

WARSHIPS PLAYING THEIR SEARCH-LIGHTS.

The December day set for the starting of the "Practice Cruise to the Pacific" will doubtless go down in history as one of the red letter days of the American Navy, for the departure of the Atlantic fleet from Hampton Roads on its 13,000-mile journey inaugurates the most momentous undertaking of its kind that the world has ever seen. Perhaps the nearest approach to it was Rostevsky's ill-starred journey around the Cape of Good Hope, but in strength and numbers his fleet can in no way be compared to the mighty armament which Rear-Admiral Evans' flagship, the Connecticut, is to lead through the winding channels, on their way around to the Pacific, of the Magellan Strait.

Although the transfer of the fleet from ocean to ocean has been discussed as no movement of a fleet has ever been discussed before, it is probable that few yet realize just all it means. The statement that it is equivalent to the transfer from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard of a highly disciplined army of nearly 2,000,000 men may seem extravagant, but, in a sense, it is no less true. In a recent essay read before the Naval Institute, Captain Bradley A. Fiske drew an analogy between battle-ships and armies, and in which the author asserted that a battle-ship is a much more powerful thing than an army of 100,000 men. "On land," this author said, "an army of 100,000 infantry carries 100,000 rifles. If these 100,000 rifles were all fired simultaneously, the combined energy of the bullets at the muzzle would be equal to only seven per cent. more than the energy of two twelve-inch guns in one battle-ship. And if the total energy of those 100,000 men could be concentrated, it would not be more than 25,000 horse-power, about fifty per cent. more than the horse-power of the Maine. The 100,000 men would weigh about 7200 tons, about half the weight of one large battle-ship." But, as Captain Fiske adds, the fire of 100,000 men cannot be concentrated, neither can their energy

that army, possessing also the ability to go farther in any given length of time, and be self-supporting for a greater length of time, and possessing in her armor a protection, may be said to double her offensive strength.

The author of this paper does not mean to imply that a battle-ship could do on land what 100,000 infantry could do, but that on its element, the sea, the argument is to be made, and it was determined that so far as the food was concerned the men would not have any excuse to grumble.

The officers of the fleet must lay in their own supply of provisions at their own expense. They may choose what they wish without reference to the provisions which the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts makes for enlisted men. All of the food provided will be kept fresh by means of cold storage. Water will be distilled aboard ship. At the ports new supplies can be taken aboard, but the orders of the Navy Department are that the ships be provided without reference to any stops they may make.

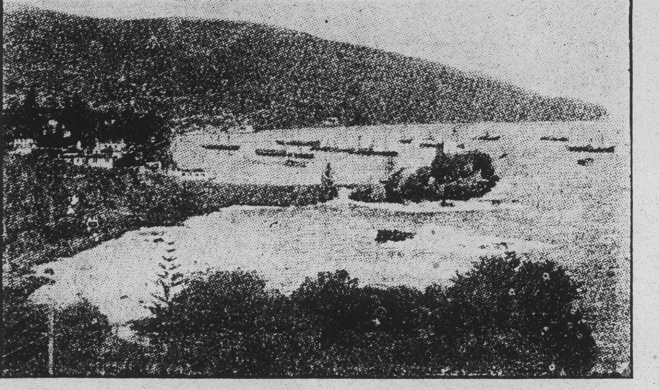
The projected cruise has already involved the purchase of nearly a quarter of a million tons of coal, and the charter of a fleet of colliers which is numerically greater than the battle-ship fleet itself. The millions of dollars which the coal and the colliers cost can only be approximated, but they are many.

The cruise itself bids fair to be one of absorbing interest, not only to this country and to the nations which will follow its movements as it makes its way down the great dip of sea hill which sweeps from the Line to the Horn and up the latitudes to the Line again, but it promises to be eminently spectacular to all of those whose fortunes will be cast with the Armada.



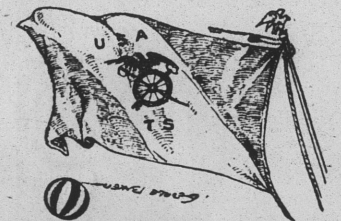
REAR-ADMIRAL EVANS, Commanding the Battle-ship Fleet.

Not including the six destroyers which are to accompany the fleet, and leaving out of count the supply and repair ships which form a part of this vast armada, the total battle-ship tonnage which is to make the voyage from ocean to ocean is 223,326 tons. There are about 15,000 men attached to the fleet and its auxiliaries, and it will require more than 6,000,000 pounds of provisions to supply their needs throughout the three or four months which will be required for the long voyage. These



NAVAL BASE AT MAGDALENA BAY, OBJECTIVE POINT OF CRUISE

nor their weight. So it would seem that the battle-ship is a machine of a higher order, possessing, in her gun-fire, a greater amount of concentrated energy in her engines an energy more than half as great as that of all the men and horses in



U. S. Army Transport Service Flag.
The section at the left is red, the section at the right blue, and the center section white, with the letters in red and the insignia in blue.

Arkansas Diamond Fields as Rich as South Africa.
Little Rock, Ark.—The diamond field discovered in Pike County, this State, is rich, according to the report of Professor Philip Schneider, geologist of the Syracuse (N. Y.) University, who was employed by the State Department of Agriculture to make an investigation.

In his report he says that, while much of the land which he inspected is worthless, a few acres are rich producers of genuine diamonds, equaling the Kimberley mines.

Prof. Wm. James Finds a "Psychic Marvel" in New Hampshire.
Boston, Mass.—Professor William James, the Harvard psychologist, has examined the strange case of Mrs. Nellie M. Titus, of Lebanon, N. H., and has discovered in her, he says, a "psychic marvel." He gives three explanations of her power and expresses the opinion that she has a super-normal faculty of seership.

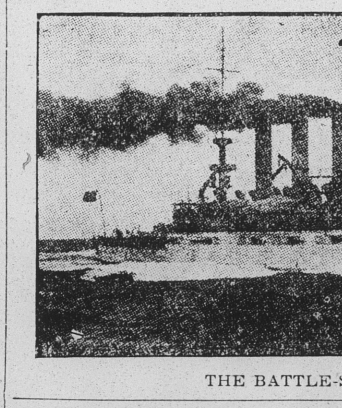
Mrs. Titus in a trance located the body of Bertie Huz, of Enfield, who was drowned off Old Shaker Bridge nine years ago.

will be at sea on Christmas, New Year's and Washington's birthday, and special dinners for those occasions have already been arranged, as is shown, by the large number of turkeys, plum puddings, pumpkin pies, nuts, dried fruits and other delicacies named in the lists of foods required. The Navy Department realizes how long and, at times, how monotonous the voyage is going to be, and it was determined that so far as the food was concerned the men would not have any excuse to grumble.

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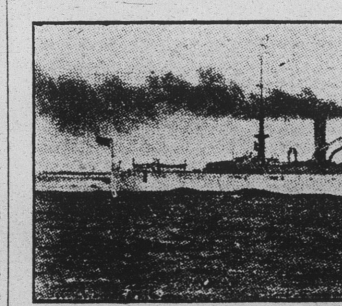
THE BATTLE-SHIP MISSOURI.

"'Twould, perhaps, be 'worth ten years of peaceful life, one glance at that array,'" as, under the eyes of the President, it moves out from Hampton Roads—sixteen superb battle-ships, with their attendant cortege of supply, hospital and repair ships. The first stop will be at Trinidad, where the fleet will renew its coal supply from the fleet of colliers which will be awaiting its arrival there. Then it will proceed to Rio, where another supply of coal will be taken on board from another fleet of waiting colliers; and then begins the long run to Punta Arenas—one of the most dreary regions in the world, the jumping-off place—snister as the Pit itself. Coaling again from colliers, the fleet will resume its way, taking passage through the Strait of Magellan. It is expected to arrive at Callao, its next stopping place, on February 18, and at Magdalena Bay on April 6. Here it will effect a junction with the vessels of the Pacific fleet. This is expected to comprise the six new and powerful armored cruisers of the South Dakota class, the Tennessee and Washington, Callao, its next stopping place, on February 18, and at Magdalena Bay on April 6. Here it will effect a junction with the vessels of the Pacific fleet. This is expected to comprise the six new and powerful armored cruisers of the South Dakota class, the Tennessee and Washington,

the greatest ever assembled by any nation, will be under the command of Rear-Admiral Evans. The incongruity of having so vast a force under the command of an officer with no higher rank than that of Rear-Admiral is recognized most everywhere, except in Congress. The creation of the rank of Vice-Admiral and the bestowing of it upon "Fighting Bob" would, of course, not increase the competence of that distinguished officer; but the rank would be a more fitting one for the commander-in-chief of this mighty fleet.

Upon the junction of the fleets in Magdalena Bay, the present program contemplates a series of extensive maneuvers between the combined forces, and target practice, including the firing of the guns when the ships are in a rough sea, and record practice when they are in smooth water. The vast armament will be divided into two fleets, and the fleets sub-divided into squadrons and divisions.

This story of the projected cruise of the fleet may well leave it in Magdalena Bay, for no prophet may tell where it will go from there. Some official utterances have laid its course north to San Francisco; where, as some others, unofficial, have plotted its track to the Philippines and thence around the world via the Suez Canal and home.



THE ARMORED CRUISER TENNESSEE.

Trolley Car Searchlights Hypnotize Delaware Rabbits.
Wilmington, Del.—Rabbits are engaged by trolley cars in Delaware. The capture of many animals would be easy for the crews of the West Chester, Kennett and Wilmington Electric Railway.

The cars are equipped with powerful electric searchlights, and when the intense rays appear, at night, rabbits make for the light. As the rays strike them, they perform all sorts of gyrations, and when hit in the eyes are completely hypnotized.

THE FIGHTING STRENGTH OF THE BATTLE-SHIP FLEET.

Ships.	Guns.	Officers and Men.
Connecticut	24	881
Kansas	24	850
Louisiana	24	881
Vermont	24	881
Virginia	24	812
Georgia	24	812
New Jersey	24	812
Rhode Island	24	812
Alabama	18	713
Illinois	22	690
Kearsarge	22	690
Kentucky	22	686
Ohio	20	800
Maine	20	813
Minnesota	24	881
Missouri	20	779
Total	360	12,793

ship Nebraska, but recently commissioned. In addition to these are the four protected cruisers of the Denver class; the cruisers Chicago, Albany and the gunboat Yorktown. The



Map Showing Magdalena Bay. The Coaling Station Leased by Mexico to the United States.

combined fleets will therefore have the following strength:

Battle-ships	19
Armored cruisers	8
Protected cruisers	9
Gunboats	1
Destroyers	6
Total	43

This immense armament, by far

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR DEC. 22 BY THE REV. I. W. HENDERSON.

Subject: Samuel, the Upright Judge.
I. Sam. 7:1-13—Golden Text, I. Sam. 7:3—Memory Verses, 12, 13—Read I. Sam. 5-7.

It must have been with feelings very different from those of their last encounter, when the ark of God was carried into the battle, that the host of Israel now faced the Philistine army near Mizpah. Then they had only the symbol of God's gracious presence, now they had the reality. Then their spiritual guides were the wicked Hophni and Phinehas; now their guide was holy Samuel, says Dr. Blaikie. Then they had rushed into the fight in thoughtless unconcern about their sins; now they had confessed them, and through the blood of sprinkling they had obtained a sense of forgiveness. Then they were puffed up by a vain presumption; now they were animated by a calm but confident hope. Then their advance was hallowed by no prayer; now the cry of needy children had gone up from God's faithful servant.

In fact, the battle with the Philistines had already been fought by Samuel on his knees. There can be no more sure token of success than this. "Are we engaged in conflict with our own besetting sins? Or are we contending against scandalous transgression in the world around us? Let us first fight the battle on our knees. If we are victorious there we need have little fear of victory in the other arena."

It was as Samuel was offering up the burnt-offering that the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. There was an unseen ladder that day between earth and heaven, on which the angels of God ascended and descended as in Jacob's vision at Bechel. The smoke of the burnt-offering carried up to God the confession and contrition of the people, their reliance on God's method of atonement, and their prayer for His pardon and His blessing. The great thunder with which God thundered on the Philistines carried down from God the answer and the needed help. There is no need for supposing that the thunder was supernatural. It was supernatural. It was an instance of what is so common, a natural force adapted to the purpose of an answer to prayer. What seems to have occurred is this: a vehement thunderstorm had gathered a mile to the east, and now broke, probably with violent wind, in the faces of the Philistines, who were advancing up the heights against Mizpah. Unable to face such a terrific war of the elements, the Philistines would turn round, placing their backs to the storm. The men of Israel, but little embarrassed by it, since it came from behind them, and gave the greater momentum to their force, rushed on the embarrassed enemy, and drove them before them like smoke before the wind.

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." The characteristic feature of the inscription lies in the word "hitherto." It was no doubt a testimony to special help obtained in that time of trouble; it was a grateful recognition of that help; and it was an enduring monument to perpetuate the memory of it. But it was more, much more. The word "hitherto" denotes a series of similar mercies, an unbroken succession of Divine interpositions and Divine deliverances. The special purpose of this inscription was to link on the present deliverance to all the past, and to form a testimony to the enduring faithfulness and mercy of a covenant-keeping God. But was not something strange in this inscription, considering the circumstances? Could Samuel have forgotten that tragic day at Shiloh? Had Samuel forgot how the victorious Philistines soon after dashed upon Shiloh like beasts of prey, plundering, destroying, massacring, till nothing more remained to be done to justify the name of "Ichabod?"

All that Samuel has considered well. Even amid the desolations of Shiloh the Lord was helping them. He was helping them to know themselves, helping them to know their sins, and helping them to know the bitter fruit and woeful punishment of sin. He was helping them to achieve the great end for which He had called them—to keep alive the knowledge of the true God and the practice of His worship, onward to the time when the great promise should be realized—when He should come in whom all the families of the earth were to be blessed. Samuel's idea of what constituted the nation's glory was large and spiritual. The true glory of the nation was to fulfil the function for which God had taken it into covenant with Himself. Whatever helped them to do this was a blessing, was a token of the Lord's remembrance of them. The links of the long chain denoted by Samuel's "hitherto" were not all of one kind. Some were in the form of mercies, many were in the form of chastenings. For the higher the function for which Israel was called, the more need was there of chastening. The higher the destination of a silver vessel, the greater is the need that the silver be pure, and therefore that it be frequently passed through the furnace. The destination of Israel does not merely give thanks for seasons of prosperity, but for checks and chastenings too.

Graduates at the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin this year have received appointments which will scatter them through five states of the Union. One-half of the class are engaged in practical agricultural work, specializing in dairying, breeding and horticulture, while four others are filling college positions.

One hundred and forty million dollars will have to be raised by taxation to pay the expenses of New York next year, according to the estimates made by the heads of the various departments of the city government. This is an increase of forty million dollars in less than ten years.

EPWORTH LEAGUE LESSONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22.

The Birth of the King. (Matt. 2: 6.) Christmas.

Passages for reference: Isa. 55: 6, 7; Matt. 23: 23; Phil. 3: 13, 14; 2 Tim. 2: 15; John 2: 6.
Bethlehem means "House of bread," so called from its surrounding wheat fields. Near here Ruth gleaned, Jacob buried Rachel, and David fought wild beasts, for it was his birthplace. In the fourth century Jerome selected this little town in order to translate the Scriptures into Latin, the Vulgate version, accepted as the standard of the Roman Catholic Church. It is between five and six miles south of Jerusalem, and is inhabited now by about four thousand people, who make their living chiefly by selling souvenirs. A cave inside a large convent ground is shown as the birthplace of Jesus. Over the cave stands a church built in 925-927 by Saint Helena, the mother of the first Christian Emperor of Rome. It is the oldest monument to Christ in the world.

Heavenly festivals formerly celebrated the period now observed by Christians as Christmas. Our Christmas tree and other customs were copied from them. A few authorities have tried to prove that Jesus was not born on December 25. Prof. Andrews in his careful and logical way establishes the fact that we are observing the right date. American holidays, such as the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving Day, have become so popular that foreigners in many lands now observe them. The Jews, Muslims and people seemingly unconcerned about Christ diligently observe Christmas. Among all classes of people the day is now noticed by the giving of love tokens. But this custom is fathered by and rooted in the birth of the King, Jesus. The day cannot have full, rich, large meaning, unless it is related to his birth. We need to recall our minds to this fact. In the jubilation, in the giving and receiving of gifts, let us take time to meditate on the "great gift." Ponder the love back of it. See the resources which it opens. Feel the privilege of being his friend. It is a good time to remind others of the influence of Christ. How the world does its homage by celebrating his birthday in his way!

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR NOTES

DECEMBER TWENTY-SECOND

The Magnificat: a Christmas song.
Luke 1: 46-55.
Micah's song, Mic. 5: 1-4.
Zechariah's song, Zech. 14: 20, 21.
"The Sun of righteousness," Mal. 4: 2.
"The angel's song," Luke 2: 13, 14.
Zechariah's song, Luke 1: 68-79.
Simeon's song, Luke 2: 29-35.
When our Lord is really magnified, as Magnificat, the first evidence is a desire to magnify the Lord.

The Christ-filled life is not only blessed itself, but it blesses others, to the end of time.
None of earth's humblest ones has been more lowly than our Lord, and none of earth's proud ones has been more highly exalted.
It is only those that hunger for righteousness that can be filled; those that think themselves already filled must be sent away empty.
Note how many songs, accompanied Christ's birth—by Mary, Zechariah, and the angels. Christmas carols all down the ages.
The Magnificat is made up of Bible quotations. The more Bible in your heart, the more song in your life.
The Magnificat is full of humility and exaltation, and therefore is a prophecy of Christendom.
God cannot bring blessings to any unless they are ready to praise Him for them.

It is a physical fact that musical vibrations never die out of the air. The actual Bethlehem song and the actual Magnificat are still singing somewhere.
The voice is most easily trained in youth—to sing the Christian song as well as other carols.
When one magnifies a physical image, it is that that is enlarged; when one magnifies God, it is the one that sees that is enlarged.

A DELICIOUS JELLY.

Fruit dessert that is certain to meet with a gratifying reception is a cold fruit jelly, the recipe for which was brought from South America by Channing Pollock, the playwright. Not only is it a delicious dainty for a hot-day dinner, but can be prepared so easily that no housewife need hesitate to undertake to make it. In fact, all she will have to do will be to take the pure juice of some tasty fruit, like the orange, pineapple, or lemon, with a little sugar to sweeten it, and when it has attained the boiling point, add enough gelatine to stiffen it. The only water put into the mixture, however, is that which is used in dissolving the gelatine. The mixture is then poured into a mold, which is put upon the ice to harden, when it may be served with or without a garnishment of whipped cream.—From "In Days Like These," by Miles Bradford in The Bohemian.

MARSHMALLOW FROSTING.

Boil three-fourths a cup of granulated sugar and one-fourth a cup of milk until the syrup threads. Do not stir after boiling begins. Cook and stir one-fourth a pound of marshmallows and two tablespoonfuls of water over boiling water until the mixture is smooth. Combine the two mixtures, and beat until stiff enough to spread. Flavor with half a teaspoonful of vanilla extract.—Boston Cooking School Magazine.