finally to the uttermost parts of the earth, under all the curbing, strangling pressure of British sea-power. Holding up his High Seas Fleet in home waters, chasing and defeating the submarines that were going to defeat the world, conveying vast armies and stores across seas and oceans, feeding Britons at home and on far-flung battle-fronts, carrying and "conveying" necessities of life to allies and neutrals and refugees from lands devastated by German hordes, the British fleet, including gallant merchantmen and brave little trawlers, made possible all other operations contributing to the triumph of right and justice, the downfall of military despotism. Then came the final pageant in the Firth of Forth, when for the first time a great and notable fleet came out from its home waters at a word, and surrendered without firing a single shot. That was the supreme, unforgettable moment in the triumph of British sea-power, a triumph unparalleled in history.

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Made Her Feel Like a Different Person

WHY MRS. MILES WOOD RECOMMENDS DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS.

She had kidney troubles and her feet swelled but she states she found the relief she looked for in Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Arden, Ont., Mar. 9th.—(Special).—"Dodd's Kidney Pills made me feel like a new person." That is the statement of Mrs. Miles Wood, a well known and highly respected resident of this place.

"I was troubled with my kidneys," Mrs. Wood continues, "and my feet swelled. I tried Dodd's Kidney Pills with the result that the swelling is nearly all gone and I feel better in every way."

"To any person who is bothered with kidney trouble or with their feet and legs swelling I would say 'use Dodd's Kidney Pills.'"

The women of Canada have come to look on Dodd's Kidney Pills as a standard remedy for their kidney ills. They act directly on the kidneys. They are purely and simply a kidney remedy. But putting the kidneys in good condition to strain all the impurities, all the seeds of disease, out of the blood they carry good health to every part of the body. Ask your neighbors if Dodd's Kidney Pills do not help all kidney ills.

Mme. Paul Deschanel, the wife of the President of the French Republic, has achieved her ambition to rule over the Elysee palace as the First Lady of France. She was married on February 13, 1901, because the couple attached the happiest import to the 18th. The President was born on February 13, 1856, and his wife on April 13, several years later. January 13, 1901, was their engagement day. The surname and Christian names of both are formed of thirteen letters.

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