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THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1899.

THE IRON WALLS OF BRITAIN.

Archibald S. Hurd in writing in Cassier's Magazine for July, has asked the question, "What does the navy represent as a national asset?" Before going on to answer the question Mr. Hurd enters into detail comment on the strength of the navy and he contends every Englishman has a share. There are now 489 ships of various dimensions in the British navy. From 1869 to 1885 England spent on an average \$7,500,000 per year on new ships. Since then the average has risen to \$22,500,000 and this year the admiralty are spending \$46,250,000 on new warships, in addition to the \$8,000,000 devoted to repairs and alterations of the older ships. Mr. Hurd dwells at some length on the astounding fact that in the past eleven years Great Britain has spent \$350,000,000 on new warships, and has devoted to the navy during the twelve years past that ended last March, \$865,000,000. To-day England has a fleet of 489 ships, which have a total displacement of 1,500,000 tons. Of this great fleet nearly 200 of the most efficient and powerful vessels have been built during eleven years. The backbone of the British navy is the 64 line of battleships, representing \$260,690,000. These floating fortresses carry 50,000 officers and men, and mount 2,671 guns. There are on duty in the British navy 157 cruisers including 22 armored cruisers, \$56,600,000-119 protected cruisers, \$145,000,000; 16 unprotected. Included in the smaller craft are 218 torpedo boats and destroyers, and 35 large torpedo vessels. In concluding Mr. Hurd puts the cost of the British navy now afloat at \$540,000,000. Add to that amount the cost of twenty-seven ships now being built the aggregate cost of the British navy will be \$725,000,000. Coming to the question, "what does the navy represent as a national asset?" Mr. Hurd says: "These are the iron walls that in time of need will stand between us and an enemy, which safeguard commerce, protect Britain's colonies, and are continually patrolling the ocean highways. The colossal sum of \$540,000,000 paid out for the navy is a part of the funded capital of Britain's formidable system of insurance against a foreign foe."

Apparently in the neighboring republic the law of equal rights does not permeate social life. The New York Sun relates an incident in one of the fashionable restaurants there, which may be said to show what we are coming to. It was at an hour when smoking was allowed in the restaurant, and a gentleman, who was accompanied by a lady, lit his after-dinner cigar. Then she lighted her cigarette. The head waiter remonstrated. She seemed astonished, then

indignant, but firm throughout. She pointed to her escort's cigar, smoking all the while herself, and then told the waiter she would finish her cigarette then, whatever the rules were. There was no precedent for such rebellion, and she had her way.

A New York journal in speaking of the list of ailments and deformities caused by over indulgence in various sports says: "It is growing at an encouraging rate. Already the number is almost sufficient for a separate medical treatise. "Golf shoulder" is the latest. It consists of a painful swelling in the dorsal muscle used in swinging the heavier golf clubs for long drives, and is said to have been successfully acquired by golfers at Newport who have indulged in the game to an intemperate extent. If neglected it is said to affect the spine, and may ultimately produce paralysis. Quite an interesting chamber of horrors might be made in the shape of an anatomical museum containing properly colored plaster models of the golf shoulder, the bicycle hump, the bicycle heart, the trolley foot, the ball pitcher's glass arm, the football nose, the oarsman's stoop, and similar manifestations of American intemperance in sports."

THE Montreal Witness of a recent date says:—"There is something more than grim humor in the suggestion attributed to a Chicago man that the easiest and cheapest way to overcome the Filipinos would be to send them a plentiful supply of Bourbon whiskey. Once they took to drinking it, he said, their conquest would be an easy matter, and the effect of fire-water on the Indians was cited as a proof that whiskey is a more deadly thing than gunpowder in disposing of aboriginal races. It is a sad but incontrovertible fact that the introduction of intoxicating liquor and accompanying vices by the white man has demoralized, degraded and destroyed whole races. When Capt. Cook rediscovered the Hawaiian Islands a century and a quarter ago he found them populated by a robust happy people estimated at the number of four hundred thousand. It was less than a hundred years run and the diseases in its train had reduced them to one-tenth of that number, and the remnant of this once happy race is fast disappearing. The same story is being told of the Indians of Alaska. To them liquor is a veritable poison, and is killing them off so fast that the Indian agents in the territory report that if the traffic be not suppressed, whole tribes will cease to exist within a few years. This is the most potent of all the influences spread by the nations which are boastfully going forth to civilize and Christianize the world. Where the missionary saves ten, the traders slays a hundred."

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