

Life In Our Navy And Our Army

by Alfred West, F.R.G.S.

A synopsis of the life-work of Alfred West, F.R.G.S. depicting cinematograph scenes of life in Our Navy and Our Army, Our Mercantile Marine, Our Colonies, Our Pleasure Fleet and Our Homeland.

An illustrated and descriptive catalogue

Over two million people have visited the Polytechnic, Regent Street, W1 to witness these pictures.

Yours faithfully, Alfred West

Since the coming of the cinematograph, and its perfection in the sphere of practical photography, it has been applied to many and varied uses of amusement and instruction; but it remained for Mr. Alfred West, F.R.G.S., to make it a factor of importance in the domain of Patriotism.

Always a pioneer in photographic work of a maritime nature, as shown by his magnificent series of yachting and naval pictures produced immediately, the advent of the rapid dry plate, and of lenses of large relative aperture, rendered really instantaneous photography possible. He was quick to see the possibilities of the new means by which the successive phases of motion in moving objects could not only be photographed, but also be again reproduced in sufficiently rapid succession to give a natural impression on the retina (on the well-known principle of persistence of vision), and to apply the new instrument to his favourite subjects of yacht racing scenes, which as instantaneous photographs, had already obtained so much favourable notice from the Press and so many medals and awards at countless British and foreign exhibitions.

Born close to the old "Victory", and living at "The Anchorage", Southsea, he is naturally in the midst of the naval and military life of the great station of Portsmouth, and from his early youth was a close observer, and interested in the lives and training of our sailors and our soldiers.

His two Brothers had served their country in the senior service, and his Father, a typical British Patriot Of great photographic ability, it was only natural that his son should follow in his father's footsteps, and it is also natural that his attention should be directed to such things as eminently worthy of record by the new system of animated photography, which does for the visual aspect of nature what its scientific cogener, the gramophone, does in the domain of acoustics; and in this lay the first germ of the now famous Entertainment, "Our Navy and Army."

Originally shown at Portsmouth, the first films, with their wonderful reproduction of life at the great naval station, very quickly attracted the notice of the local authorities, and soon afterwards that of Royalty itself, the initial series being first shown before the late Queen Victoria at Osborne.

So great was the popularity of the work that it was soon seen to be of more than provincial importance, and so the Entertainment was transferred to London, with a send-off message from Capt. H. R. H. Duke of York, R. N., now His Majesty King George V., who sent a special message wishing it a successful commission.

Making its first appearance at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, in October 1899, under the patronage of the Lords of the Admiralty, and many distinguished persons of social and official importance. From that time to the present it has re-appeared, season after season, always with fresh features, and it may be added, with ever-increasing technical excellence in the production of the animated pictures, which now certainly rank facile princes among all those which are to be seen in the Metropolis.

Much good has been done in the way of obtaining service recruits by the way the Exposition has popularised and diffused a knowledge of naval and military life; and here Mr. Alfred West has undoubtedly deserved well of his country and that more especially at a time when the question of the maintenance of our lines of defence has become a matter of the most vital national interest and importance.

At the conclusion of the historic "Cruise of the Ophir," of which Mr. Alfred West obtained special animated pictures, he was again honoured with a Royal Command from His Late Majesty King Edward VII to exhibit them at Sandringham on November 9th 1901, this being the first Royal Command of His late Majesty's reign. On this day King George V. was made Prince of Wales.

Thus this patriotic Entertainment – born under Royal auspices – has, for 14 years, and is still fulfilling a useful purpose in stimulating enthusiasm, and enabling the public to have an insight into the ways and doing of those who safeguard the interest of the Empire and keep watch and ward over its honour and safety.

"Lest We Forget"

Kipling's stirring poem reminds us that we should ever be mindful of our magnificent heritage.

When you think of our history, you must realise that we men and women of the British Empire have been called to a destiny of unequalled splendour; and all of us who are worthy of the name of Britons must be determined both to achieve that destiny and to leave its splendour untarnished.

Our aims and actions must be noble as our strength is great; we have much to be proud of in the past, much to be thankful for in the present, and much to achieve in the future. Trace the growth of our Empire and our course in patriotic duty will be made clear.

Until the spacious days of Great Elizabeth, " Britain was a little Island off the coast of France." Then when Portugal, Spain and Holland were scouring the world for colonies, we were fired to emulate their example.

Step by step, led by such men as Drake and Howard, Cook and Wolfe, Frobisher and Raleigh, Marlborough and Wellington, Clive, Warren Hastings and Pitt. Not to name a thousand others, we planted our flag in the fairest dominions of the earth.

By the nineteenth century we had grown so strong that half the world was up in arms against us. But "the time finds the man," and that time of our mortal struggle produced Nelson. To him, above all others, belongs the credit of having given us the control of the sea. On that Memorable Day of Trafalgar he opened up for our Empire a future as glorious as her past. We have never lost the proud position he gave us, and every true-born Briton is determined we never shall.

Today the British Empire covers a fifth of the whole wide earth. The regions it comprises contain over 400,000,000 souls. Nearly every second ship on the world's seven seas belongs to us, and our wealth can scarcely be computed.

Straits of Dover, Gibraltar, Straits of Malacca, the Red Sea, and the Cape of Good Hope. With these keys we can lock in or lock out the Navies of the World and every one of these keys are in our hands.

Not Caesar, in ancient times, nor Charlemagne, in the middle ages, nor Napoleon, in the 19th century, ever dreamed of such an Empire, nor of such world-wide power. The Roman Empire crumbled away because it ruled like a Tyrant. But Britain Rules as a Mother does, By weight of authority, by force of example, by encouragement and sympathy.

Between the Mother Country and her Colonies there exist bonds as unbreakable as those which bind well-reared children to a devoted mother. We have a common ancestry, a common tongue, and a common right to freedom in religious thought and worship; we have the same ideals; indeed in every aspect of our lives, we are as closely akin as the children of any family.

There are more ships to-day in the British Mercantile Fleet than there were in Spain's great Armada. But the greatest glory of Britain lies in her future; all her energies and resources are happily devoted to the arts of Peace, and so long as we are safe from molestation we shall travel swiftly along the road to prosperity. Perhaps the very success which must attend our efforts may cause other nations to look upon us with envious eyes, but so long as the British Navy is strong enough to maintain peace we have nothing to fear.

We are at present on terms of peace and goodwill with all the world, and as true Britons, our pride and boast is that we passionately desire to remain so. But if envy should lead any nation to seek a quarrel with us, our "Far Flung Battle Line" must be prepared to defend our shores, to protect our immense fleet of Merchantmen. We must at all costs maintain the Naval Supremacy which Nelson Bequeathed to us 106 years ago. "Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget – Lest we forget".

Under the White Ensign

Film No.1 The day's duties on board commence with the ceremony of hoisting the White Ensign: every officer and man, no matter what work they are doing, face aft, stand to attention, and salute, as the flag is slowly hoisted, and the ship's band plays the National Anthem.

The Navy's motto

2 Every ship has a motto placed in a conspicuous position, such as "England Expects every Man to do his Duty", "Deeds not Words", etc., but the one most frequently seen, in most cases around the Capstan, is "Fear God, honour the King".

Loosing the dogs of war

3 1st and 2nd Cruiser Squadrons steaming into Spithead

Launch of a super-Dreadnought

4 which, after 18 months' commission returns to dock to have the hull cleaned. Scrubbing parties at work cleaning away the growth of seaweed. A peculiar effect is here seen of the suns rays reflected on the ship's side.

Hoisting in ammunition

5 Shells for the 12-inch guns: each weighs 850 lbs, and at extreme elevation can be fired over 20 miles.

Cordite cases

6 Each of these cases contain 2 charges: it takes 2 cases, i.e., 4 charges, to fire the 850 lb projectile. Each 12-inch gun weighs 60 tons. The barbettes have a thickness of 14 inches armoured steel.

Torpedo boat destroyers and submarines

7 In attack formation.

On board the battleship preparing for the attack

8 to 12 Out Torpedo Nets – Clear ship for action – Stripped for fighting – Secondary armament: 6-inch and 12-pounders being trained to starboard; 12-inch barbette guns in action.

13 Battle practice.

Our latest super-Dreadnoughts steaming out to Sea

14 H.M. ships 'Orion' and 'Hercules'.

15 For the moment these latest battleships may be termed the highest expression of human ingenuity in the art of human destruction. Given a suitable target one of them could probably destroy more life and property in 10 minutes than a battleship a century back could destroy in 10 days.

Foreign Navies

16 to 22 Germany, United States, Japan, France, Italy, Russia, Spain.

Our home and Atlantic fleets

23 1st Battle Squadron, 2nd Battle Squadron. Reviewed by His Majesty King George, Our Sailor King.

The historic Portsmouth Harbour

24 The old Sally Port – Nelson's flagship, the 'Victory'. Anchored there for all time, to remind us that a day may come when England will again expect – "Every man to do his duty".

25 Hoisting the famous signal on board.

26 Humorous incidents in the leisure hour. Ashore and Afloat "Jack's the boy for work, Jack's the boy for play". Naval tactics on roller skates.

Series 1. Approximate length with titles 1,300 feet. Code:- ENSIGN

Our Future Nelsons

The training of the officers. Royal Naval Cadet College, Osborne, Isle of Wight. "Work hard, study hard, and play hard "

27 and 28 Marching to work – The Carpenter's and Engineering Shops. An Assault at Arms before H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg (Governor of the Island.)

29 Swedish Drill

30 Parallel and Horizontal Bars

31 Sabre .v. Sabre

32 Light-weight Boxing

33 Sword Display

34 Panorama of the College, Cadets and Guests

Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. 'HMS Britannia'

35 Boat Sail Drill

36 Swimming Party

Guns as fought in Nelson's time

37 This film was taken on board one of the Brigs which used to act as Tender to the Training Ships; and the Guns are identically the same as in the days of Trafalgar.

Guns of the present day

38 The 12-inch Barbette Guns

Our Navy of today

39 Warships steaming past: from Battleship to Submarine

Our Navy of the past

40 An old Naval Veteran, 93 years of age, who had served under Rear-Admiral Parker, who was one of Nelson's captains placing a wreath, as his Centenary Tribute, on the spot where Nelson fell, assisted by a First-class Petty Officer and two boys of the Royal Seaman's and Marines' Orphanage.

This scene is full of dramatic and historic incidents, and may be considered one of Alfred West's best works. Pictures of this subject have been accepted by King George and Queen Alexandra.

Permission was granted for the famous signal to be specially hoisted on board, and during the film a vision of the battle of Trafalgar appears, dissolving into a portrait of Nelson.

Series 2. Approximate length with titles 1,300 feet. Code:- NELSON

The Annual Sports

Bean bag competition

41 The Cadets form up in single column line ahead, and throw a bean bag to the next astern, which must be caught and thrown on until it reaches the last one, who rushes forward to take the place as "Leader of the Line." Failing to catch the bag puts this one out of action.

42 A contest with the foils

43 Middle weight boxing

From Osborne the Cadets are transferred to the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and undergo further instructions to prepare them for the high and responsible position they are to occupy later on, viz., to take command of a warship.

All physical drills are based on scientific principles, so as to develop their muscles.

44 The Indian club exercise when done in large groups, forms a scene of great interest as does the

45 Sword drill which is another exercise given under the instruction of an expert swordsman. From this College at Dartmouth the Cadets, after having passed their examinations successfully, become midshipmen, and are sent on board a seagoing ship.

Attention to their physical development is still maintained. This picture was taken on the Quarterdeck of H.M.S. Crescent, while under the command of Captain H.R.H. the Duke of York, now

46 His Majesty King George V

47 The Royal Yacht steaming through the Solent

48 Our National Flag, the Union Jack, flying in the breeze

The first vessel to be driven by turbine engines was **the 'Turbinia'**

49 Views on Board showing the foam astern, ending with her steaming past at the enormous speed of 35 knots or 40 miles an hour.

Series 3. Approximate length with titles 660 feet. Code:- OSBORNE

Our Sailors

The Naval training establishment at Shotley

H.M.S. Ganges, where our boys receive their first instruction in Naval Warfare. At the entrance gates, also on the Parade, or what is called the Quarter Deck, are placed the Figure Heads of the four training ships that did duty for over 40 years in various Harbours around our Coast in training boys for the Royal Navy, viz:-

"Boscawen", "Ganges", "St. Vincent", and "Caledonia"

50 This series opens with a party of Boys marching past the figure head of the "Boscawen", Lord Nelson, on their way to Battalion drill. (25ft)

51 They go through a smart evolution with their Maxim guns, running up and bringing the Guns into action. After firing several rounds, the Guns are dismounted, limbered up, and advanced at the double, coming again into action. (110)

52 These Boys are the pick of the British youths, and are full of energy and go. They have to keep on keeping on, and are encouraged to do so by various devices. Obstacles are dug or built which they must overcome, wide trenches they leap over, walls to be climbed, all done at racing speed; and the race over the obstacles is not only interesting to witness, but very humorous incidents occur. (80)

53 There is a splendid Gymnasium, with a staff of Instructors who teach the boys every exercise to make men of muscle. Wrestling is one of the features. (70)

54 Bluejackets are always original, and the Instructors show the boys performances which are unique and often very humorous , especially the chair trick.

55 A mast with its rigging is erected on the north end of the Quarter Deck, and here the boys are drilled to climb at the call "Away Aloft." Although our Dreadnoughts do not carry yards and sails, still, this is done to give them that nerve and smartness which is so important a feature in a British sailor (85).

56 11 a.m. 7 Bells is "Stand easy time." Considering the drills they have gone through since breakfast, 7 a.m., one would expect to see them sitting about; on the contrary, as this picture proves. (40)

David and Goliath

57 A boxing bout between a very small but pugnacious boy, and a big burly Bluejacket.
(50)

Sailing and Rowing

58 Down a slight declivity is the sea, and here the boys get their taste of the salt water upon which their lives will be spent. They receive instructions how to row and sail Boats, how to come alongside the Jetty in proper seamanship manner, tossing the oars together whilst bow looks on. The first time does not satisfy the Instructor, and it has to be done over again, results satisfactory. (135)

8 Bells Noon

59 Welcome sound, it means Dinner. There is the usual rush, and their hunger can hardly wait for the "Grace before meat," which they sing. Plain food, plenty of it, is the fare, and what appetites they have - like young Sea Lions at feeding time; meanwhile the Postman goes round with letters. (75)

Recreation

60 The meal is soon over; indigestion is unknown; the rest of the dinner hour is given up to play. A novelty has been provided in the shape of a huge ball as as themselves, which they push about; sides are formed, and goals obtained. A party of them take two Instructors unawares, and push the Ball over them with shouts of delight as they roll over together in a heap. (75)

Home again

61 Christmas holidays are as sacred in the Navy as elsewhere, and the boys get their leave. Many a home is brightened, many a Mother's heart is gladdened at the sight of her Sailor Boy. This is a Mother preparing the good things for the festive season. The door of the cottage opens, a pair of hands are placed before her eyes. Who is it ? Mother knows, it's my Sailor Boy! God bless him! Why, how you have grown, how well he looks. Just in time to stir the pudding. Right-O ! What's this ? Cakes !! The domestic pets also welcome him, and amidst of it all he suddenly remembers the Christmas presents he has bought, and which lie inside his jacket. Look, Mother! what I've brought you; hope you will like it, and as he wraps the shawl around her, with a hearty kiss, the Church bell chimes forth its Christmas and joyful greeting. (125)

Series 4. Approx length with titles, 1,020 feet. Code: SHOTLEY

The Navy's cradle

The Royal Greenwich Hospital School is an Institution of which the Navy is justly proud. Its history carries us back more than 200 years. These little British boys are sons of sailors, who have served their country and helped to keep the flag flying. And as most of them rise to Warrant Rank they may be aptly termed the future backbone of the British Navy.

"Trafalgar Road in Greenwich runs out of Nelson Street'
And it's there the Navy's Cradle may be seen,
Where the little Jack is nurtured who will one day man our Fleet,
And it's O, he'll keep the decks of England clean." – H Begbie.

62 To see one thousand of these little sailors march past in review order, headed with their splendid Band, and with Colours flying, is an inspiring sight. They step out with a precision of movement that draws forth the approval of the onlookers. (150)

63 But more impressive still is it to see the whole School go through a picturesque Swedish drill. They are in their gymnastic dress, viz., white flannel singlet and trousers. The smartest of them are picked out to give a display at the Naval and Military Tournament in London. (215)

64 A jumping feat is performed by nine boys; they leap from a springboard, turn a somersault in the air, and down for the next to leap over, which is done very successfully. This ends with a tableau around the Instructor. (75)

65 The various grades of promotion from Greenwich boy to Warrant Officer. When all are lined up, a little three-year-old curly-haired boy, son of the Mayor of Portsmouth (Sir W. Dupree) comes up and salutes, shaking hands with them. (This picture was obtained on the Quarter Deck of the "Victory." (75)

Series 5. Approx. length with titles, 550 feet. Code :- GREENWICH

A True Pictorial Story

of a boy who left his village home to join the Royal Navy, depicting the various drills he had to go through until he became a seaman torpedoman.

These series of pictures were obtained at the suggestion of the Chaplain of one of our Training Ships , who was constantly receiving letters from anxious parents and clergymen whose choir boys have joined the Navy, hoping he will be looked after. It is not generally known that the Bishop pays a visit on board these Training Ships three times a year; the number of boys confirmed at each visit averages about 100.

Thus a boy who joins the Royal Navy has a far better moral training than he would receive in any Service ashore.

Our Bluejackets do not profess to be saints. On board, they are disciplined machines of war; on shore, they are law-abiding citizens in the fullest sense of the term.

Alfred West followed this particular boy's career for three years, every facility being granted by the Officers of Ship for obtaining what is a unique series of pictures of the greatest interest.

The Story commences with the last Sunday in the village choir.

66 The church bells are chiming as the choir boys are putting on their surplices outside the ivy-covered vestry door; as they file into the church the bells cease and the organ peals forth. (100)

67 A panorama of the little church nestled among the trees is seen, whilst floating across the meadows come the sweet voices of the choir singing. (75)

Service over, the choir boys say goodbye; the boy is downcast at leaving the church he loves. The Vicar gives words of advice and counsel, giving him a letter of commendation to give to the Chaplain of his ship, and bids him goodbye and God speed. (85)

The next morning

70 he leaves the little thatched cottage with his widow mother. At the gate are the village children; one hands him a bunch of flowers. The old milkman is also there to give

him a send-off. Following down the garden path is his white-haired Grandfather, whose parting words, "do your duty my lad, and you are bound to get on" strikes a note of encouragement.

71 Arrived at the railway station, the scene of so many partings, the son wishes his mother a fond farewell, and she, with that anxiety as to his future, parts with him with a pang at the heart that only mothers know. (115)

"If you want to know the finest life that is ever to be had, Go to sea, my lad, go to sea."
– Weatherley.

He arrives at the coastguard station

72 and enquires for his ship, which is pointed out to him. A signal is made for a boat, in which he is rowed off. (185)

As he climbs the ship's side he is met by one of the Petty Officers, taken before the Captain, to whom he makes a declaration and signs on.

73 He then sees the Chaplain, and hands him the Vicar's letter. Whilst it is being read he looks around and aloft; everything is wonderful to him. The Chaplain speaks kindly, and assures him that he will be his friend. His name has been forwarded to the Admiralty, who send his official number and certificate, both of which he retains throughout his career in the service. Now comes the important operation of being measured for his uniform. The outfit is a liberal one, and includes four sets of clothing and various other articles, which go to make up his kit. (60)

74 Measured for his uniform. (60)

75 His first attempt to climb the rigging almost meets with an accident, but he is held up by another boy. (60)

His uniform arrives

76 He is shown how to put it on, and learns that the three white stripes around the collar represent the three great naval battles: "Nile" – "Copenhagen" – "Trafalgar" (105), also that the black silk scarf around the neck is worn in memory of Nelson. Placing the lanyard around his neck and the cap with the name of his ship on his head, there he stands, a true British sailor boy. He is shown round and pointed out the motto on the Bridge – "England expects that every man will do his duty."

He now learns one all important lesson, viz., that whatever he is told to do must be done at once, if not sooner.

The Bo'sun's pipe

77 – 78 to clear lower decks is heard. Immediately there is an eager rush up the hatchway and another ladder; everything in the British Navy is done at the double. (100)

He tries to blow a bugle call (35)

Series 5 Approx. length with titles, 1,100 feet. Code :- STORY

PART II.

Physical drill with the dumb-bells

80 A very picturesque scene, showing the boys lined right along the deck keeping time with the movements to the ship's band. (115)

Hauling away on the boat's falls

81 These falls or ropes are right along the deck, and the boys drag on them at the double, and in this way the boats are hoisted to the davits. (50)

Swimming lessons

82 Every boy has to learn the way to swim, and close to the ship is the swimming stage. A belt is fastened around the beginner, to which two ropes are attached, which are held each side of the stage by Instructors. The boy has to jump in, and strike out.

Saves life

83 The importance of learning to swim is shown by a plucky action on the part of our boy. The boat's crew are piped away, and as they ran along the boom, one boy slipped and fell into the sea. Our boy immediately dived in, and brought him alongside the boat, and both are hauled safely in. (35)

Manual rifle drill

84 He is getting on, and is taught with others how to handle a rifle and sword bayonet. (75)

It is natural that there should be differences of opinion amongst so many high-spirited lads. In some cases, in spite of discipline,

There is a fight

85 which is, of course, at once stopped, but not discouraged, but it must be fought with the gloves on. In this case, two boys who were found fighting had to withhold the combat until after dinner, when they were told to put the gloves on and have it out; the boy who gave in first was to have his leave stopped. (45)

Signalling

86 is also taught. A boy has to learn to hand Semaphore. (35)

He is sent to gunnery school

87 and learns field exercises, drilling in squads, and, in short, learns the way to fight on land as well as on sea. (150)

88 8 bells noon is always a welcome sound, as the fresh air and healthy exercise raise a powerful appetite. Incidental little happenings and jokes take place during the meal which, when over,

89 Everything is washed up and cleared away. (50)

The rest of the hour is given over to play, and, like the lion's cubs, they are full of fun and frolic. a particularly humorous pastime is

Blindfold boxing

90 Two boys have the gloves on, their eyes are bandaged, and they try to hit one another. The onlookers are convulsed with laughter at the mistakes that are made. (140)

91 The bugle sounds for drill. Our boy learns the way to handle and fire a **Maxim gun** which is brought into action. (70)

92 Another party brings a **9-Pounder gun** into action along the beach, and fire several rounds out to sea. (75)

93 Our boy again returns to the Training Ship, and becomes a **Sub-Instructor**, drilling other boys. (65)

"Away liberty boat"

94 The boys jump into it with eager haste, and are rowed ashore. This picture is taken from the stern of the boat, showing the boys rowing. (145)

Series 6. Approx. length with titles, 1,300 feet. Code:- LIBERTY

PART III

Our boy is drafted into a sea-going ship, and whilst lying in harbour a

95 **Royal salute** is fired. (55)

The Union Jack

96 is hoisted at the Fore; and the ship leaves harbour; (20) they meet with rough seas while crossing the **Bay of Biscay** (50) and after 12 days' steam arrive at the

West Indies

97 They land at Port au Spain, Trinidad, to the admiration of the natives. A little humorous incident takes place between two of the natives and three sailors. The ship steams past the famous (95)

Diamond Rock

98 which stands just off the Island of Martinique, the history of which is as follows: in the latter end of the year 1803, the British 74 gunship "Centaur" was cruising off Fort Royal Bay to watch the port and intercept the vessels bound in and out of it. Finding that as the Diamond Rock had deep water all round, and many vessels escaped capture by cruising inside it, Captain Hood determined to take possession of and fortify it, thus making it a stationary ship of war. With incredible difficulty five of the "Centaur" guns were mounted in different parts of this stupendous rock, and with 120 men, under the command of Lieut. J. Wilkes Maurice, hoisted the pennant "on board" the British sloop of war Diamond Rock. It became connected with one of the most important events in British History, for in order to reduce it the French Fleet, which Nelson was pursuing, was delayed for many days, thus enabling Nelson's Fleet to get back to the northward in time to bar the passage of the combined French and Spanish Fleets, and to save England from invasion by their destruction in the glorious fight of Trafalgar. Ever since there has always been a ship in the British Navy named H.M.S. "Diamond". (30)

Diving boys

99 The sailors throw coins from the ship, and watch with much interest these nigger boys dive for them. (60)

Arriving at Bridgetown, Barbados

100 they take in coal, which is done by black women. One of them seems very excited, as she jumps and dances in a frantic manner. Bridgetown has its **Trafalgar Square** (60) in the midst of which is a statue of Nelson.

101 Arrival of the Picket Boat with letters. (15)

The ship's pet

102 causes a diversion. It is a "Teddy Bear", full of fun and mischief. There is a wrestling match between it and one of the sailors, after which he follows away aloft up the rigging, and finally gets his muzzle fixed in a jam pot. (135)

After three years the ship returns to Portsmouth. Our boy has now become a man, and is looking forward to seeing his home again. He is accompanied by a shipmate, bringing with them a monkey and a parrot. (70)

103 The same railway porter greets him. Walking down the lane he meets the old milkman tottering along with a flaxen-haired little boy. There is recognition and hearty greetings. The parrot and monkey are displayed, and they walk on

To the cottage

104 Arriving, he finds his old Grandfather in the garden picking flowers for a pretty girl. The monkey and the parrot are introduced. The Vicar drops in on the happy scene and they walk into the cottage as there is a lot to talk about. (65)

But there is sad news for him

105 His mother, whom he loved so well, is dead. He is overcome with grief. Sitting outside the cottage door his little monkey nestled in his arms cannot understand what has happened to cause such sorrow. The old grandfather and his shipmate try to console him, and the girl, picking a rose from the side of the porch, hands it to him with a loving sympathetic look. (65)

He pays his last respects

106 to his mother's memory. Coming to the graveyard with his shipmate, he kneels down by the grass covered mound and lays a wreath upon it. Taking a flower he reverently kisses and places it near his heart. The Vicar is near, and offers words of comfort. The poor lad is overcome, and leads his head on the clergyman's shoulder. His mate puts his arm around his neck and leads him away. (80)

Trysting place

107 He returns to duty, but bears in loving remembrance the sweet face of the girl, and six months later they meet at the trysting place. There against the stile in a pretty meadow, amidst the trees they plight their troth, as the birds sing in joyful harmony with their happiness. (100)

Series 7 Approx. length with title, 1,050 feet. Code :- TRYSTING

In the next great naval war victory or defeat will mainly depend on the

"Man Behind The Gun".

British gunlayers are constantly making world's records for rapid and accurate firing. Officers and men have to qualify at the great Naval Gunnery School, Whale Island, Portsmouth.- H.M.S. "Excellent"

Routine

108 After prayers and Divisions the whole of the officers and men undergoing various instructtions assemble on the Parade Ground, and "double-off" to their drills. (105)

Field exercises

109 Officers and men drill together. An attack on a height is made, which is done with a rush and a cheer; it is captured, and they retire, form up again for the next order. (65/80)

110 The field guns are brought into action

111 A class of officers at revolver and sword exercise. (60)

112 A gunnery class. Learning the construction of an armour-piercing shell. They are seated round a table in front of which is a blackboard, upon which the instructor chalks out the outlines of the shell, and as he draws he explains the various marks of identification, somewhat as follows :-

This is an armour-piercing shell; it has various marks for identification; on the top are three bands. The top one is a white band, which denotes it is an armour-piercing shell, and is made of steel. The two red bands show that it is filled ready for use. The 1-inch disc denotes it has seven dram primers, that give the flash and ignites the charge. The charge is contained in a bag, and is marked "Bag". Next comes the date of filling. P. stands for the type of powder that is used, "Pebble Mixture." N. means for Naval Service. W. for Woolwich where it was made. At the bottom is the driving band, made of copper, which cuts into the coil of the gun, giving the shell the rotary motion that makes it spin through the air.

"Have you got that down ?" enquires the Instructor. "Yes, Sir !" the class reply. "Very well! We will just go over it again, and you are all to call out as I point to each mark what it means". They do so correctly, and the lesson is over. (135)

Breech blocks

Working the breech block of the 9.2 gun.

113 The 12-inch gun, old pattern, which took three movements. (120)

The breech block of the new pattern, which opens with one movement.

114 Working a 12-pounder gun on a swivel base. (25)

Battery of field guns: exhibition drill

115 Rehearsing for the annual display at the naval and military Tournament in London. The wonderful rapidity of action, and the way these guns are manoeuvred draws forth admiration and immense applause. (420)

Series 8. Approx. length with titles, 1,030 feet. Code :- GUNNERY

Naval Evolutions On Land

Attack on Whale Island

116 The ships are put out of action, and there is nothing to prevent the invaders from landing except the land forces. Boats with guns and armed men are rowed rapidly to the beach, the 12-pounder guns in the bows clear the way as they approach and are landed, limbered up, and brought into action, and foot by foot the ground is contested. Further combatants follow, and so the attack goes on until the defenders have to retreat before the overwhelming force. (225)

This film gives a graphic idea of how the guns are landed, and the Bluejackets, with the rifles slung behind them, haul on the drag ropes one minute, firing away the next .It is mimic, but looks deadly in earnest.

The late King Edward VII visited Whale Island to witness a unique display, which caused him to commend his Bluejackets for their ingenuity and smartness. It was called

Pekin Wall evolution

117 Imitations of the walls of the city were erected and attacked – first by skirmishers, who crawl full length along the ground, hidden behind bushes, which they push ahead as they fire their rifles. This fusillade cleared the walls. The Bluejackets run up, scale the wall, and signal all clear, and the field gun is brought up at the double; the limber, wheels, etc., are hoisted over in detail, and finally the gun, which, being too heavy to manhandle, is parbuckled over, remounted on the other side again, and the gun's crew go off at the double to the attack. The 4.7 gun which was used at Ladysmith is brought into action. It is too heavy to get over the wall, but it has to be got the other side somehow. The Gunnery Lieutenant and his men bring a blasting charge, which is nailed to the wall, and fired by electricity, making a breach big enough for the gun. It is dragged through, and follows up the attack. (345)

118 A special gymnastic display by naval instructors. (120)

One of the gunlayers

has a visit from his two little sons on Saturday afternoon. The youngest is just able to toddle. He plays with them with a skipping-rope, and has a game of "hide and seek" around the gun. The eldest girl, aged six, hides behind an armour-piercing shell which is standing near, and this enables one to realise the dimensions of these enormous projectiles. (120)

Artillery drive with field guns

After going through various intricate evolutions at the double, the whole Battery run down to the front of the picture, standing to attention, and (95)

Salute the flag

L'Entente Cordiale

A Bluejacket is sitting down fast asleep. A pretty girl dressed as a French peasant steals in behind him, and finding him asleep comes round and sits at the other end of the seat. Jack wakes up with a yawn and stretch, and glancing to starboard notices. What O! France coquettes, and finally, after certain diplomatic moves, they come closer together, and there is a bit of a love scene, during which a dark lady comes softly behind, wearing a mantilla, and seats herself down on the port side, placing over his knee the national flag of Spain. Jack is caught on both broadsides, and whilst vieing with one another in their affection, a little Geisha Girl comes along, and promptly sits down on his knee, placing the Rising Sun of Japan flag over him. (220)

Series 9. Approx. length with titles, 1,100 feet. Code:- CORDIALE

Routine

Coaling by the Temperley Transporter

122 A busy scene in Portsmouth Dockyard (85)

The great clean up

Cleaning ship after coaling

123 The ship is full of coal dust, it has impregnated everything, and has to be got rid of. A spurting hosepipe is at work, which splashes over everything and everybody, amidst much fun and merriment. (65)

Working parties return to barracks

124 Headed by the Pipers' Band. They have been at work in various directions, and the procession finishes with a coaling party. (150)

The bugle sounds the "Dismiss", and they all rush off to their various messes for dinner.

125 HMS Excellent

Early morning exercise by officers and men. (50)

The loading tray,

126 to teach men rapid loading. In this case the men's crew put half a ton of projectile through in the incredible time of 35 seconds. (55)

Marching past with the 4.7 gun

127 that was used in the Siege of Ladysmith, South Africa. (25)

Working a 9-Pounder muzzle-loading field gun

128 now obsolete. Competitive drill. The sailors run up, and come to "action front", fire one round, dismount, remount, fire another round, dismount the gun, and retire with the gear; remount, limber up, and off at the double – very effective evolution. The gun is fired direct at the camera, and the sailors seen working amidst the smoke of the discharge. (125)

Exhibition drill,

By field Gun Battery

129 Getting the Guns over a narrow plank and obstacle, concluding with a tableau in square formation, and the hoisting of the (255)

White Ensigns and Union Jack (50)

A haymaking party

130 The grass wants cutting; one of the party sees in a haystack a splendid opportunity for a little rest; he lies down, and is soon fast asleep; he is discovered by the others, who cover him over with hay, so that when the Petty Officer collects them together to march off, No. 7 is missing. A movement in the hay arouses suspicion. Why, there he is; haul him out; and they march off whistling "For he was a Farmer's Boy." (110)

Series 10. Approx. length with titles, 1,010 feet. Code :- ROUTINE

Cruise On A Battleship

Commissioning the ship (25)

131 The ship's company arrive, climb aboard, and immediately run aft to the Quarter Deck, where they line up to receive a card from the officers, who are standing at a table, on which they learn who they are, what they are, and where they have to go, the number of their Mess etc. (65)

132 The first thing is to clean brass and paintwork, and to make the Ship look smart. Whilst a party are busy on the paintwork around the Barbette, someone walks along it, leaving his footmarks behind him. He is summarily ejected. (55)

133 The decks are scrubbed, and the ship is as Jack loves to have her – spotlessly clean and bright from Truck to Keelson. (30)

134 The Anchor's Weighed. The First- Lieutenant who is called No. 1, superintends the placing of it on the Bill Port. (45)

135 The Ship Steams out of Harbour, the crew standing at "Attention" whilst the Bugler calls the Salute to the various ships, including the old Victory. The Jack is dipped at the fore on every ship until the Outer Spit is reached. (40)

136 Heaving the Lead. Steaming past the Spit and Outer Spit buoys, the Leadsman on both sides are heaving the Lead, calling the soundings to the Navigation Officer. They are now in the Chops of the Channel. (30)

137 An evolution is made with the emergency boat to see that it is ready in case of anyone falling overboard. This boat is told off, and is ready at a moment's notice to man and lower. There is no cry that sends a greater thrill through the ship than that of "Man Overboard !" The Lifeboat is manned, lowered and away in less than 40 seconds, no matter what speed the ship is going. (90)

They drop anchor for some drill, and

Hoist the Quarter Deck awning

138 The only bit of canvas set nowadays. It is brought along the deck in a rolled-up condition, like a hammock, borne on the shoulders of about 100 men, and laid like a dead sea serpent on the deck, and in one-and-a half minutes it is stretched and lashed across the Quarter Deck. (110)

139 **Short Service Boys.** The Admiralty have introduced the Short Service System into the Navy, whereby a boy may join for five years and pass into the Reserve. A party of these boys are being dosed with some physical drill of rather unique character. (155)

"Rocked in the cradle of the deep"

140 Boats at the Boom in a rolling sea. (40)

141 Signalmen, or, as they are nick-named, Bunting Tossers, may be termed the Eyes of the Ship. The rapidity with which they take and deliver messages is marvellous. This shows the various modes used on the Signal Bridge. (130)

The leisure hour

142 to 144 The Ship's Band plays, and the "Merry Widow Waltz" finds many partners, as also does the Lancers and the Two-Step. (165)

On the Quarter Deck

The ship's pet,

145 in the shape of an Aberdeen Terrier pup, is seen having a game with one of the Officers. (85)

Series 11. Approx. length with titles, 1,170 feet. Code:- JUPITER

Incidental Incidents

Twixt love and duty

146 Jack's best girl wants to be shown round the ship. He starts by showing a 6-inch gun; opens the breech, and, to get a proper view with his explanations, his arm gets entangled with her waist. He invites her to take a peep through the sights, whilst she is doing so he gives her a ride by turning the traversing wheel. She is puzzled and wants to try to do it. Whilst doing so Jack pops round the other side and turns the wheel depressing the gun. She thinks it all very wonderful, and tells him so. Jack then takes her up the ladder to show her another gun, a 12-pounder quick firer. "Have a ride?" asks Jack, whereupon he lifts her on it, giving the gun an sudden tip up, which nearly capsizes her. They then proceed down to the Main Deck by a ladder, which is so steep that the girl hesitates. However, tucking up her dress, she descends. They sit together on a hatchway, and little incidents happen. (250)

Coaling ship

147 1,200 tons to be put into the bunkers. All hands, Officers, Bluejackets, and Marines work together to try and make a record; there is no law of order. It's "go as you please" sort of work, so long as the black, dusty stuff is got in and put out of sight speedily. The colliers winches are groaning and shrieking, and 10 bags at a time are dumped on the deck, seized hold of, and run away to the various bunker holes at the double. Once commenced, coaling never stops; it is worked to a finish, no matter if it means all night as well as all day job. The beautiful clean ship is smothered in coal dust, and so are the crew, including the Captain. (135)

Shore leave

148 "Away Liberty Boats" – a welcome sound, as many have wives and relations, including sweethearts. The ship is in a home port. (40)

Home again

149 Before going on the manoeuvres Jack is given five days' leave, and this picture is a little domestic scene of a Bluejacket's return home to his wife and two little ones. (180)

Fun ashore

150 Others seek for any pleasure that may be going; the pier has special fascination for two twin souls, who watch with great interest two ladies rinking very gracefully. (175)

They try to do the same

But being the first time they have tried roller skates, the results are somewhat exciting, certainly very humorous. (50)

"Jack's the boy for work, Jack's the boy for play"

Manning the Cutter – man overboard

151 The Admiral occasionally gives the signal "Away all Boats' Crews, and race round the Fleet." There is a rush to the boats – Gigs, Cutters, Launches – in fact, every boat is manned with a speed and smartness surprising to the onlooker. There is, of course, great competition among the various ships as to which ships' boat comes in first. The one that (60)

152 comes in last has to pull around again "Alone". One of the men, running along the boat boom, slipped, and fell into the sea with a mighty splash. He was hauled into the boat, and cautioned not to do it again, as the ship was not a bathing machine. (60)

"Wake up England"

forms the subject of a very humorous picture.

153 A Bluejacket is sound asleep on the deck, two others, sitting close by on a bollard, amuse themselves by tickling his face with the frayed ends of a rope; he dreams it is flies, but beyond rubbing the tickled spot he sleeps on. "What shall we do with him to wake him up," says one. "I know, 'and me up that blacking and we'll make him look pretty." They proceed to smear it over his face. "Why! His own mother wouldn't know him."

"And now, I think, we'll really wake him up," says the tickler.

"What are you going to do, Jock?"

"Oh! You wait and see, 'and me up that Bucket of water."

"But it's full!"

"Never mind, he always did like a lot. You stand by and get ready to scoot."

He pours the bucket of water over him, and rushes off, whilst the sleeper, thinking he has suddenly fallen overboard, is swimming about for dear life. (110)

How Jack slings his hammock and retires to rest, and

154 How he is awakened in the morning.

This picture explains it all; how they get into it, where they put their garments, and how they go to sleep, and also how they are awakened by the Marine next morning, who comes along yelling out, "Rouse up! Rouse up!" and if this has not the desired effect one end of the lashings is let go, and down comes the occupant swift and suddenly, to the amusement of his other shipmate; but the laugh is soon turned when he receives the same treatment. (125)

"Easy shaving"

155 All Bluejackets have to grow "all or none", and as most of them are clean shaven, the ship's barber has a busy time with those who do not shave themselves. The lather is soon applied, some going in the wrong place; however, with lightning rapidity, the ordeal is over, and "next, please," as he gives the final wipe down and push off. (70)

Series 12. Approximate length with titles, 1,300 feet. Code:- INCIDENT

The Regiment Of The Sea

The Royal Marines

"Per Mare Per Terram"

Both the Royal Marine Light Infantry and Royal Marine Artillery hold a record for distinguished services difficult to beat in the annals of British history. They are sailors and soldiers too, and when on board work and play side by side with the Bluejackets; in short, the Royal Marines may be looked upon as one of the most useful Corps in the King's Service.

R.M.L. Infantry

Field evolutions

156 Attacking in skirmishing order, and charge at the point of a bayonet. (60)

Prepare for Cavalry (50)

157 **Form squares.** (55)

Attacking a position

158 A Sergeant with a Bugler rush forward and plant the flag. A bugle sounds the advance, and a rush is made by the main body, who are further strengthened with the field gun battery and Maxims. The fight is fierce, but short. The deadly shooting has made the enemy retire, and with a ringing cheer they rush forward in pursuit. (50)

Mobilization race

159 The Marines are fast asleep in their hammocks. Bugle sounds. They jump up, lash hammocks, on boots, and rush to the 6-inch loading machine. The gun's crew that fires the allotted amount of shots first wins the prize. (115)

The Marines on board

160 They march on to the Quarter Deck for rifle firing and drill. (60)

R.M. Artillery at Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth

161 Church parade.

162 Competition drill with field guns.

Landing the guns from boats

163 The R.M.A. has a Cadet Corps, who follow in their father's footsteps, and go through evolutions with a field gun with a smartness most creditable to boys so young. (80)

A grand review

164 of the Naval Brigade, Royal Marines, Royal Field Artillery, various Line Regiments, including the Highlanders, and concluding with a Corps of Cadets (310)

Series 13. Approximate length with titles, 1,140 feet. Code:- MARINES

On Board The Old Training Ship 'St Vincent'

Away aloft

165 A rush for the rigging, up starboard and down the port sides, a climb over all. They must not go through the Lubbers' Hole, but over the (150)

Futtock rigging

166 like flies on a ceiling, they clamber over. One boy loses his footing, and although 60 feet in the air, hangs on with his hands until the swing in again enables him to gain a footing and get over.

167 One boy, more venturesome than the rest, climbs up to the main truck, and waves a Union Flag; he is 130 feet above the sea, and quite happy at this dizzy height.

168 Down on deck is a party going through physical drill with Rifles. (55)

169 **Sail drill – shifting jibs** (65)

Aquatic sports

170 Barrels have imitation horses' heads fixed on, and the boys try to get astride and paddle along. This is not easy, as directly they get on, the barrel turns turtle, and they are thrown into the water. (105)

Walking the greasy pole

171 Many try to walk to the end of the pole, which is boomed out from the ship's side, and is well greased to the end. Many slip and fall into the sea; the last one, however, by careful manoeuvring, succeeds. (75)

Regatta

Boat racing

172 There is great excitement, as it is a race between the various Training Ships. (75)

Manning the capstan

173 In the days of masts and sails the anchor used to be hoisted by the Capstan Bars, the ship's fiddler seated on the cap, whilst all hands marched round and round keeping time to the tune. (50)

"Pipe to dinner"

174 is called. There is an eager rush below, the boys nearly falling over one another. (55)

Battalion drill

175 March round the deck headed with the Band. (55)

Thursday and Sunday afternoons are visiting days

176 A mother and her little ones come on board to see her sailor boy, and to renew the domestic associations of home. (105)

Series 14. Approximate length with titles, 1,060 ft. Code:- ALOFT

H.M.S. 'St Vincent'

Passing away of the old and birth of the new

The passing away of the old wooden walls, which have done so much towards the maintaining of Britain's supremacy of the Seas, causes feelings of much regret, but sentiment must give way when the advance of science in Naval warfare demands different conditions of training, and so the paying-off pennant was hoisted on the old ship which for 40 years had done duty in training boys for the Royal Navy. (140)

The ship's company of instructors, cooks, etc.

177 are paid off. They come before the table, their last payment is placed on their caps by the Paymaster.

The pennant is hauled down

178 by an old seaman, who was one of the first Instructors in the ship 10 years previous.

The ship is towed away from her moorings

179 and out of the harbour as the band played "Auld Lang Syne."

Building the new 'St Vincent', a super-Dreadnought at Portsmouth Dockyard. Commenced January, 1908, launched September same year, commissioned May, 1910, special permission being granted to Alfred West by The Lords of the Admiralty to obtain the following series of films, which are unique, and of absorbing interest, showing the construction of the ship from the time of the laying of the Keel up to the launching.

180 January – Result of first month's work

February – putting in the stem piece
March – Hoisting the steel plates
April – Further progress; pneumatic drilling and riveting
May and June – Getting near the deck line
July and August – Nearing completion
September – Preparing for the launch – Shoring her up

The Christening

181 A bottle of Colonial wine is dashed against the bow, with the words, "God Bless this Ship and those who man her". The rope that holds the dog shores is cut, and the huge ship glides away, entering the water as the band plays "Rule Britannia". The Admiral calls for three cheers, which is responded to with intense enthusiasm by the thousands of spectators. (520) Eighteen months pass; afterwards she is ready for steam and gunnery trials. The ship is then commissioned, and takes her place in the fighting line.

Evolution with field guns

182 Bringing the guns into action and march past. (185)

Fleet evolutions with field gun wheels

183 A party of Bluejackets trundle these wheels along, going through movements as if they were ships at sea. Single column line ahead – the Gridiron movement – in double column – in line abreast, etc. (100)

A Naval battery bringing the guns into action

184 and firing a Royal Salute. (40)

Series 15. Approximate length with titles, 900 feet. Code:- PASSING

Past and Present

Visit of King George V to Canada

185 H.M.S. Indomitable leaving Portsmouth for Canada with the King on board. (90)

Firing a Royal Salute from the King's Bastion. (50)

A torpedo attack

187 Witnessed by the Imperial press delegates whilst the Home and Atlantic Fleets were assembled at Spithead. A torpedo attack on the Dreadnought. Torpedo Boat Destroyers and Submarines discharged their torpedoes with deadly precision as they steamed past at full speed, each one striking the Dreadnought's torpedo netting. (265)

"The old Victory," Nelson's Flagship at Trafalgar, still a flagship, flying at the main the full Admiral's St George's Cross of the Commander-in-Chief of Portsmouth. The old ship has been used for many useful purposes – the last as **signalling school for boys.**

188 They are lined along the decks waving their hand-signalling flags, a message as given by the Instructor. (70)

The leisure hour

189 An impromptu game of football with a ball of spun yarn, or cricket with a bucket for a wicket affords plenty of amusement during the dinner hour. (110)

The ship is now given up to visitors, who come in thousands during the summer. They are conducted round the ship by Marines, and are taken to the Quarter Deck and pointed out a brass plate, which is on a slightly raised block, this being the only piece of the original deck now left. The Marine explains this. On one occasion an old lady who had been wandering round happened to come up just as the Marine said in a solemn voice, "**Here Nelson fell**". "I don't wonder at it," she exclaimed. "I nearly fell there myself just now". Visitors purchase the various mementos in the shape of photographs, etc., which are for sale on board, the proceeds of which are given to help maintaining the **Royal Seamen and Marines' Orphanage**.

190 Every Anniversary of Trafalgar, Oct. 21, these orphan children come on board, and are entertained with all kinds of amusements and regaled with tea and cakes, whilst the ship is decorated with green bows at the masthead and yardarms, and the famous hoist is flying as it was on the ever memorable day of Trafalgar. (350)

The Naval Barracks Boys' Brigade is formed by sons of sailors. They range from the ages of 9 to 12, and in their spare time go to the Barracks Gymnasium for drills. The old Naval Veteran, (who figures in another picture on the Quarter Deck of the Victory) inspects these little chaps as they go through some evolutions for his special benefit. The old Gunner, 92 years of age, and who had sailed under one of Nelson's Captains, Admiral Hyde Parker, looks on with a grim smile, sits down in a chair, while they circle round him, and he tells them a yarn of fights long ago. "Can any boy dance a Hornpipe?" he enquires. Up jumps one little fellow, whilst another brings a fiddle for the old man to play. He scrapes away as the boy dances. He feels quite young again. "I believe," he says, "I could dance it again; anyhow, I'll try." The boys applaud his efforts, but the old man has to give it up – his legs are not what they used to be. The boys give him a hearty cheer as he sits down again. (175)

Series 16. Approximate length with titles, 1,200 feet. Code :- PRESENT

Miscellaneous

Our boys

A second series of the Greenwich Royal Hospital School

The boys are in their working rig

192 Early lessons in Battalion drill. (110)

193 Physical drill with dumbbells by the whole school. (50)

194 On the Parade Ground has been built a ship, which is named the "Fame," on board of which the boys go through various evolutions, and make the first attempts at going aloft. Nets are spread beneath in case of any of them falling. (40)

In the playground

195 There are see-saws, swings, etc., in which these young Sons of England make merry and enjoy themselves. Even at their early age they are taught the noble art of self-defence, and a bantam (30)

196 **Boxing contest** is fought with great earnestness and determination. (45)

Gymnastics

197 The elder boys are put through drills in the Gymnasium. Leaping in various ways over the hobby horse, is very cleverly done, and so is the final tableau and gymnastic display. (175)

Carrier pigeons for the Navy

198 These useful birds were bred and trained by Lieut. Barrett, R.N. A special loft is erected for the purposes at the Clarence Victualling Yard. Feeding time brings them together in great numbers. After which they are trained for a flight. These birds proved very useful in carrying messages from ships to shore or from port to port.

199 Lieut. Barrett, R.N., is considered one of the most expert swordsmen in the Navy, and can use it just as effectually with the left hand as with the right. (120) He is seen going through sword exercise with both hands. He also performs some extraordinary sword feats. Mrs Barrett is also very clever in giving a display with Indian Clubs. (80)

Water polo

200 and diving contests, concluding with a dog swimming past. (110)

Our Bluejackets are splendid entertainers

201 There is nothing they love more than a children's party. Each year the wives and children of the ship's company of the Gunnery School, Whale Island, are invited, when special arrangements have been made for them to have the day of their lives – swings, switchbacks, Aunt Sallys, etc., etc. (100)

Push ball

202 was a leading feature in the annual sports at Whale Island. A contest between the White and Blues caused great interest.

Empire Day at home

203 Trooping the colours by various Cadet Corps. In the centre is the Union Jack, surrounded by flags of the Colonies; these are carried down the lines of boys marching at slow time, headed by the bands. The flags are then massed together, the Union Jack in the centre, surrounded by the Colonial flags, then comes the march past. The Mayor of Portsmouth taking the salute. First the boys carrying the flags, followed by the various Corps, some so young that they have some difficulty in keeping up and in step, but all full of patriotism. (145)

Series 17. Approximate length with titles, 1,105 feet. Code :- HOSPITAL

A Naval Romance

The ballroom

204 In an alcove amidst palms and ferns, and the distant strains of a waltz, sits a naval officer and his lady. His ship leaves the following morning , and she feels sad at the idea of parting. He places an engagement ring upon her finger, and they bid farewell. (70)

205 Next morning the ship steams out of harbour. (25)

During the commission he does an act of great bravery, which wins for him the V.C. and promotion to Commander; but this act of bravery has cost him the loss of his left hand and he is invalided home. (65)

His luggage

206 is brought by three of his men, and handed to the maids, who give them a hearty welcome. (25)

The wedding day arrives

207 Carriages drive up to the church door, and amidst the admiring crowds the guests arrive, and finally the bride. (120)

The ceremony over

208 his boat's crew are lined up and salute the happy pair who stop to shake hands with the Coxswain. (30)

209 A little scene takes place behind the carriage in which are seated the happy pair. Two of the sailors tie a shoe "For Luck", and take also the opportunity of peeping through the stern window. The horses are taken out, and with the Coxswain on the box with the Coachman, and his men manhandling the traces, away they go at the double. (30)

Officers' gymkhana

Musical chairs on bicycles for ladies

210 The chairs are placed in the centre of a wide ring, around which the ladies ride on their cycles. Presently a whistle is sounded, and they jump off their bicycles and rush for the chairs. The last chair has a very amusing conclusion. This is followed by (40)

Blackboard competition

211 Ladies ride on bicycles past a blackboard, on which they chalk figures. The one who succeeds in placing the most figures without falling off wins the prize.

Aunt Sally contest

212 The ladies have to start from a certain line, ride to another place, throw sticks and knock over four bottles, remount, and ride to the winning post. (95)

Costume race for officers,

213 who ride up at full speed, dismount, get into a costume, remount and ride away. (45)

Motor car race

214 The fastest wins. (55)

215 The slowest wins. (50)

A picturesque bicycle ride – four-in-hand

216 Four ladies are guided by an officer through intricate evolutions. (70)

Series 18. Approximate length with titles, 760 feet. Code :- ROMANCE

Incidents

Target practice

217 View of the target on board the ship before being placed into the sea. It was found that a string of small targets were quickly shot away. So an ingenious contrivance was invented, looking somewhat like the wooden partition of a wall before the laths are nailed on. This is built on a raft and covered with canvas. Shots go through, but only

knock away a portion of the woodwork, and the hole in the canvas denotes where it has been struck. (160)

Scrubbing decks

218 Visitors to a warship are always struck with the decks, so marvellously clean. This is done by constant holystoning, scrubbing and elbow grease. (50)

Brassrags

219 When two Bluejackets become great friends they signify it by sharing their brassrags, which are used for cleaning metal work. These two have got fond of one another, and whilst polishing up the muzzle of the big gun demonstrate to each other their affection, not noticing the approach of the Petty Officer, who soon sets them to their work again. (60)

The ship's Armourer at work

220 There is always some little metal job to be repaired, and the forge and anvil are kept going. (70)

Ship's tobacco

221 is served out in the leaf, which is rolled up tightly with yarn. This picture reveals how this is done, and also includes one of those little incidentals that love for a bit of fun is constantly occurring on board. (20)

An incident

222 Let our sailors get hold of a rope and pull, something has got to move; in this case the rope suddenly parted, and there is a collapse all along the deck. (35)

Jump back

223 along the deck "at the double." (20)

224 **Indian club exercise by a party of Bluejackets.** (65)

The rivals

225 The soldier and the nursemaid are seated in the park. The soldier does not seem to be getting on very well in her good graces. Two Bluejackets stroll along, and the nursemaid makes room for one of them, to the discomfiture of the military man. (70)

An accident

226 In clearing something that has fouled the torpedo nets, a Bluejacket slips and tumbles into the sea, another immediately dives in after him, and they both climb the netting together, amidst the cheers of their shipmates. (95)

The Sick Bay

227 Jack has careful nursing if he falls ill or meets with an accident. Ever attention is given to bring him back to health. His chums visit and help him with his medicine , etc. (90)

Tom bowling

228 "Faithful below he did his duty, and now he's gone aloft." Tom Bowling. (75)

Our Navy at War

A most remarkable and exciting series

It was shown the first time at Portsmouth before an audience consisting of Naval officers and men from the various ships, who spoke in the highest praise of the truthfulness and realism of the various scenes.

Diplomatic relations appear strained. Rumours of war

229 are in the air. Nucleus ships are brought up to full strength, and leave harbour and are inspected at Spithead by His Majesty the King, each ship cheering as the Royal Yacht steams past, and afterward fire a Royal Salute. They are ready to go anywhere and do anything for King and Country.

A submerged submarine has managed to steal into the Harbour Channel and destroy the harbour defence boom.

232 The British dogs of war are let loose, and the Fleet steals away under sealed orders down Channel.

233 A Torpedo Boat Destroyer steams up at full speed with

News of the enemy

234 The ships prepare for action, and are stripped ready for fighting.

235 Another Torpedo Boat Destroyer comes steaming up signalling that she has

Sighted the enemy

236 The bugle sounds, "Man and Arm Ship," every man behind his gun.

237 Watertight compartments are closed, and everything is ready to meet the foe.

The Chaplain has offered up prayers for victory, and a vision of the old "Victory", showing the famous hoist as signalled at Trafalgar is seen: "England expects every man to do his duty."

Officers and men are inspired with the same feelings as in the days of old, and prepare at all costs to

Keep the flag flying

239 On the horizon is seen approaching the enemy's ship. The signal on the British Flagship is hoisted, "Sink, capture, and destroy."

The gunnery officers are busy with the range finders to get the accurate distance. All is suspense, waiting for the commencement of hostilities. The first shots fired by the enemy were over-wide of the mark. Meanwhile the British gunlayers are sighting by instruction issued by the officers in the Fire Control. Presently comes the order

240 **Sight for 10,000 yards**

The 12 and 6 inch come into action, and a terrible fusillade takes place.

241 **Torpedo boat destroyers and submarines** dash forward and discharge their deadly Whiteheads.

242 **There is a terrific explosion.** The battle rages in detail. One of our ships is torpedoed, and has a nasty list, but

243 **fights on.** Another is like a floating volcano with her rapid discharge of 12 and 6 in. guns.

The accurate aim and coolness of the British gunlayers have done their work,
The enemy has met with a

244 Crushing defeat. Their ships are sinking or gone aground.

245 The flag has been kept flying and Britain maintains her supremacy upon the seas.

Series 20. Approximate length, 1,000 feet. Code:- WAR

Work and Play

246 Launch of 'HMS Dreadnought'. (50)

247 Fleet of torpedo boat destroyers under full steam. (85)

248 Hoisting a torpedo into the tube. (35)

249 Torpedo gunboat at torpedo practice whilst at full speed. (45)

One of those incidents that happen in the stokehole –

A burst steam pipe

250 A rush of steam pours forth from the manhole, and a stoker is lifted out by his shipmates in time to be rescued from being badly scalded. (60)

251 Artificers at work. (40)

252 Drill with barbells. (70) A splendid exercise for the legs.

"Weary Willie" and the bewitched hammock

253 He had slung his hammock in a quiet nook, but two practical jokers had an idea. The head lashing was undone, and a turn taken around a ring-bolt. "Weary Willie" comes along to turn in; he leans against his hammock, when it suddenly drops to the deck, jerking him back. Recovering himself, the hammock has resumed its place; he tries again, and turns in, and is soon asleep. The hammock now comes very slowly down, and finally with a bump touches the deck, rolling him out in a heap with his blanket. He crawls out, looks at the hammock, which has again resumed its place. He is puzzled, but climbs in again and goes to sleep. The jokers now proceed to lash him up as he lays there, and having done so, turn it upside down, leaving after giving it a push, which sends it swinging from side to side. (270)

The Sergeant of Marines turns amateur photographer

254 The first attempt is to try and photograph a group round the 6-inch gun. There is a lot of skylarking going on, whilst he is getting everything ready, focussing and telling them to look happy. Just as he is ready to take them, he asks them all to smile, which they do. The exposure is made, and a storm of caps descends on to the camera, which suddenly collapses on the deck. (110)

"Follow the leader"

255 Half-a-dozen were inspired to have a chase round. They climb over all parts of the ship, following whatever the Leader does. Two Bluejackets are seated at the foot of the ladder, having a quiet chat. Along comes the "Leader of the Line," and after him the others in single column, and in their haste do not notice the two below. There is a collision, and a heap of arms and legs struggling for freedom. (70)

Domestic bliss

In the little garden is seated the Bluejacket's wife.

256 Alongside is the cradle, which she is rocking. He has unexpectedly returned. There is a happy meeting. He picks the baby up out of the cradle, whilst she goes for the feeding bottle, which Jack puts in the baby's mouth. There he is with the baby on his knee, his wife's arm whilst the dog comes to have a look on. (85)

Series 21. Approximate length with titles, 875 feet. Code:- WORK

Love and Duty

Farewell at the old mill wheel

257 Jack is in love with the Miller's daughter, living in his native village. They meet on the old bridge beside the Mill; he says "Goodbye" for three years, as he is going to foreign parts. Placing a ring on her finger, he promises to be true. She is left alone in despair, but sitting beside the tumbling water she hopes – (120)

"That time, like the old mill wheel will go quickly round and round, until it brings her lover safely home again."

The farewell at the jetty

258 "The Girls they left behind them." The ship steams out of Harbour to the waving of handkerchiefs of the girls on the jetty. (20)

Prayers and Divisions

259 Meanwhile the scene changes on board the ship. It is 9 a.m., and the bugle sounds, and the ship's company march on to the Quarter Deck for Divisions and an inspection, after which the Chaplain reads the prayers, and they repeat after him the words that "We've left undone those things they ought to have done, and have done those things they ought not to have done, and there ain't no health in us." No health? (75)

260 They march off to the music of the Band, and disperse to their various duties. There is one forenoon each week which is devoted to

Kit inspection

261 to see everything is not only in its place, but in proper order and condition, and nothing missing.

262 One man was found to have a garment that required mending. This he had to do at the next "make and mend clothes day", which is generally Thursday afternoon, commonly known as "Ropeyarn Sunday." (40)

National dances (55)

263 Englishman - the Hornpipe. (85)

264 Scotsman - the Sword Dance. (95)

265 Irishman - the Jig. (75)

All these three dances are given. The Irish sailor found a skirt, and converted himself into an Irish lass.

The Colonial Premiers

266 were greatly impressed during their visit to Portsmouth with the torpedo attack on Portsmouth Harbour, made by torpedo boat destroyers and submarines; and also the (220)

267 **Land attack at the great gunnery school**, Whale Island, showing how our navy fights both on land and sea. (290)

Series 22. Approximate length with titles, 1,100 feet. Code:- LOVE

Rehearsing

The boys of The Royal Hospital School, Greenwich, for inspection before the late King Edward VII.

268-270 Lined up for Inspection - the Royal Salute - forming up for the March Past - Indian Clubs - dancing the Hornpipe by 12 boys. (250)

Warships great and small

271 Battleship, torpedo boat destroyer, and submarines steaming past. (125)

Naval sports ashore

272 Mop contest with flour and soot.

273 **Obstacle race through windsails**. Sack race. Tilting the bucket (100)

Jack and his best girl ashore and afloat

274 They are seated under the lee of a boat by the seaside, the old boatman comes up. "Like to go for a row out, sir?". "Here, Nancy, what do you say?" "Just as you like, Jack. I think I should like it." "Right you are, old man." He gives a helping hand in pushing the boat into the water. Whilst Nancy asks:- "I say, Jack?" "Hullo!" "You are quite sure you understand about boats?" "Oh, come on, I'll show you what I understand." Nancy walks down to the boat, and in getting in falls sprawling over one of the seats. "What are you doing?" "I fell down!". "Fell down? Why I thought you had knocked a hole in the bottom of the man's boat." Seated comfortably astern, the boat is pushed off. Nancy is a bit frightened and, and exclaims:- "I don't think I want to go, Jack. I really don't think I want to go; it's wobbling all over the place." "It's all right. You sit still. Why, it's as calm as a mill pond." After rowing about, Nancy exclaims again :- "I say , Jack?" "What's up now ?" "Are you going to sit over there all the time pulling those silly oars ?" "Well, what else am I to do?" "Oh, come and sit beside me and make a fuss." "Right you are, Nancy." He puts the oars inboard, and sits down beside her. "Now this is what I call a bit of all right," says Jack. Nancy thinks so too, and in putting her arm round his neck his cap falls into the sea. Jack makes a dart for it, and falls overboard. "Oh, you'll be drowned," shrieks Nancy, "catch hold of my parasol." In doing so the boat turns turtle, and Nancy joins him in the water. Jack gets hold of her. "Let go the boat and hang on to me," shouts Jack. "Hold your head up! keep your feet under the water and kick out." Jack brings her safely to shore. Nancy declares she will never, never go on the water again. (195)

Series 23. Approximate length with titles, 700 feet. Code:- REHEARSE

Various

Officers' Mess, R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth

A Bluejacket on guard

275 comes to the salute as 500 Bluejackets march past on their way to battalion drill, headed with their band. (140)

Field gun battery

276 of six guns. Exhibition drill.

277 Each year our Bluejackets give an Exhibition at the Naval and Military Tournament, and each year some fresh evolution is introduced. The wonderful smartness with which the Guns are worked draws forth tremendous enthusiasm from the audiences. (530)

278 Getting the guns over a pole placed as an obstacle.

"The March Past"

279 headed with the White Ensign. (50)

280 **Launch of the battleship 'London'**. (85)

281 **'HMS Dominion' steaming past**

The morning papers on board

282 A little party are reading with absorbing interest, when one comes and sits down beneath the held-out newspaper, lights his pipe and puts the lighted match to the edge of the paper. There is a dramatic ending to the reading. (50)

A quiet card party caught napping

283 Card playing, especially for money, is not allowed on board, but this scene shows a little party in a quiet corner indulging in a game of "Nap." One has a splendid hand, and calls "Four." The third also has such a good hand he calls "Nap." The final card, which is an "ace", is trumped and the game goes merrily on. They are thoroughly enjoying themselves, and not aware that the "Crusher", as the Ship's Corporal is called, has quietly come alongside. Suddenly the alarm is given, and they all disappear, scaling over ladders etc., leaving the N.P. looking at the coppers which, in their hurried flight, they have left behind. Finally he picks the coins up, and places them in his pockets for purposes of evidence. (120)

Series 24. Approximate length with titles, 1,000 feet. Code:- NAP

Our Stokers

Stokers at drill on the parade

284 There are all kinds of physical drills. This one has a very humorous tendency. The men come hopping on one leg and then on the other, which they do first at slow time and then at the double. This is followed by the stomach exercise. They lay flat down on their backs, bring the heads slowly up, and touch their toes with their hands without bending the knees, and afterwards bring their legs up, as seen in above picture. Next movement sees them standing at attention,

285 and then slowly lower themselves with knees bent under them, and in this position they have to jump up and down, keeping time to the beating of the drum. (145)

Washing clothes day

286 is a very busy scene, and gives opportunity for a bit of fun. (45) One party get hold of a stoker and give him a good scrub down. (60)

287 Another pair are seated at the washtub, when a very greasy stoking suit is brought along and smothers them. (40)

"Mangling done here"

288 Three of them are putting the clothes through a mangling machine, and by hard pulling, pushing, and turning of the wheel the garment is eventually got through, minus buttons. (20)

289 Washing over, they have to rush up the gangway, because 8 bells has struck, which means "Dinner." (60)

290 There is a musical party with concertina, banjo, etc., who start playing, and very soon there is dancing around the deck; whilst another party indulge in a game of jump-back, which ends in the one whose back is being jumped over suddenly rising at the wrong moment, and there is an upset. (150)

How toothache is stopped in the Navy

291 There is only one cure, and that is to have the offending molar out. A Bluejacket comes along with his hand to his face. "What's up?" "I've got a toothache." "Here, sit down, we'll soon stop it." One of the sick bay attendants is summoned, and with a struggle and wrench, which lands the Bluejacket on to the deck, the tooth is out, and all is happiness again. (60)

Amateur theatricals on board

292 A peep behind the scenes. Sailors are very handy and clever at making-up. Oakum makes a capital wig for the one who takes the part of the lady, and in this scene is some incidental incidents that are exceedingly humorous. (165)

Diver at work

293 Getting into the diving suit – placing on the helmet – descending into the water – on board again – taking off the helmet. (120)

Naval brigade firing their battery of field guns

294 They are enveloped in the smoke at each discharge. A very effective scene. (110)

Series 25. Approximate length with titles, 1,020 feet. Code :- STOKER

Various

Pay day at the gunnery school

295 It is astonishing how quickly this is done, over 1,500 men being paid in twenty minutes. (75)

An impromptu game of football

296 during stand easy time. An old cap does duty for a ball. (65)

The motor grass mower

297 at work. (45)

A Bluejacket takes the pet teddy bear

298 out for a walk. The bear is full of fun and mischief. (90)

Boxing on stools

299 is a unique form of sport. Two sailors sit on forms just within reach of one another. They must not stand up. All goes well until someone at the other end gives the stool a tip up, and the contestants finish the combat on the ground. (125)

Naval sports

300 Tug of War – Walking the Greasy Pole, which is made fast to a heavy garden roller, and causes endless amusement – Wheelbarrow Race Blindfolded. One sailor sits in the barrow and directs by order the pusher, who is blindfolded. Endless collisions occur.

301 Two sailors dress up, and are the funny men of the party. Someone has tied a string of explosive crackers to their feet, and off they go. (135)

Helping Daddy

302 Our Coastguards have their bit of garden. This is a pretty little scene of the little children helping to dig up the potatoes for dinner.

The duties of the Coastguards are various. They are always at hand to help saving life at sea, and assist in getting out the lifeboats. (100)

Our lifeboats

303 Four boats are brought through the town to the water's edge, and launched all together into the heavy surf that is breaking on the shore. (80)

Series 26. Approximate length, 750 feet. Code:- PAY

Incidents On A Training Ship

Getting into the hammock for the first time

304 A new boy finds some difficulty in getting into his hammock. He mounts one side and falls out the other, until the instructor comes along and shows how it is done (55), also

How to dress

305 in the proper regulation fashion. (25)

Lashing up hammocks

306 is not an easy thing to do properly. The blanket, etc., has to be stowed in the hammock, securely and neatly lashed around so tightly that it will not take up much space. (60)

Stowing hammocks

307 In the old days of wooden ships, they were placed along the nettings around the ship, and thus formed a protection against shots. Now they are stowed away in crates in some out of the way part of the ship.

Morning Divisions and Prayers

308 which take place every morning at nine o'clock on every British warship wherever stationed either at home or abroad. (100)

309 A wrestling match between two of the instructors. (50)

Slinging the monkey

310 An old-time game: one boy is slung up at the end of a rope and swings around; he is armed with a rope's end, and so are the onlookers; his aim is to hit them and theirs to hit him. (45)

Empire Day

Celebrated by the children of the elementary schools

311 Walking in procession, headed with bands, each one carrying a flag. Girls and boys of all ages file past, and finally mass together and give three cheers. A very picturesque and patriotic scene. (300)

One little girl has a very fat pug dog

312 They are great friends; he sits up at the table and helps himself to everything until a kitten is introduced. The dignified look of the pug dog with his nose in the air is very amusing; in fact he is quite disgusted with the intrusion, but makes friends after being persuaded to do so by his little mistress. (165)

A little monkey and a fox terrier dog

313 have a game of "Catch as Catch can." The monkey has a very long tail which entwines itself around the dog's neck, whose ears are pulled, and altogether the dog has rather a rough time of it but is thoroughly good-natured over the contest, and they play together like two kittens, causing much laughter and amusement, especially to the children. (80)

The Naval mounted 'orse

314 Illustrating with animated pictures the humorous incident which took place before the Late King at the Naval and Military Tournament in London when a party of Blue-jackets beat the New South Wales Lancers (Australia) in a wrestling match on horseback, and although Jack was on a vessel of whose steering he knew little, he managed to win, there being two sailors still "on Deck" when all the Lancers had been dismounted. (175)

This incident has been set forth in a poem by Sub.-Lieutenant G.C.Bowles, R.N., in his interesting book, entitled "The Gun Room Ditty Box."

Series 27. Approximate length with titles, 1,000 feet. Code:- HAMMOCK

The Historic Cruise Of The 'Ophir'

by His Majesty King George V. and Queen Mary, when Duke and Duchess of York.

The 'Ophir' leaving Portsmouth

Their Royal Highnesses visited many lands but only one Empire.

315 The return of the "Ophir" to Portsmouth at the end of the cruise.

316 The "Victory" manning ship and firing a Royal Salute, and his famous words at the City Banquet at the Guildhall, "Wake up England", pointed out that travelling around our Colonies opens one's eyes to this important fact, that no one should confine their opinions only to what they see at home.

Mr. Alfred West was honoured with a Royal Command to exhibit these pictures on the first birthday, as King ,of His late Majesty Edward VII, at Sandringham, on the same day King George was made Prince of Wales.

Series 28.

Our Mercantile Marine

British seamen for British ships

Life on board the 'Warspite'

- 317 Battalion drill; March round the Deck headed with the Bugles. (55)
- 318 Physical Drill. (50)
- 319 Prize-giving Day. (35)
- 320 The 100 selected Boys for the Cruise on the "Port Jackson" to Australia are inspected with kits. (40)
- 321 They leave the "Warspite" amidst cheers and good-byes. (55)
- 322 Arrival on board the "Port Jackson."
- 323 Lord Brassey addresses them.
- 322 The ship leaves the West India Docks. (50)
- 325 Ropes are coiled down as she is towed down the Thames. As they pass the "Warspite" boys in the rigging give three cheers. (95)
- 326 One of the boys helps at the steering wheel.
- 327 Making sail singing a chaunty. (50)
- 328 Some of them feel ill through the ship rolling in a seaway.
Whilst sailing down Channel in a fog.

A foreign ship rams into them,

- 329 hitting the "Port Jackson" on the starboard bow just abaft the collision bulkhead. (40)

The bugler boy sounds the Assembly, instructions shout out "All hands on the deck house."

330 On lifebelts!

331 Out boats! (120)

These "Warspite" boys lined up on the port side, like the men of the "Birkenhead."

- 332 The gash in the ship's side caused by the collision was the size of an ordinary room, within one foot of the water-line. On the return to Dover, (40)

333 The Chaplain offered up the general prayer of thanksgiving, which all the boys joined in. (50)

("Never have I seen such an impressive scene," says Mr. West. "I obtained animated pictures with a lifebelt on, not knowing whether the ship was sinking, but felt if I was

saved such films would prove interesting if only to record what stuff British boys are made of in the hour of peril")

The 'Olympic'

334 starting on her maiden voyage to America. (35)

While special establishments supported out of public funds exist for the training of boys for almost every calling in life, Great Britain, whose very existence depends upon the sea, maintains no institution where boys are brought up to a nautical life. It is true that there are five training ships or schools where boys of good character from the public elementary schools can be received, but all of them have been founded and are maintained by private benevolence. They all suffer from a chronic lack of funds, and labour under disheartening circumstances. Apart from these, no training ship or nautical school is open to any boy unless he is sent to them under a Magistrate's Order or has committed a crime.

In spite of the vital interests which the sea and all that pertains to it has for our people, there is no career more difficult for a British boy to enter under fair conditions than that of a sailor.

At the present moment there are over 40,000 aliens who man our merchant ships, and I think for obvious reasons that British ships should be manned by British sailors.

Alfred West

Series 29. Approximate length, 950 feet. Code:- COLLISION

Foreign Navies

France

L'Entente Cordiale

The Tricolour of France

335 is seen being hoisted alongside the White Ensign, and they both side by side wave in a strong breeze. (40)

Visit of the French Fleet to Portsmouth (150)

336 Reception of the French sailors at the Town Hall. They arrive in decorated tram cars, and receive an enthusiastic welcome from the crowds of people. (45)

Sports have been arranged

337 A tug-of-war between British and French sailors, donkey-racing, etc. (95)

A special reception was given at Whale Island,

338 the Gunnery School, where a surprise was awaiting them. Our Bluejackets, at the sound of a whistle, sprung up at the top and ran down the grassy bank, and at the sound of the second whistle immediately formed into living letters the words - (140)

"Vive La France"

1,600 of the French officers and fleetmen

339 were invited by Alfred West to visit a special exhibition of "Our Navy," at the Victoria Hall. They marched up headed with the full Band and Pipers of the Royal Naval Barracks. Programmes and titles were printed in French. The Mayor of Portsmouth was

present. The excitement and enthusiasm was intense, especially at the hoisting of the French and English flags together. Caps were thrown in the air, and all stood up shouting over and over again (110)

"Vive L'Angleterre"

The following letter was received :-

R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth, August 28th, 1905.

Mr Alfred West.—

Sir, I beg to inform you that I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief H.M. Ships and Vessels, Portsmouth, to convey to you the thanks of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the very valuable assistance rendered by you in entertaining the officers and men of the French Fleet during their recent visit. I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E.P.F.G. Grant, Commander.

Visit of a British battleship to a French Naval Review at Le Havre (95)

United States

341 Visit of American warships to Portsmouth. (120)

American sailors marching through the town

342 on their way to a banquet to the Town Hall. (90)

Au Revoir to Uncle Sam

343 The "Kearsage" leaving. (20)

Japan

344 Japanese ships arrive. (50)

345 Two Japanese sailors signalling. (55)

346 A contest with sword bayonets. (40)

347 Fencing with double-handed swords in national costume. (45)

348 A melee. (40)

Departure of the Japanese ships

349 The "Mikasa" steaming past at full speed. (50)

Germany

350 A ship arrives at Spithead and salutes. (20)

Russia

The Royal Yacht 'Standart' and battleships

351 "Amiral Makiroff" and "Czarevitch" steaming past at full speed, and firing a salute. (50)

Spain

The Royal Yacht 'Giralda' and battleships

352 steaming past. (100)

The foreign ships assembled at Spithead

353 for the Coronation Review of (110)

His Majesty King George V

Series 30. Approximate length, 1,550 feet. Code:- FOREIGN

Life in Our Army

By Alfred West

Our Army

The Duke of York's Royal Military School

Founded in 1801 by Frederick, Duke of York, son of George III. Since this date there has not been a battle of importance in which these boys have not borne their part, upheld the honour of the School, and justified their proud title of "The Sons of the Brave."

There is considerable competition between these boys and their compatriots, the Greenwich School, both Institutions being for sons of men who have served and fought for King and Empire.

Inspection of the Duke of York's Royal Military School by His Late Majesty King Edward VII, and Queen Alexandra, Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary.

354 March past of drums, fifes, and brass bands. (40)

355 The boys firing a Royal Salute with their field guns. (25)

356 Inspection of the boys. (65)

357 Drills and contests, including a special gymnastic display. (180)

358 Exclusive permission was given by the late King for Alfred West to photograph the visit, and the Royal Party stood at the entrance of the School whilst the picture was taken. (40)

A signalling class

359 waving their flags is a very animated scene. (50)

Featherweights boxing for the

Championship and Shield

360 Two little Dukies, eleven years of age, box with scientific earnestness. One is particularly smart and quick in his action. This contest is looked upon with keen interest. To the left of the picture is seen the splendid shield they are boxing for. (140)

Close at hand is the old Chelsea Hospital, where grim old soldiers rest the declining years, most of them white-haired with numerous medals on their breast. These splendid Army Veterans have helped to "Keep the flag flying"

361 They come to see these boys being inspected, and look with satisfaction at the future backbone of the British Army. One old Veteran inspects a little party of them, and puts them through their facings, and afterwards they gather round him and "He fights his battles o'er again, and tells how fields were won." (135)

Series 31. Approximate length, including Nos. 362 & 363, 850 feet. Code:- DUKE

His Late Majesty King Edward VII

362 inspected the "Old Boys" of the School on Empire Day, 1909. He was accompanied by Queen Alexandra, H.R.H. Prince and Princess of Wales, now King George V., and Queen Mary. All Regiments were represented. Some have their breasts covered with medals. The King passes slowly between the lines, coming right close to the camera, where he halts to take special notice of a white-haired Veteran, who had been a Duke of York's Boy 70 years ago. (60)

363 The departure of the Royal Party, amidst the cheers of the boys and privileged guests. (70)

The boys being inspected by H.R.H. Duke of Connaught, K.C.

364 They are formed up in two lines, the Duke and his staff walking close past as he inspects them. (80)

The School then form up for the

March Past

365 headed with their splendid band, and these little soldiers step out with a precision of movement that would do credit to any corps. (110)

They are also inspected at

Free gymnastics

366 and go through various intricate evolutions which are very picturesque, and draw forth loud applause, especially from the audience at the Naval and Military Tournament, when they perform every year. (285)

Bayonet contests

367 are also given, in which the Duke, standing close by, takes particular interest. (60)

Interesting incidents at the Duke of York's R.M. School

368 A pathetic little scene of a widow whose husband lost his life in the Service of his country, brings her son, who wants to be like his father was. (80)

"A soldier of the King"

The kindly Sergeant takes the brave little chap in hand, and the widow awaits whilst he is being dressed in the uniform. Presently he rushes out, "Here I am, Mother, a soldier like father was." (105)

Noodles

369 This is the nickname given to fresh boys; they are put through elementary drills.

370 The Morning Bath. There is a big swimming bath where the boys have swimming lessons. (70)

The field gun battery

371 in action, during which one boy is assumed to be wounded, when he receives first aid, and is carried off by boys who are trained for the Army Medical Corps. (155)

Sports

372 Sports of all kinds are indulged in, including Sack Fight, Pick-a-Back Wrestling and Races in which sometimes the old Chelsea Pensioners join in. Obstacle Race through bags causes much amusement, owing to various coloured powder having been placed inside the bags, so that the boys, as they emerge, come out various colours. (300)

373 The Sister Service, represented by the Greenwich boys, are invited to come on Sports Day, and join in some of the contests. A party of them are seated together, changing caps, the Sailor boys wearing the Soldiers' caps and vice versa. They are Brothers in Arms and Chummies. (45)

Presenting the prizes

374 Before breaking up for their summer holidays, there is the prize-giving, which, on this occasion, were presented by (45)

H.R.H. Duke of Connaught

who takes very keen interest in this important Military School.

Series 32. Approximate length with titles, 1,400 feet. Code:- YORK

Cavalry and Artillery

Cavalry evolutions

Eight hundred Dragoons, Hussars and Lancers,

375 are wending through picturesque hilly ground on their way to the Long Valley for evolutions. As they come nearer swords are drawn, and the horses are put at the trot. The Lancers, with their pennons flying in the breeze, form a stirring spectacle. (135)

Evolutions in the Long Valley

376 The whole Brigade pass at the trot and gallop in various formations. This picture, being taken from rising ground, gives a splendid view of the stirring scene. (110)

Grand military tournament

by the 25th Brigade Royal Field Artillery. Exclusive permission was given by the Colonel of the Brigade for Alfred West to obtain these pictures, and they form a series that draws forth great admiration and applause. It opens with Mounted Trumpeters blowing a Fanfare, followed by

Jumping the jumps competition,

the horses leaping over hedges, ditches, walls and various obstacles.

Revolver shooting at the gallop

The horses have to jump the obstacles, to which is fastened a bladder, which the soldier has to fire at and burst during the jump over.

Lemon cutting

requires great skill and accuracy of aim. Whilst the horse is tearing at full gallop the rider has to cut two lemons hanging from a gibbet, the first by a forward thrust, and the second a backward one.

Tent-pegging in sections and double sections

is another feat requiring great precision of aim. Tent pegs are stuck in the ground, and have to be picked up at the point of the lance whilst going at the gallop.

377 By way of a little diversion during these events, a little comedy takes place with two of the soldiers who are in fancy costumes and on one of the horses. (700)

Pushball on horseback

The horses seem to enjoy this sport quite as much as the riders. Six horses and riders take part, three each side, and the huge ball is forced to various parts of the field in the endeavour to make a goal.

Feats of horsemanship

call forth loud applause, as the Riders at full gallop pick up a handkerchief from off the ground.

Cossack riding

is another feat. The men standing up in their stirrups, while the horses are at the gallop.

Jumping tables

A table is laid for lunch, which horse and rider jump over with apparent ease until another table is placed above it, when one not clearing it, there is a crash to the ground.

An interlude with the funny men of the party, with a donkey who refuses to do Cossack riding.

The tournament concludes with a musical ride

with their guns and limber. They go through various intricate evolutions at the trot, and finish with a

Charge at the gallop

Series 33. Approximate length with titles, 1,000 feet. Code:- CAVALRY

Church parade at Aldershot

378 Cavalry and Line Regiments, concluding with the Seaforth Highlanders, headed with their bands, marching from the church. (230)

Pet of the Regiment

379 is a very fat Pug dog, who is very clever at catching biscuits, and performs other tricks until disturbed by a black cat, which, with a very swollen tail and humped back, defies him, and he beats a retreat. (215)

A battery of Royal field artillery

380 gallop up, unlimber, and bring their gun into action. After firing two rounds the gun is limbered up, and horses, gunners and guns gallop off. (135)

The Army Service Corps

381 may be termed the most indispensable Corps in the Army, as upon them depends the supplying of food to the troops. Their wagons are so constructed that they can be taken to pieces and stowed into a small compass. This evolution is a feature at the London Tournament. The horses with the wagon come to a halt, and the whole wagon

is taken to pieces and put together again, and they march off. The record time is six minutes. (420)

Series 34. Approximate length with titles, 1,050 feet. Code:- PARADE

The Royal Engineers

Balloon section

382 The Engineers drive up in their wagon, lay out and inflate the balloon. As the gas issues into the envelope it gradually assumes shape, until it lifts and finally fills, and is let go, when it is seen floating away high up in the air. (185)

Ju-Jitsu display between a Japanese and Aldershot gymnastic instructor

383 This forms a subject of great interest, as the little sturdy Japanese overcomes and throws his opponent. (290)

Don, the pet of the Middlesex Regiment

384 is a Baboon, which was captured at Elandsberg during General French's drive in the Eastern Transvaal. The Baboon goes through various antics, is very fond of ginger beer and cigarettes eating them instead of smoking. (160)

Musical ride by the King's Dragoon Guards

385 This famous Cavalry Regiment performs most picturesque evolutions, and finally ride together in the shape of the spokes of a wheel revolving round. (165)

Our Army – past and present

386 Side by side with uniform worn at the present day march, various Regiments wearing uniforms and carrying guns that were used by the British Army of years ago. (195)

Pontoon bridging by the Royal Engineers

387 Horses gallop up with specially constructed wagons carrying pontoons and planks, which have to be placed over a river for the troops to cross. The bridge is ready for men, horses and guns to walk over in the short space of seven minutes. (290)

A restive horse

388 This horse has a fiery temper, and refuses to have a shoe put on. Various endeavours are made to side sling, so as to get his leg hobbled. With ears backed and striking out with his hind legs, he causes great diversion amongst the soldiers until, by gentle persuasion and great caution, the rope is successfully placed, and the shoe removed. (166)

Series 35. Approximate length with titles, 1,020 feet. Code:- ENGINEERS

Grand military evolutions

In defence of our hearths and homes. a wonderful series of pictures giving a realistic impression of our Army at war. The invading and defending forces taking up their positions. The country roads and lanes are full of soldiers on their way to the battlefield. Cavalry, artillery and infantry, are pressing forward in eager haste.

The battle

389 begins by the artillery opening fire with their howitzers. meanwhile the Royal Engineers send up an observation balloon to locate the position of the enemy's troops. A dashing charge is made by a Brigade of Cavalry who are met by Infantry entrenched in a commanding position.

The battle rages fierce and strong, but finally the invaders are repelled by several batteries of artillery. The heights are stormed and carried by a rush of infantry, amongst whom are the various battalions of Highlanders.

Series 36. Approximate length, 700 feet. Code:- MILITARY

Cavalry In Training

390 Jumping in sections over obstacles. Down the jumping lane, without saddle or bridle. One Lancer falls off his horse. (85)

391 Lance exercise on horseback. (55)

Scouting

392 A perilous descent. Horses with their riders descending a steep declivity. (45)

393 Cavalry at the gallop and full charge. (35)

Swimming horses

394 Across a wide river. An endless rope is stretched across, to which the horses are tied, and on the opposite shore this rope is being hauled in. Those horses unaccustomed to water protest, but the rope pulls on, and in they have to plunge; but they arrive safe and sound on the other side. (210)

Fire!

395 The Aldershot Camp have their own Fire Brigade. An outbreak of fire calls for a turn-out. The motor engine and fire escapes proceed to the conflagration at full speed. Soldiers hurry out and keep guard, whilst the firemen soon have streams of water pouring on to the dense clouds of smoke. The fire is put out, and they return at full gallop back to the station. (280)

Take this exercise before breakfast

396 This is one of those physical drills that make muscle. A class is sitting on a long form, their feet are held whilst they recline back on nothing. This stretches and brings into action every muscle of the body. The first attempts may be a bit painful, but are certainly humorous. (70)

The Maharajah of Nepal

397 visited Aldershot, and saw field evolutions, and afterwards there was a grand march past of the troops. (220)

Series 37. Approximate length with titles, 1,050 feet. Code:- LANCE

Bronze Medal Tournament At Aldershot

398 Jumping competition – Heads and Posts – Tent Pegging in Single Sections – Lemon Cutting – Wrestling on Horseback. (385)

First lessons in riding

399 Many humorous incidents take place. The Riding Master standing by giving directions. (95)

Artillery driving competition

400 Horses with their gun carriages are driven between posts or blocks placed on the ground almost the actual width of the carriage. The gun carriage has to be driven through at top speed without touching these marks. (150)

Bell in the ring

401 is a favourite game in the Army. A peg is driven in the ground, to which is tied two ropes and to the ends of which one soldier has a bell, and the other a bag. (170)

Both are blindfolded

The man with the bag has to hit the man with the bell, and he can only judge his whereabouts by the sound of the ringing. Very humorous incidents occur, especially if the two ropes become entangled.

Pets of the Regiment

402 Every Regiment has its pet animal. Some have more than one. In this case there is a monkey, fox terrier, a spaniel and a kitten. All would have been well if the monkey had not been so mischievous. They finally leave him alone and walk off, but a black cat wanders in, and the monkey, with a spring, sends it to the right about. (215)

Series 36. Approximate length with titles, 1,020 feet. Code:- MEDAL

Our Army in India

These pictures were taken by Alfred West's son during his tour in India.

The Gordon Highlanders.

At Fort William, Calcutta.

403 Sunday Parade, leaving church. (120)

404 Dancing the Reel. (130)

405 The Gordon Pipers and Drums playing the Retreat. (120)

406 March Past in Review Order. (85)

Indian native Light Cavalry at Jubbalpore

407 Swearing in recruits – a very interesting ceremony. (120)

408 The Indian Cavalry are splendid horsemen, and performers of other feats, including tent-peggings, jumping and Cossack riding. (240)

409 Gallop and charge past (120)

410 **Dhows and Felucca in Karachi Harbour.** (20)

411 A Bhori wedding procession. (130)

412 Hindoos worshipping before a Buddha temple. (90)

Home again

413 The Highlander and his Lassie. (90)

Malta Harbour

Britain's Mediterranean Stronghold.

414 A magnificent panorama view showing British warships at anchor. (100)

415 Religious procession at Malta. (120)

Series 40. Approximate length with titles, 1,200 feet. Code:- GORDON

Various

Riding and vaulting lessons

416 How our cavalry are taught to become expert horsemen. (150)

417 Officers tent-pegging, single and in sections. (70)

418 Cockade fighting. Two sides are formed, one with Cockades in their hats, which the others have to knock off with singlesticks. (80)

419 Lance v. Sword contest on horseback. (100)

420 Sword v. Lance contest on horseback. (75)

Driving competitions

421 by the Royal Field Cavalry. (40)

Musical ride by the Cavalry,

422 ending with charge. (225)

423 Musical Ride by Royal Field Artillery, ending with a charge. (95)

A Royal Review of our Army and Navy

before the late King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, His Majesty King George V and Queen Mary, the King and Queen of Spain.

Arrival of the Royal party

424 The Queen of Spain's carriage halts immediately in front of the camera.

At the Saluting Base.

March Past of the Naval Brigade, with Field Guns.

The Red and Blue Marines.

Royal Field Artillery.

Oxfordshire Light Infantry.

Royal Welsh Fusiliers with their Goat.

Dragoons, Hussars, Lancers.

Army Service and Army Medical Corps.

Concluding with a Brigade of Highlanders.

All march past with the Colours flying. Afterwards the Royal Horse Artillery and Cavalry rush past at the gallop. (550)

Series 41. Approximate length with titles, 1,250 feet. Code:- REVIEW

British Battles

are fought in the Playgrounds of Our Public Schools.

Public School Cadets in Camp

425 Panorama of the Camp.

Eton

Harrow

Winchester

Westminster

Charterhouse

Marlborough

Crawley

Haileybury (415)

426 An amusing Regimental pet, "Don." (110)

A combined display

Synopsis:-

427 Near the Tum Tum River, in the province of Little Maryland, a sudden rising of the savage tribe of the Ketch 'em Alivos takes place, led by their famous Chief Oom Lutzo. They enter British territory and make an unprovoked attack upon a missionary and his wife. They burn his house. Their small son David escapes, and fortunately meets the advance guard of a British column, consisting of two guns and "Ransom's Horse." The advanced guard at once gallop to the Mission Station and arrive in time to rescue the missionary and his wife. The advanced guard drive off the Ketch 'em Alivos, and take up an outpost line. The Ketch 'em Alivos being reinforced, a sentry is "rushed" and borne away prisoner. On the arrival of the main British Column, the Ketch 'em Alivos are attacked. A fierce engagement takes place, in which the Ketch 'em Alivos are defeated with great slaughter. (220)

This display was given at a Military Tournament, and caused considerable interest and amusement.

A rugby football match by the United Services (245)

Series 42. Approximate length with titles, 1,040 feet. Code:- BRITISH

Our Army

Battles of the Past

The Peninsular War

A visit to Wellington battlefields in Portugal by Alfred West, F.R.G.S, under the guidance of the Booth Steamship Company, Ltd. It is interesting to note what directly led to this war, which took place five years after Trafalgar.

It was a question of Treaties of Alliance between England and Portugal. By this alliance a marriage took place between King John of Portugal and a daughter of John of Gaunt. From this union sprang forth the most famous Princes of the middle ages, the greatest of these being Prince Henry the Navigator, the discoverer of India, and to whom certainly are due other discoveries upon which the world's history for the past five centuries has been founded. He it was who taught Columbus, Drake, Frobisher and Hawkins.

Portugal faithfully adhering to the treaties of 1344 and 1386, refused to comply with Napoleon's edict, ordering all European ports to be closed to British ships. Thereupon it was invaded. Portugal, realising resistance was useless, applied to her ancient ally, England, for help, which was at once forthcoming.

Expeditions were organised, and placed under the command of Sir Arthur Wellesley, afterwards Duke of Wellington who, on arriving at the mouth of the Mondego River, gave his first order, the amputation of the pigtails which our soldiers then wore, but the 25th Foot, now the Welsh Fusiliers, still wear a black bow behind the collars of their tunics in remembrance.

Sir Arthur Wellesley, on landing, had 14,000 men under his command, but meanwhile the French had concentrated at

Rolica

428 where the 60th and 95th Rifles had their first brush with the enemy. Close to the old Moorish castle at Obidos is the windmill where a British gun was placed, and where the first shot was fired in the war. From here our soldiers were formed in three columns, driving back the enemy, who formed up a new front on the almost precipitous

Hills of Columberia

429 The 29th, now the Worcestershire Regiment, with the 9th in support, led in the attack in front, and (85) gallantly stormed these heights up a steep gully, and after terrible hand to hand fighting, succeeded in driving back the enemy, and the remnant of the 29th stood victors on the summit.

430 The loss was great, 479 officers and men killed and wounded, including their gallant leader, Hon. Colonel Lake, who was buried on the summit, and a stone cross was erected. This brave officer is still remembered by his old Regiment, for on it Mr West found inscribed :-

"Renovated by the Officers of the Worcestershire Regt., 1903."

There was not an officer or man in this Regiment who did not think of his life of little worth compared to upholding the honour of England. And where there is duty to be done or danger to be faced, Britishers will draw inspiration from the gallant Worcesters on the Heights of Columberia.

Fifteen miles from Rolica is the little village of

Vimiero

431 where a fierce encounter took place, which only lasted three hours, but in that time over 14,000 of the best French troops had been completely defeated. The enemy

was defeated and disheartened, and in all probability this would have ended the war, but then was made that unaccountable (70) Convention of Cintra, by which the French Army was allowed to leave Portugal, bag and baggage, General Junot, with his staff and over 26,000 men, being conveyed by British ships to La Rochelle.

The next phase in the war was the crossing of the Douro, which was recaptured by Wellington whose troops had marched 80 miles in 4 days, outstripping their baggage and supplies. With a loss of only 23 killed and 132 wounded, Wellington recovered the second city of Portugal, capturing 58 guns, and strangely enough sat down to eat the dinner prepared for the French General, Marshal Soult.

General Crawford was undoubtedly the most brilliant subordinate officer Wellington ever had. His famous march to Talavera is still unbroken, his Light Division marching 62 miles in 26 hours, and his masterly retreat at the Combat of the Coa shines in the annals of British military history.

Panorama of the battlefield and road

432 along which Crawford dashed with his troops to the Coa. (40)

The River Coa and bridge

433 over which the troops escaped, and lining up on the other side, held the bridge, and thus turned the defeat into a victory.

The Battle of Bussaco was the next action which took place. Here it was that British soldiers taught the legions of Napoleon they were not invincible, and the sun that was to set at Waterloo

434 turned its first meridian when Massena's infantry were hurled headlong down the **Ridges of Bussaco**. (60)

After this great battle Wellington retreated still further towards Lisbon. Massena, the French General, fully believed he was making for his ships, but the British Commander had yet his trump card to play, and by purposely allowing Massena to get the upper hand in minor skirmishes, lured him on to the most stupendous lines of fortification ever conceived by man, the

Famous lines of Torres Vedras,

435 which is the range of hills on the top of which had been erected 50 miles of fortifications, comprising 126 closed works, and mounting 247 guns. (150)

These had been planned by Wellington as his line of defence, behind which he entrenched his 60,000 troops, having in his rear the harbour of Lisbon with the maritime power of England to support him.

From the fort above the town of Torres Vedras, Mr West took this panorama, looking down towards the River Taga, and afterwards drove through the lines to the town of Alshandra, the extreme eastern end, and from the heights above secured another panorama bringing in various fortifications on the summit.

To the credit of Portugal, be it said, that although for eleven months thousands were employed in constructing these defences, out of the suffering millions of Portuguese homeless, destitute and starving, not a spy had been found to warn the invader of these impregnable works, and only too late did the French General realise he had been trapped. There was nothing for it but retreat, and so the second and last invasion of Portugal came to an inglorious end.

Wellington's star was in the ascendant, and with the exception of the retreat from Moscow, that from the Lines of Torres Vedras was the greatest disaster that ever took the armies of Napoleon. British armies had triumphed over veterans of a hundred battles – veterans who had all but conquered Europe and British soldiers, "Dogs," as Napoleon described them, who never knew when they were beaten but still fought on and on. In these forts on the cheerless heights of Torres Vedras British soldiers fought and British soldiers bled, and when the day of reckoning comes, as come it must, may the manhood of Britain be found ready and able to defend the Homes of England as our forefathers did Portugal 100 years ago.

The siege of Badajoz

436 The Trinidad Bastion. (25)

Portuguese soldiers, the 5th Cascaderes

437 at bayonet exercise. (80)

Series 43. Approximate length, 600 feet. Code:- PENINSULAR

The famous Abbey of Batalha was the wonder and envy of ecclesiastical architects for six centuries. It was founded by Phillipa, of Lancaster, Daughter of John of Gaunt.

Palm Sunday

438 A religious procession wending its way around the Abbey. (120)

The Cloisters

439 undoubtedly the most beautiful in the world; in fact, the whole of Batalha Abbey is a vision of beauty. The King, anxious for the perfection of his Monastery, invited renowned architects amongst whom was Stephen Stevenson, from England. (80)

440 **Waterfall in the Mondego Valley.** (65)

Cintra

441 The Pena Palace and Moorish Castle. (80)

Estoril

442 The Boca do Inferno, or Gate of Hell. (120)

443 **The fish market, Lisbon.** (60)

A train ride through the gorges of the Tua Valley

444 Wild and beautiful scenery, with glimpses of the rushing torrent and wine-growing slopes. (200)

The Riberia, Opporto,

445 which is a busy scene. Constant stream of men and women with merchandise. (95)

446 **The cloisters in the Jeronomite monastery at Belem.** (70)

The orphanage boys

447 in the playground. (60)

448 **Panorama of Lisbon from the castle.** (60)

King Manoel in his palace at Lisbon

449 with his horses and dogs. (120)

Thomar

450 The Chapel of Christ Templars. (70)

451 The river and weir at Thomar, in which Portuguese women are washing their clothes. (90)

Series 44. Approximate length with titles, 1,350 feet. Code:- PORTUGAL

Our Pleasure Fleet

When dry plates were first invented, Alfred West, who had a yacht in which he sailed about the Solent was struck by the possibilities of obtaining yachts in full sail. He was the first to do so, and these first attempts were sent to the London Exhibition of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, and were awarded the medal. They caused quite a sensation, especially one subject of a yacht named the "Chittywee," owned by Lord Francis Cecil, which was secured under difficult conditions, but as the critics expressed, it was like an exquisite monochrome in water colour, and no artist could have combined so happily the various items that went to make an artistic picture. "Punch" had a word to say upon it saying it was a "gem of the first water, taken by a west wind of course."

The next wonderful invention in Photography was obtaining moving pictures. So enraptured was Alfred West with the idea of obtaining animated scenes of yachts racing that he gave up plates and turned his attention to obtaining racing scenes in animation with the result that what he was so successful over with plates, and for which he holds over 50 medals he is so successful in Cinematography. Those who have seen them at his entertainment Our Navy at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, London are struck with their artistic beauty.

It is natural after so many years that miles of films of yachts have been secured, but the following is the pick of them.

On board the 25 metre yacht "Brynhild," owner Sir Charles Pender, who invited Mr. Alfred West on board during a race for the Royal Albert Cup. (This yacht was unfortunately sunk the following year whilst racing off Harwich.). The following series are unique, and give a clear insight of life on a big crack yacht during a race.

Hoisting sail and getting up anchor

451* Towed to the starting line - let go the tow rope.

The start

"Brynhild" first over the line, followed by "Shamrock" and "White Heather," all with spinnakers set. After rounding the Mark Boat the yachts are close hauled, having to turn to windward for the next mark buoy, their lee rails are awash, as they heel over in a strong breeze. (400)

Code:-BRYNHILD

Rounding the mark buoy. Spinnakers again set. A run down to the Committee vessel. The first time round. the yachts are all together, and good views of the racers are obtained, with the bow of the "Brynhild" in the foreground.

Race for the Commodore's Cup

451[^] A splendid start of yachts. They come over the starting line close hauled, on the port tack with a good breeze, and there is a dash and go as all hands are busy hauling away on the sheets. They run down for the first round with their spinnakers well out, swollen by the wind on the starboard side, looking like balloons, and which are hauled in as they near the Committee vessel. They appear to come right out of the picture. (135)

Code:-COMMODORE

Yachts racing in half a gale

The wind is blowing so hard that it is impossible to carry topsails. The yachts swoop down, rounding the Committee vessel, luffing up so as to get the sheets well in, as they have to sail on close-hauled, causing the sea to beat and dash over them, and then they head away and carry on, until lost amidst the dashing waves. (220)

Code:-GALE

Another view, which shows them coming bow on, weather view, and on the port tack, as they come nearer and nearer, until they seem to be coming out of the picture smothered in sea foam, which buries them as they sail by showing their keels. the race was stopped after the first round owing to the weather being so rough.

Beating to windward

453 here is nothing in yacht racing that brings forth better seamanship or shows the good points of a yacht as turning to windward. These racers can lay up so close to the wind as to almost sail in the wind's eye, provided the sheets have been well hauled in, so that each sail is as flat as a piece of cardboard. (135)

Code:-WIND

The Royal Thames Yacht Club Regatta

454 The start - turning to windward - rounding the Mark Buoy - the finish. (225)

Code:-MARK

Close view of one of the big yachts

455 before the start and during the race, in a strong breeze. (195)

Code:-BREEZE

Racing yachts – all sizes

456 from the big cracks to the start of the smallest yachts, who, owing to a strong tide, have misjudged the distance and are all over the line before the starting gun has been fired. (215)

Code:-CRACK

Royal Harwich Yacht Club Regatta

457 Start and finish of various races. (170)

Code:-HARWICH

Racing in the Solent.

458 The start is made in a soft breeze, which freshens until the yachts come sailing in heeling well over. (170)

Code:-SOLENT

The Cowes Regatta

459 brings over various excursion steamers. A view on board of an excursion steamer, showing the passengers. Steaming from Ryde and Cowes they pass the racing yachts, and finally arrive at Cowes, of which a fine panoramic view is seen of all the yachts. (100)

Code:-COWES

Royal Victoria Yacht Club Regatta

460 off Ryde, Isle of Wight. (65)

Code:-RYDE

A race for motor boats

461 which rush past at a terrific speed, buried in foam. (80)

Code:-MOTOR

Shamrock the 1st,

462 which raced for the America Cup. Lee view on port and starboard tacks in a strong breeze. (50)

Code:-SHAMROCK

A race for model yachts

463 it is almost difficult to imagine these miniature vessels are not manhandled, so cleverly do they sail. There is however a collision, which upsets the illusion. (80)

Code:-MODEL

Yacht racing 1911.

Coronation year of King George V.

International races.

We have to go back many years since so many schooners took part, and everyone was pleased to see two such splendid vessels as the "Meteor," owned by H.I.M.the Emperor of Germany and the "Germania," against which the British yacht, "Waterwitch" fought so gallantly.

Owing to very favourable conditions of weather, the following pictures are especially good:-

Race for the Royal Yacht Squadron Cup.

464 The "Meteor", "Germania", "Waterwitch", and "Cariad" come dashing along on the starboard reach with sails slightly eased off. A close view is obtained of them on the lee bow. the "Meteor" and "Waterwitch" are so close together as to look like one yacht until they come near, when it is seen one is immediately behind the other. Following comes the next race, the 19 Metre class in a charming group, heeling well over. They come nearer and nearer, until they appear to be sailing right out of the picture, the mainsail, heeling over, shadows the screen.

The International races, August 7th and 8th were held in perfect wind and weather, and the following countries were represented: Great Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Holland, Norway and Belgium, and the results went to suggest that we would be ill-advised to rest too securely on the yachting superiority with which we have been credited, and undoubtedly enjoyed for very many years. (500)

465 Alfred West took up a position from which the various races must pass, and therefore obtained a series of pictures of the yachts bearing down towards him and sailing away. These are weather views, and the work of hauling in the main sheet is seen, as they sailed so close that one of them fouled the boat he was on.

Race for the 19 metre class

466 This is a specially pretty yacht racing scene. A lee quarter view is obtained of two of the yachts as they tear past heeling over two planks under. This view is usually very difficult to obtain, and can only be photographed under certain conditions. These are followed by yachts of various sizes, all racing together, the different classes having to meet at this particular spot during their course.

Start of the 8 metre class

467 in which 20 yachts competed. They went over the starting line in close order, bearing away close hauled on the starboard tack, making a scene of great interest.

Approximate length:- 2,850 feet. Code:-METRE

Our Colonies

Westward Ho!

A cruise in the West Indies

This, our oldest Colony (excepting Newfoundland), has had more romantic stories written upon it than any other part of the world. From the time they were first discovered by Columbus up to within the last decade, the West Indies have been the scenes of continuous struggles for possession, in which such glorious names as Drake, Rodney, Benbow, Nelson, Abercrombie, and Moore are so intimately connected, and who placed them as the first Colonial jewels in the British Crown.

Alfred West spent two winters among the various islands in search of historical scenes, in which he was assisted by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and the following are the results obtained, and which form an entertainment of absorbing interest :-

468 Leaving Southampton.

469 Passing the Needles.

470 Crossing the Channel.

471 The Bay of Biscay.

472 Vigo.

Getting into warmer climes.

Steaming through the Sargasso Sea.

473 Impromptu dance on board.

474 Gymkhana.

475 Amusements for the children. (450)

After 12 days' sailing we arrive at the first island of the group,

Barbadoes

which is of coral foundation, and although not more than 166 square miles, has a population of nearly 200,000, and is, after Jamaica, the most important West Indian possession. This island was settled by the English in 1625, and is called Barbadoes the Loyal, as it has assisted both in money and men, in the acquisition of some of the other islands, and has never changed hands.

The capital is Bridgetown

476 On the arrival of the steamer it is at once surrounded by the

Native boatmen and diving boys,

who ply for passengers and dive for coins thrown from the ship. (150)

From Trafalgar Square, in which there is a monument of Nelson, the train takes you to the north side of the island to the

Windward coast,

477 where the Atlantic waves dash in with great force. There is always a good wind blowing, and always from the same direction, viz., westward. It is wonderfully healthy and bracing, and may be termed the sanatorium of the West Indies. (150)

Amongst the most notable institutions in this island is

Codrington College,

478 situated amidst the most delightful scenery, is noted for its avenues of palm trees, and overlooks the Windward Coast. This College is affiliated to the University of Durham, and it is here that many of the clergy of the West Indies receive special training. (70)

Transferring into the Inter-Colonial Steamer for British Guiana, we arrive after two days' sail at Georgetown, Demerara, the capital. French, Dutch and British held various portions of this coastline at different intervals, and the present British territory was taken in 1803.

A trip up the Demerara River, where

A triple wedding of Arawak Indians took place, at the little wooden church on the banks of the river. (200)

479 The wedding parties arrived in their Corails and Dug-outs, bringing their wedding trousseaux in tin cans, and they dress in huts adjoining the Church; after the ceremony is over, return to their canoes and paddle off to their settlements, where a Regatta was held; races between Buck Indians in their Dug-outs and Canoes. (150)

480 Ninety miles up the river the steamer stops at Wismar, a short railway running through the dense bush to Rockstone, on the Essequibo River, where another steamer awaits, and pushing through the dangerous

Tigeri Rapids

481 arrives at Crab Falls, and camp out with the Buck Indians. Next morning another steamer, driven with a stern-paddle wheel, brings us, after six hours, to(50)

Tumatumari Falls

482 which is only eight degrees from the Equator, and where the glorious scenery of British Guiana begins to unfold itself; and here also is the starting place for the gold diggings. (40)

Returning to Georgetown, a visit is paid to one of the most up-to-date

Sugar estates

483 "The Diamond," which covers 7,000 acres, employs 7,000 hands, mostly Coolies from the East Indies, and gives a yearly output of 16,000 tons of Demerara Sugar. (130)

Coolies leaving work

484 The Cathedral is visited on the Sunday morning in time to see (50)

485 **The native black choir entering** (50)

and the

486 **congregation leaving after the service.** (50)

486 **a party of nigger boys playing cricket.** (40)

on the sands.

There is a splendid service of electric tramcars, magnificent buildings, wide roads, in the centre of which are canals, and in which are growing water plants of various descriptions, including the Victoria Regina. In the Botanical Gardens are orchids and trees of the most luxuriant growth, including the Cannon Ball tree.

The nearest of the West India Islands to British Guiana is

Trinidad

So named by Columbus in 1498. It remained a Spanish possession until 1797, when it capitulated to Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who was reminded by three mountain peaks of the "Holy Trinity."

Steaming through the Bocas, which is a group of little islands, to the Gulf of Paria, and here is

Port of Spain (40)

which is the capital town of the island, and is a fortified coaling station. Trinidad is a square shaped island, about the size of the County of Hampshire, and has a population of nearly 300,000. Is very fertile, producing large quantities of sugar, cocoa, and cocoanuts and fibre.

But a peculiar and very valuable source of wealth is the famous pitch lake which is one of the Wonders of the World and from which the World's supply of asphalt is drawn, of which 100,000 tons are exported annually. It is a lake of black blistering bitumen, and as fast as it is dug out, the hole fills up again, and the supply seems inexhaustible. We should remember as we walk through our streets that some of this asphalt lies beneath our feet.

Panoramic view of the lake.

Digging out the pitch

Loading the pitch into the trolleys.

Trolleys on overhead cables carrying the pitch to the steamer,

which is about a mile distant. (375)

Arrival at the Jetty, and shooting the pitch into the steamer's hold.

A nigger carnival

489 Once a year Port of Spain is given up to a niggers' carnival, who parade the street in bands dressed in all kinds of fantastic costumes of varied and lurid colours. Efforts are being made to stop this, as it disturbs the serenity of the town, and often ends with a stick fight between the different bands. (80)

Port of Spain has electric cars, and a ride on one through the

Coolie village

490 is most interesting and picturesque. (220)

491 The Blue Basin, a picturesque waterfall, much frequented by picnic parties. (30)

Tobago

is a small island to the north of Trinidad. This is the island depicted by Defoe in his famous story of Robinson Crusoe. Alfred West brought with him Robinson Crusoe dress, which he obtained from Clarkson, and arranged for pictures for this story on the actual spot.

492 The Beach on which Robinson Crusoe was wrecked.

Robinson Crusoe sees footprints in the sands.

Robinson Crusoe saves Man Friday.

Crusoe's Hut amidst the luxuriant tropical vegetation.

A fire is lighted, and Man Friday feeds the poultry.

Crusoe reads to Man Friday portions out of the Bible.

Man Friday leading a sow and her litter of young piggies. (300)

Grenada

is the next island, and lies 90 miles to the north of Trinidad. It is very mountainous, and covered with tropical vegetation. It is the largest of the Windward Group, and is the seat of Government.

The Reception of the Governor

493 at St. George's, the capital of the island. (90)

Panorama of the Harbour or Carenage,

494 which is encircled by wooded hills. It is here that the young Princes (190) Albert Victor and George (now King George V) were entertained in a pretty "al fresco hall," erected of bamboo and palm leaves, when they visited the West Indies in H.M.S. "Bacchante."

Without doubt Grenada is the prettiest island of the group, and is noted for the cultivation of cocoa.

A cocoa dance by the natives

495 Immediately to the north of Grenada lies a group of small islands, called the Grenadines, and beyond is the (80) Island of St. Vincent which is about half the size of Middlesex, and, like Grenada, has thickly wooded mountains running from north to south. At the northern end of the range is Soufriere, a volcano 3,500 feet high, the eruption of

which, in May, 1902, devastated nearly one third of the island, and caused terrible loss of life, 2,000 persons being killed.

Kingston, the Capital of the island,

496 stands in a Horseshoe Bay, and is most picturesque. (50)

This island was discovered by Columbus on St. Vincent's Day, January 22nd, 1498, and to this fact owes its name. At that time it was inhabited by Caribs, but in 1668 these Caribs acknowledged themselves to be the subjects of the King of England.

In 1779, during the course of the war between England and France, St. Vincent was surrendered to the French, but was restored to Great Britain by the Treaty of Versailles. The next is St. Lucia the most northerly of the Windward Islands, and is exceptionally beautiful and fertile. Its chief possession is, however, a magnificent harbour, on which is the town of Castries. It is a fortified coaling station. On the south side is Morue Fortune, 800 feet high, and on the other, Vigee, over 400 feet high. On the top of both of these hills were built barracks and fortifications, which, when completed, were never occupied, as all the troops were withdrawn from the islands. Blocks of buildings, officers' and men's quarters, hospitals, church, and schools, forts, with 9.2 guns, all newly erected, but never occupied. (185)

The coaling

497 is mostly done by the women. These negresses bring the coal up the planks in baskets on their heads, each basket weighing about 1 cwt. They chaff one another and sing; but sometimes (70) there is a dispute, as in this case. The two women had to be parted by the nigger policeman.

Another excitement on the wharf is caused by the frantic efforts being used to get a horse into a box for hoisting on board. The horse takes charge, scattering the women and coals in all directions. (85)

498 A trip in a coasting steamer. (40)

to the little town of Soufriere, which lies at the foot of "The Pitons," two conical mountains side by side, over 2,600 feet high, behind which, after a climb through most magnificent scenery, suddenly emerges into the Inferno, smelling strongly of sulphur, and from the earth and boiling cauldrons of black water burst forth clouds of steam with a noise like the blast of a thousand furnaces. Here Mr West had rather a weird experience. Venturing too close to the danger zone of heated ground, he sank in, but was fortunately pulled out by his two nigger boys, escaping with only scalded legs. (165)

The building of the Panama Canal

499 is employing a number of these blacks, and a party of them, men and women, are taking a passage on board, bringing their various domestic requirements on their heads. (90)

A canoe race by nigger boys

500 There is a collision, an upset, and some words. (180)

The Island of Martinique

501 can be seen from St. Lucia, 20 miles away. It belongs to France. There is a fine Cathedral in Fort de France, the Capital, and, being Sunday morning, the people are seen leaving the church. (85)

France is historically interested in this island, it being the birthplace and early home of the Empress Josephine. It has a population of over 200,000, is of an elongated shape, and very mountainous, the highest elevation being

Mount Pele

502 which rises to a height of 4,500 feet. The town of St. Pierre, which was the chief commercial centre, was completely effaced through the eruption of Mount Pele on the 8th of May, 1902, in which it is computed fully 40,000 lives were lost. It was a repetition of the ancient catastrophe of Pompeii. It is now almost overgrown with vegetation, amidst which can be seen the ruins and desolation, and to the left is the awesome Mount Pele, the top of which is seldom seen owing to the dense clouds overhanging; but on this occasion is clear, and smoke can be seen issuing from its summit. (140)

On the south side of the island is the famous

Diamond Rock

503 already mentioned in the naval series of this book. See Page 15. (30)

The Leeward Islands

504 of which Dominica is the largest and most beautiful, lies 30 miles to the north of Martinique. It is of volcanic formation, and very mountainous, one being over 3,000 feet high. It is well watered and is said to have 365 rivers, or one for every day of the year. The rivers teem with fish, and form grand waterfalls on their course to the sea. (120 and 55)

Roseau

505 the chief town is lighted by electricity, and around it the country is unequalled for beauty. (95)

The Roseau River is close to the town, and in this the

Native women wash their clothes.

506 This is done by striking the garments on the stones, after wringing and squeezing. A group of these women are seen, not only washing clothes but also a dog, which they do not strike on the rock, but squeeze it, and put the animal on their head and bring it to the bank. (140)

Up in the mountains midst the dense foliage rise volumes of smoke from the sulphur springs, which are said to afford a remarkable cure for rheumatism and aches and pains in general. On the north side is a reservation for the descendants of the original Caribs. (120)

The island was discovered by Columbus on Sunday, November 3rd, 1493.

The next four islands in the group, viz., Guadeloupe, Montserrat, and Antigua and Nevis figure prominently in history, especially

The Islands of Antigua

507 with its English harbour and the old Naval Dockyard, where Nelson re-fitted his ships during his memorable pursuit of Villeneuve in 1805, and the island of (110)

Nevis

508 which used to be the principal slave market, and the great Saratoga of the West Indies, and here are the ruins of the Montpelier Estate, where Nelson was married to Mrs. Nisbett, widow of Dr. Nisbett. To the right of the altar in the little Fig Tree Church is a tablet recording this event; whilst in the vestry can be seen the marriage register. The Duke of Clarence, afterwards King William IV, was best man at the wedding.

Cotton growing in Nevis

509 has been started, and with considerable success, as seen from the field in this picture, which depicts the nigger girls in their picturesque dress, picking the cotton, and in the old bath house which was built at a cost of £40,000, and sold a short while ago for £40, is seen a party of native women

Picking and sorting the cotton

510 whilst a donkey strolls in to watch the proceedings. Afterwards a procession of niggers with bags of cotton on their heads, carrying them to the warehouse for shipment to England. (250)

Nevis has special attraction for Americans, for here was born Alexandra Hamilton, who it was formed the Constitution of the United States. Almost adjoining Nevis is the island of St. Kitts, or, as Columbus named this island, St. Christopher, because it is said he saw in its configuration a resemblance to that Saint carrying our Saviour. To the west of this island is the famous Brimstone Hill, which is a mass of volcanic rock, on the top of which are fortifications; it was termed the Gibraltar of the West Indies.

St Thomas, in the Virgin Islands, belongs to Denmark. Here, the famous toilet requisite, Bay Rum, is made, and it has also been named

The buccaneers' retreat

511 Bluebeard, or Blackbeard's, Castle, is supposed to have been the headquarters of two celebrated buccaneers. (160)

Steaming amongst these little islands is Krum Bay, the graveyard of merchant ships. This is a favourite place for excursionists. There are swings and merry-go-rounds all made out of wreckage from ships. At San Domingo, in the island of Hayti, is the Castle where Columbus was imprisoned, and at the entrance to the Cathedral is a magnificent monument beneath which is a Casket, in which the body of Columbus was placed.

Fig Tree Church, Island of Nevis, West Indies

To the right of the Altar is an oval Tablet, with the following inscription:

WILLIAM WOODWARD,

of this Island, Esq.,

Died the 18th February, 1779,

Aged 53 years.

He married Mary, the Daughter of

THOMAS HERBERT, ESQ.,

To whose joint memory

this tablet is erected

by their only Daughter,

FRANCES HERBERT,

Who was first Married to
JOSIAH NISBETT, M.D.,
And since to
REAR-ADMIRAL NELSON
Who for his very distinguished services
Has been successively created
A Knight of the Bath,
And a Peer of Great Britain,
By the Title of
BARON NELSON
of the Nile.

Jamaica

The principal and largest of the group, is twice the size of Lancashire, and has a population of over 630,000. It is very mountainous, and history states that Columbus, describing it to Queen Isabella, took a piece of paper and crumpled it up.

The principal industry is banana growing.

512 A ride in the train from Kingston to Port Autome passes through very picturesque scenery, and also through the Banana-growing districts. (65)

The bundles of bananas

513 are carried by the native men and women on their heads, walking in single file from the shed to the ship. The Overseer stands by with a long sharp knife cutting off the long stalks as they pass. The wonder is that in doing so he does not nip off a nose, so close to the carrier does the knife descend. Seated further on is another Overseer, who doles out to each a disc, and at the end of the loading payment is given in accordance to the number of discs presented. (145)

When the loading is finished, and the niggers have rested, they sometimes get up a dance on the wharf. (140)

Kingston

514 has a splendid service of electric tramcars, which run right up to Constant Spring Hotel, seven miles inland, to the foot of the Blue Mountains. (240)

The Victoria Market

515 is a busy scene, where the women buy and sell various produce, and gossip. (90)

On the road to the market

516 (the natives carry everything on their heads; if you give them a letter to post, they will put it on their heads and a brick on top to keep the wind from blowing it away) – the road from Constant Spring to Kingston (especially Saturday morning) swarms with the natives on their way to market with their produce. (80)

Husking coconut competition

517 between two black boys. They climb the trees for the nuts, husking them with their teeth, and get the milk. (150)

Sugar cane eating competition

518 between 4 nigger boys, causes much amusement. (85)

Washing clothes competition

519 between two negresses. (140)

Sunday morning in the mountains

520 A climb on horseback along a bridle path, 2,500 feet up the mountains, through scenery of indescribable beauty is a little Church, nestled among the tropical vegetation, and from which a magnificent panorama of Kingston, Port Royal, and the Pallisades is obtained. (100)

521 **Nigger children leaving school** (120)

A sugar estate (55)

Church parade of the **West India Regiment**

522 the only force now retained in these islands. (80)

A ride through Kingston on an electric car after the earthquake

523 which happened just before Alfred West arrived on his second visit. (250)

The Spanish Main.

524 **Vendors on the wharf at La Guayra, Venezuela.** (45)

525 **Coaling at Barbadoes.** (50)

526 The entrance to the **Panama Canal** (80) the opening of which will take place in the course of the next few years, when West Indies will undoubtedly prove of special interest, aside from their great beauty and historical association of the past. The warmth of the climate at a time when England is suffering with cold and damp, should prove a strong temptation to visitors. Numberless books have been written upon these islands. Amongst them should be mentioned *Westward Ho!* by Charles Kingsley, *Peter Simple*, *Tom Cringle's Log*, by Captain Marryatt.

Approximate length of West Indies Series, with titles, 5,000 feet.

Our Homeland

Beauty Spots of England, illustrating Tennyson's poem *The Brook*

"For men may come, and men may go, but I go on for ever."

527 Alfred West made a special study of illustrating this poem, following a river through its course amidst scenery, the beauty of which appeals to lovers of art. Each section is tinted in colours enhancing the charm of these delightful spots in which the ever-flowing river wends its way.

"I steal by lawns and grassy plots,

I slide by hazel covers,

I move the sweet forget-me-nots

That grow for happy lovers."

Amidst majestic trees and lawns is nestled one of the most romantic spots in England. "**Haddon Hall**" of which a distant view is seen, whilst in the foreground is the ever-flowing river. "For men may come and men may go." The flowing river is followed until it is lost amidst the hazel bushes.

The scene changes to a picturesque stone bridge, beneath which the river rushes, helping on its way an old water mill, dashing and splashing over a weir like a miniature Niagara, shallowing in various channels, over pebbles with a rippling sound.

"I clatter over stony ways,
In little sharps and trebles,
I bubble into eddying bays,
I babble on the pebbles."

Over the ridges it rushes along, from amidst the hills, ever flowing onward.

"And out again I curve and flow,
To join the brimming river;
For men may come, and men may go,
But I go on for ever."

And so the poem goes on to be illustrated, each verse bringing a change of scene and change of colour.

"I wind about and in and out,
With here a blossom sailing,
And here and there a lusty trout,
And here and there a grayling."
"And here and there a foamy flake
Upon me as I travel,
With many a silvery waterbreak
Above the golden gravel."

Here is perhaps one of the prettiest and most peaceful scenes it is possible to describe. To the left are the trees and rushes blowing in the wind, whilst on the right is green pasture an undulating ground, upon which sheep are grazing, and amidst the weeds and water plants, the river flows ever onwards

"I slip, I glide, I gleam, I dance,
Among the skimming swallows;
I make the nettled sunbeams dance
Against thy sandy shallows."

This changes to the final scene, in which, owing to a panoramic effect, the wonderful beauty of the valley is seen through which the water flows on and is lost to view.

"And draw them all along, and flow
To join the brimming river;
For men may come, and men may go,

But I go on for ever."

This beautiful poem has been set to music and song, and can be purchased of all music publishers.

Approximate length with titles, 600 feet.

Northumbrian sword dancing

As performed every Xmastide before the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland at
Alnwick Castle.

528 It is much to be regretted that there is now such a tendency to allow old and picturesque customs to fall in desuetude, and more especially so, when they are bound up with the history of that part of the country where they are practised. This Sword Dance is peculiar to the counties of Northumberland and Durham. Sir Walter Scott mentions it in his notes to "The Pirate." It was originally brought over in our Saxon time by the Scandinavians when they ravaged our northern towns between the years 671 and 793. Thus this Norse dance had been handed down from one generation to another with marvellous fidelity. (140)

A Mayday fete

529 A scene in the grounds of an English Country Vicarage. The charming old time garden, and the girls and boys dressed in their best Sunday clothes, dance and plait the maypole. (150)

Total number of feet in this Synopsis is approximately 56,000 feet.