

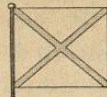
of England. The legend says that St. George fought and killed a fiery dragon, which devastated the countryside, and thus delivered the inhabitants from a constant terror. This feat is commemorated on the reverse side



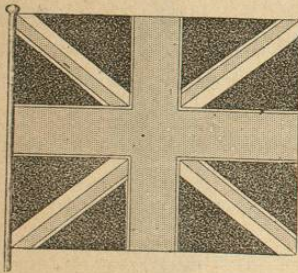
The Cross of St. George.



The Cross of St. Andrew.



The Cross of St. Patrick.



THE UNION JACK.

Red



Blue



White



of the English crown piece and sovereign. St. George was a great warrior, and when the English engaged a battle, in the olden time, their shout was: "St. George and merrie England!"

On the Union Jack are two other crosses. One is a white diagonal cross on a blue ground. It is the cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scot-

land. It was added to the Union Jack in 1707, when England and Scotland (Great Britain) were united under one government.

The third part of the flag is another diagonal red cross on a white ground: the cross of St. Patrick. St. Patrick, a native of Scotland, civilised and converted the Irish to Christianity, and was the first Bishop of Armagh, and the patron saint of Ireland. His flag was incorporated into the Union Jack in 1801, when Ireland was united to Great Britain.

Thus was formed "the red, white and blue", for which thousands have unhesitatingly laid down their lives, and which no true Briton can see without a thrill.

## CHAPTER XXI

### PEACE AND WAR

Everyone knows that, in all quarters, efforts are made to preserve peace. In France, England and Germany there are even leagues, called **Peace-Leagues**, which have been formed for this purpose. At Hague there is an **International Court of Arbitration**, which undertakes to settle disputes between nations. Yet it is very improbable that war will ever wholly cease.

If the most vital interests of a nation are threatened, or have been injured, it **declares war** with the offending power. Each of the nations concerned **takes up arms**, and makes ready to take the field as quickly as possible, in order to invade the enemy's country, and there settle the dispute. Sooner or later a **battle** is fought. The cannons are mounted, the troops are arrayed for battle. The *commander-in-chief* takes his stand upon an elevated point, in order to direct the **action**.

The thunder of the cannon indicates the commencement of the **fight**. The soldiers advance upon the enemy slowly, at quick march or at double march. Adjutants dash along, here and there, carrying the orders of the commander-in-chief to the commanders of the different corps. On both sides the greatest courage and ability are shown. For a long time the battle wages, as it seems, with no advantage to either side. The soldiers *fight hand to hand*, no **quarter** is given. There is no more shooting now — the stab of a **bayonet**, or a stroke with the butt-end of a **musknet** lays the adversary low. The officers use their **swords**.

The General moves up his **reserve forces** to the scene of *action*, the enemy is finally **defeated**.

Where it is possible, the defeated army **retreats** in good order; but often it is so hard pressed by the *victors*, that the retreat becomes a wild flight, a **rout**, in which many of the fugitives are cut down or *taken prisoners* by the foe.

But this does not end the war; often some **fortress** of the enemy is **besieged** and starved out, or *bombarded* and **stormed** (taken by *storm*), if no **relieving army** render timely aid.

When the enemy has no further means of defence at its disposal, it may ask for a **truce**, which is directly concluded, and peace **negotiations** are entered into. The victorious nation dictates the **terms of peace**, which the vanquished nation is forced to accept, willingly or unwillingly. Finally, a **treaty of peace** is signed, and the negotiations are at an end.

Usually the vanquished nation has to pay the conqueror a **war-indemnity**; often it must even cede a smaller or larger part of its territory.

**Fire-arms** have been improved to such an extent during late years, that any war breaking out in the future will be indeed sanguinary and terrible.

Let us hope, therefore, that the nations will maintain peace for many a year to come. May they not come into deadly conflict of arms, but struggle for the palm of victory in the domain of intellect and commerce.

## PART II

### SELECTED PIECES OF POETRY

**William Shakespeare**

(1564-1616).

#### INGRATITUDE

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,  
Thou art not so unkind  
As man's ingratitude;  
Thy tooth is not so keen,  
Because thou art not seen,  
Although thy breath be rude.

\* \* \*

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,  
Thou dost not bite so nigh  
As benefits forgot;  
Though thou the waters warp,  
Thy sting is not so sharp  
As friend remember'd not.

From *As you like it*, Act. II, Sc. vi.

**Isaac Watts**

(1674-1748).

#### THE ROSE

How fair is the rose! what a beautiful flower!  
The glory of April and May!  
But the leaves are beginning to fade in an hour,  
And they wither and die in a day.