

firing difficult, particularly for main guns of 'Good Hope' and 'Monmouth,' " both of them badly-designed vessels.

Thus the action opened at a range of 12,000 yards, every advantage being with the enemy, who had more guns, better guns, and better-disposed guns, and, moreover, carried more armour. We are not told in what manner the British ships used their guns, but it is reported that the Germans "fired in salvos," and "got the range quickly." In a gale they fought scientifically, as at battle practice, instead of each gun firing independently. Three salvos set the two big British ships on fire; the action must have been over, to all intents and purposes, in about 200 seconds. Think of it; and the range was 7 miles—about as far as from Ealing Common to Charing Cross! It was a case of hitting first, hitting hard, and keeping on hitting. Thus the "Good Hope" and "Monmouth" were lost.

It was hardly necessary to tell us that "nothing could have been more admirable than the conduct of officers and men," when they received a "great volume of fire without chance of returning it adequately." Even the foe admits that they fought "heroically." We now have evidence that they fought not against odds, but against all the odds. Let it be added that Admiral Cradock was an officer of a fine school—a keen polo-player and sportsman, and instinct with the best traditions of the service, as those who knew him, or have read his breezy volume of "Whispers from the Fleet," always recognised.