

THE DIXIE

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as incorporated in her have, with the exception of scattered items of minor importance, been projected and effected entirely by the enlisted personnel under the supervision of their own officers; and, moreover, they have been developed coincidentally with and in addition to routine cruising duties, which have often included those of a transport, as well as of a tender. Sixty ports in fifty weeks is the cruising record. Her activities have included transporting fleet naval brigades to Washington, towing submarines in midwinter in the Atlantic, transporting the Nicaragua expeditionary force to Panama, and subsisting the crew of the Half Moon during the Hudson-Fulton Celebration.

Of the thousands of people who visited the little Half Moon, who gazed in wonder at her tiny Dutch oven, wherein hung an equally tiny kettle, how many knew, or could have known, that the stout old sea chests of piratical appearance contained nothing more romantic than United States navy mess-gear, or that the three square meals for her crew of husky Dutch sailors from the Utrecht were provided and smuggled on board under cover of darkness from the Dixie, or that the Dutch flag carried so proudly in the many street parades had been made on board the Dixie? For the time being, the Half Moon was simply annexed to the torpedo fleet.

On the Atlantic Coast, where vessels are never far removed from the great centers of food and material supply, the tremendous military asset embodied in the mobile base is somewhat obscured. The fact that there is actually existent—not projected or planned, but existent—a vessel that can subsist for protracted periods an organization numbering sixteen hundred men, and of more than two hundred and fifty thousand horsepower, is somewhat hard to grasp. It has been demonstrated that, as she floats, the Dixie is the most useful auxiliary, not only in our own navy, but in any navy.

A QUEER SORT OF STRIKE

ONE of the queerest walkouts was that of the reporters of the parliamentary debates in the German Reichstag. During a session of that body one day about two years ago a deputy named Groeber in a speech made a declaration that for some reason or other caused the members of the press gallery to exclaim, "Oh! Oh!" Whereat Herr Groeber, much angered, called them a "herd of swine."

In due course the reporters demanded an apology, and, this being refused them, they left the press gallery in a body, with the statement that they would return when adequate reparation was made for the injury done their *amour propre*, and not before. The apology was made.

While the action of the reporters could not, of course, have any effect upon the mere fact of the Parliament's assembling, it had a most serious effect in that it prevented members from obtaining their usual "world audience," as German speakers love to call it. Furthermore, the strike of the reporters complicated matters, inasmuch as it caused the imperial chancellor to defer the delivery of an important speech upon the subject of the Empire's foreign affairs. In short, this little strike on the part of the press gallery had the unique effect of disorganizing the parliamentary machine of Germany during the brief period it lasted.

This German walkout was not the only one of its kind, however. In a similar manner the pressmen of Sydney caused considerable trouble and annoyance to members of the New South Wales Parliament. These reporters had been severely criticized by reason of the manner in which they had reported the speeches of a number of members, its being contended by the latter that the pressmen had taken liberties with their speeches.

In a short time the relations between the pressmen and the members became so strained that hostilities ensued. The reporters took their revenge by reporting the members' speeches exactly in the form they were delivered. Accordingly, the speech of one of the members read something like this:

"The reporters—the reporters—ought not to—the reporters ought not to be the ones to say what should be left out—omitted—but—the member can only judge of what is—is—er—important. As I—as my speeches—as the reports—as what I say is reported sometimes—no one—nobody can understand from the reports—what it is—what I mean. So it strikes me—it has struck me sometimes—that certain matters—things that are of importance—are sometimes left out—omitted."



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