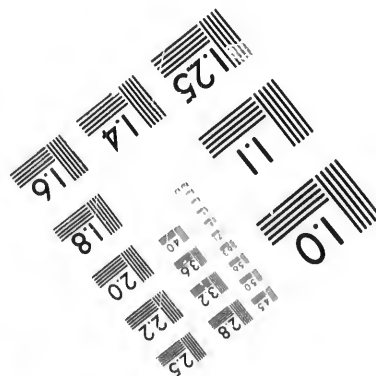
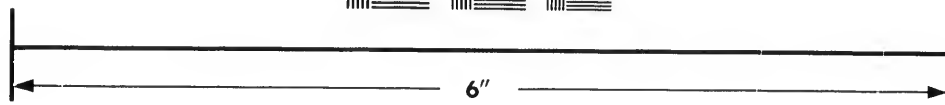
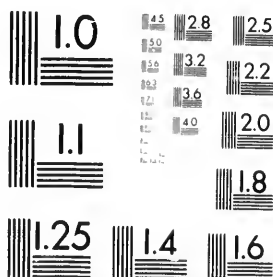


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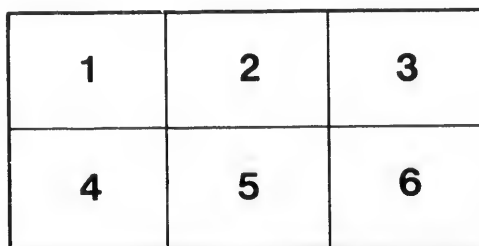
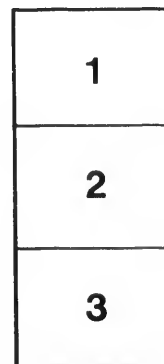
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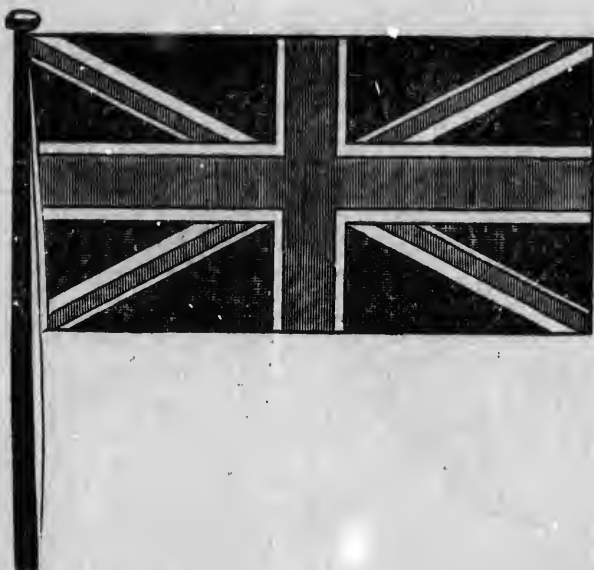
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Howell, Henry S.

THE
BRITISH --- Union Jack.



A SHORT HISTORY OF OUR
NATIONAL FLAG FOR THE
CHILDREN OF OUR

PUBLIC SCHOOLS,

By H. SPENCER HOWELL,
GALT, ONTARIO.

1897.

REPORTER PRESS, GALT.

Henry J. Morgan

THE BRITISH UNION JACK.

1894



ANKIND, in all the ages and in nearly every land, has shown a desire to have associated with his own identity some peculiar mark or symbol, as an emblem characteristic of his family, his attainments, or his place of residence; and, as a people of one state or commonwealth, a distinctive cognizance or token to perpetuate the remembrance of some valiant deed of arms, or some special act pertaining to the welfare of the community, and which has become national in its significance: typical of the honor and integrity of a country. These insignia—carved in stone, in ivory and in gold, painted on wood, or worked in silk and woollen fabrics—have represented almost everything in the animal and vegetable world, celestial forms, and geometrical figures; yet they were not chosen in an indiscriminate manner and without meaning, but, on the contrary, with due consideration for the appropriateness thereof. The earliest chronicles give evidence of these symbols being worn and used; and the ancients were particularly careful that there should not be any misconstruction of the implied meaning, for nothing was employed that was not truly emblematic. In the 2nd verse of the 2nd chapter of the Book of Numbers, we find these words:—"Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house." The Romans began the system of a regular code of heraldry; and this was the origin of personal, family, and national devices. Nothing of an emblematic character has played a more conspicuous part, in the history of the world, than the Flag; for, whether it has been as an armorial pennant of the knights-errant of olden times, or as the standard of an Empire in later days, around it has clustered the traditions of nations; the best and the bravest have fought and died to maintain its supremacy, countless thousands have followed without fear where'er it led them, it has inspired hope in the face of despair and time and circumstances have hallowed it and made it sacred. Well may our people of Canada love and bless "The flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze!"

The origin of the British national flag can be traced back to the first Crusade, which took place eight hundred years ago. This great military expedition which left the shores of Europe, in 1096, to struggle for the possession of Jerusalem and the Holy Land (then in the hands of the

Turks), was composed of the very flower of the chivalry of Christian nations. Although recognizing one leader, Godfrey de Bouillon, they were, necessarily, divided into many camps; and these various divisions of the army were distinguished by certain flags, bannerets, and badges. While on the *jacque* (or jacket) of each knight and soldier there was a large coloured cross, so that those belonging to the same legion might the more readily recognize one another.

The *Croise* (Crusader) from France wore a red cross; those from beyond the Rhine wore Yellow; the cross of the Flemings (from the Netherlands) was green; while those on the surcoats of the English were white. But each of them displayed a small red cross of woollen fabric on the right shoulder. At a later period, it appears that the cross of St. George became recognized as emblematic of England (red c. on a white ground); the cross of St. Andrew as that of Scotland (white saltire c. on a blue ground); and the cross of St. Patrick as pertaining to Ireland (narrow red saltire c.) In those days it was customary to place a *jacque* above the bowsprit of a ship, so that vessels approaching might see the denotative badge; and on the ships belonging to the fleets of the British Isles the crosses, together, formed a *jacque-unit*—or “Union Jack.” While, to this day, the little pole above the bows of a British man-of-war is called the “Jack-staff.”

The Jack was adopted as a national ensign in 1606; and it was confirmed, by a royal proclamation, in 1707.

Prior to the year 1801, there were but the two crosses on the flag: those of England and Scotland; but at the time of the union with Ireland, on the above date, the Irish cross was added to the others, and the three form the Jack of the present day. So that neither the Scotch nor the Irish might feel jealous because of one flag being “surcharged” upon the other, it was deemed advisable to show the St. Andrew’s cross as preponderating in the first and the third quarters, (i. e. the white margin broader at the top), and the cross of St. Patrick in the ascendant in the second and fourth quarters (red margin uppermost). The white border to the large red cross of St. George is doubtless indicative of the original appearance: a red cross on a white field; besides, it is in keeping with heraldic rules and requirements.

The British ensign is the Union Jack on a red “fly” (or field), without any badge, crest, or arms.

The flag of a British man-of-war is the cross of St. George on a white “fly,” in the first quarter of which is the Union Jack.

The flag of the Royal Naval Reserve is the Jack on a blue “fly.”

The flag of an Admiral is a red cross on a white ground, only, and is

carried at the main mast-head; Vice-Admirals display theirs at the fore, and Rear-Admirals at the mizzen mast-head.

The Royal Standard is simply the arms of the United Kingdom:—three lions, *passant guardant*, in the first and the fourth quarters; a lion, rampant, in the second; and a harp in the third quarter; but without “supporters,” crest, or motto. This is the sovereign’s own banner; it is flown wherever she resides, or wherever she happens to be—on land or sea. It is (or should be) displayed in Canada, over the Governor General’s residence:—on the anniversary of Her Majesty’s birth, accession, and coronation. When the Princess Louise was in Canada, the standard was flown whenever Her Royal Highness accompanied His Excellency on an official visit.

The Canadian Ensign is:—the British (red) ensign, on the “fly” of which is a badge composed of the arms of the four original Provinces, only; Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; without any maple-leaf or oak-leaf wreath, without a beaver or a crown. This badge must not be larger than one quarter the size of the Jack. (Most of the so-called Canadian flags which we see are incorrect in design; and the owners are liable to a fine of five hundred pounds sterling if they display these ensigns on vessels or on public buildings.) In the military service, the “Queen’s” colour is the Union Jack with the numerals of the regiment and the crown in centre. The “Regimental” colour is generally the same as the facings; the territorial designation and numerals are in colours in the centre, and ornamented with the Thistle, Rose, and Shamrock. Sometimes a small Union Jack is in the first “canton,” or quarter next the staff. Rifle corps do not carry colours.

The Governor General’s flag is the Union Jack with the arms of the Dominion (four Provinces, only) in the centre and surrounded by a garland of maple-leaves surmounted by a crown. The flag of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario is a Union Jack, in the centre of which are the arms of the Province, surrounded by a wreath of maple-leaves; but with no crown above them. These flags, the Royal Standard, and the Queen’s and Regimental flags are nearly square in shape. The proper size of the Ensign is twice as long as it is wide; and the Jack must occupy one quarter of the whole; though these points are not strictly adhered to. On all vessels, forts, public buildings, and at military camps, flags should be hoisted at sunrise, or gun-fire, and lowered at sunset. Flags lowered to half-mast is evidence of respect to the dead. Ensigns displayed reversed means a signal of distress.

When heraldic devices of flags, arms, etc. are printed in one colour or by one impression, the proper colours are designated by certain lines and

characters:—thus, red is represented by perpendicular lines, blue by horizontal, green by diagonal (from first quarter to fourth), black by perpendicular and horizontal lines crossing each other closely, purple by diagonal lines (from second to third quarter), yellow or gold by spots on white ground; silver by pure white. Metals (silver or white, and gold or yellow) are never blazoned one on the other; but metals on colours, and the reverse.

* * * * *

St George became the popular, tutelary saint of England in the days of Richard Coeur de Lion; and was made the patron saint of the kingdom in the reign of Edward III. The national festival (April 23d) was inaugurated by the Council of Oxford, in 1222.

St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, was one of the disciples; after suffering martyrdom by crucifixion on a saltire cross, his remains were removed from Patrae, Greece, to Constantinople, and thence (tradition tells us) to St. Andrews, a seaport in Fifeshire, Scotland. St. A. is also venerated in Russia as the founder of the church.

St. Patrick, the apostle of the Irish, was a son of Calpurnius and a grandson of Potius, a priest. He was first sold into captivity, by the Piets, about the year 411, and taken to Ireland; after gaining his liberty he devoted himself to the church. At 45 years of age he was consecrated bishop, and died in 457, A. D.

* * * * *

The Most Noble Order of the Garter was constituted by King Edward III., in 1348, or '49; tradition says on the 23rd of April, in the latter year. Motto, "*Evil to him who evil Thinks.*"

The most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle was founded by King Achans (according to Legendary lore), and revived by King James II. in 1687. Motto, "*No one annoys me with Impunity.*"

The Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick was instituted by King George III., in 1783. Motto, "*Who shall Separate.*"

The Most Honourable Order of the Bath was established in 1399, by King Henry IV. It was revived by George I., in 1725. Motto, "*Three joined in One.*"

The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India was instituted by Queen Victoria, in 1861. Motto, "*Heaven's Light our Guide.*"

The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George was established in 1818 (Prince Regent), and extended in 1868-'77. It is the order usually bestowed upon our Colonial statesmen. Motto, "*A Pledge of Better Times*"

The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire was instituted by Her Imperial Majesty, in 1878.

The Distinguished Service Order was founded by Queen Victoria in 1886.

The Royal Victorian Order was instituted in 1896 by Her Majesty.

