WILES OF MEN AND STRATEGIES OF WAR

CHEATING MACHINE OF LATEST DESIGN

An Entirely New Device By Which Card Sharps Can, Without Difficulty, Control the Game.

IT IS A MARVEL OF THE SHARPERS' ART

Even the Cleverest Players Are Deceived By Its Operations, and Are Startled at Their Luck.

EXTRAORDINARY PRECAUTIONS MUST EVER BE TAKEN

Not More Than Two Dozen of Them Are in Existence, But These Are Very Active.

HOW THE THING WORKS AND WHAT TO WATCH FOR

(Copyright, 1896.)

HUMAN ingenuity has reduced card-playing to a mechanical art from which all element of chance is eliminated. With a little contrivance of steel tubing, elastic bands, and silk cords, used in a manner which defies detection, the unscrupulous man who sits in a card game of any kind may shape the outcome to suit himself. It makes no difference what precautions may be taken against cheating, the result will be as the sharper desires. The cards may be shuffled and cut and recut by every participant in the game; to all outward appearances everything will be fair and straight; but the manipulator will have an advantage which no run of luck can overcome. He may use this advantage to give himself strong hands, or he may place the winning cards in the hands of a confederate. He may even, should his winnings be greater than he thinks it wise to take away at one sitting, placate the losers with a sudden run of big hands, and in this manner let them get back a little of their money. Fortunately, this contrivance has thus far been furnished to less than two dozen sharpers of the miscalled "genteel" class, and their operations have been confined to circles where the money loss has not created any scandal.

Of the men who are using these machines six are working them in big card games in European watering places, nearly a dozen are robbing rich passengers on ocean steamers, and the others are playing in heavy games in eastern clubhouses frequented by an exclusive set of high-rollers. With one of these machines a man could, if he were so minded, get every dollar in sight in a card game, but the inventor has been adroit enough to place them only in the hands of men who know how to use them without exciting suspicion; who will be content with moderate winnings, and even stand an occasional loss for sake of appearances. Professional gamblers who think they know all the tricks of the trade have been relieved of large sums of money by the working of the machine; but as a general thing the operators confine their efforts to the robbing of rich amateurs, as the professional who loses after knowing he has a shade the best of it at the start is apt to get too inquisitive.

MADE BY A CHICAGO MAN.

Sad to say, this money-getting contrivance is the invention of a Chicago man, and the few that are in use were made by him in that city. In sporting parlance it would be described as "a holdout," but it can do more things in an entirely original way than any piece of mechanism of that sort ever put on the market. Besides this, an ordinary gambler who has from $25 to $75 may take his pick of hold-outs at any of the numerous places where they are openly sold in every large city, but after buying it would be of no use to him save in games made up of the softest sort of suckers, for the hold-out "graft" is so well known these days that it is a rarity to find a poker player who is not able to protect himself against it. But the new machine costs $600, and is sold only after the most diligent inquiry into the capacity of the prospective purchaser for using it intelligently. To begin with there must be an introduction to the maker through the medium of a trusty mutual friend who will vouch for the "character" and "good sense" of the would-be-buyer. Next the territory in which it is to be used must be definitely settled upon, for the maker will not take the chances of two of his machines being sprung in the same game, as it might lead to un-

These details being arranged, plans are made for the manufacture of the machine itself, as none are kept in stock. The first move in this part of the negotiations is a deposit of $300 in cash, without which the inventor will not proceed. Having secured the money he makes an intricate lot of measurements of the customer's body, every machine being built to fit the man who buys it. The construction takes from five to six weeks, and when the work is done the buyer must go to the maker's place daily for two weeks and practice for a couple of hours under his mentorship. There have been instances in which a trade has fallen through at this stage by reason of the customer's clumsiness and inability to learn how to manipulate the machine properly. When this happens, which is rarely, the maker retains the $300, and the disappointed customer goes away under pledge to keep his mouth shut. If everything goes well the man pays the other $300 and takes his machine out into the world to rob people with.

WHAT MASKELYNE DIDN'T KNOW.

When John Nevil Maskelyne, the English expert, made his famous exposure of gambling devices in "Sharps and Flats," the innocent were astounded. There was nothing in the "exposure" with which sharp professionals were not familiar, but to amateur card players and bettors it seemed to be a complete revelation of the tricks and implements of dishonest gamblers, and every man who studied it fancied he had ample protection against robbery. One of the strong features of Maskelyne's book was an account of the workings of the Kepplinger hold-out, with the aid of which the maker had for months robbed professional card players in San Francisco of large sums of money. This hold-out was thought at the time to be the acme of mechanical ingenuity, but it is a clumsy affair in comparison with the machine now being made in Chicago. The Kepplinger hold-out, as pictured by Maskelyne, was a sleeve machine worked by a cord from the knee, and was useful principally for holding out cards with which to strengthen the user's hands. It necessitated the making of a shirt with a double sleeve and false cuffs inside of which the mechanism of the hold-out rested, and while terrible execution was done with it, it had some fatal drawbacks. One of these was the necessity for "hitching up" every time the player sat down to the table—by which is meant the passing of the cord from one knee to the other so as to operate the machine. When "hitched up" it was impossible to straddle a table leg, and the user had to have a choice position in which he could spread his knees without running the risk of hitting one of the other players with them.

Before he could rise from the table he had to "unhitch" the cord, and there was another handicap in the fact that it was necessary to wear cuffs all the time to conceal the sleeve part of the machine, and this, under some conditions, was inconvenient. But despite all these drawbacks Kepplinger made some big killings with his machine, and it was only his greed in trying to make every hand win that led to his detection. The gamblers with whom he was playing were using marked cards, shiners, and other "advantage" goods, but Kepplinger kept beating them all the time. They knew something was wrong, but they could not tell what it was until they overpowered and searched him one night, when the secret of his "luck" was readily discovered.

WHAT THE MACHINE WAS LIKE.

Among the men who read Maskelyne's book and were interested in the description of the Kepplinger hold-out was an inventive model maker in Chicago. This man studied the machine closely, and saw at once where a great improvement could be made in the mechanism and the scope of the contrivance widened. He is not a card player and had no acquaintance with professional gamblers, but he understood clearly what was required. It took him nearly a year to get his first machine in good working order, but when he had shaped it to his liking it was a wonder. In the main he adopted Kepplinger's idea for the body and arm mechanism, which consists of fine tool-steel tubing, jointed at short intervals in a way which permits of its being turned in any direction, thus obviating any unnatural awkwardness in using the arms or body.

Through this tubing runs a fine silk cord, one end of which terminates about half way down the forearm, where it hooks into the ends of two pieces of very thin steel which lie flat together. These two flat pieces are made to slide on one another by a system of small rollers and india rubber bands. The delicacy of the mechanism will be better understood when it is known that two of the smallest bands made are sufficient to give all the spring required. In the fore end of one of these flat steels is fastened a watch spring arrangement, which works with an almost human action. When the lower end of the silk cord is pulled down it forces out into the hand the piece of steel with the watch-spring catch on it, and when the cord is released the mechanism flies back to concealment in the shirt sleeve like a flash. Thus far there is but little change in the general idea from Kepplinger's plan, except that the arrangement of the hand part of the machine admits of a greater variety of "work" being done, as will be explained further on. It is in the device by which the cord is operated from the lower end that the extraordinary skill of the inventor is shown; and his ingenuity forces admiration, even though used in a bad cause. With this contrivance on the poker sharp may straddle a table leg, or sit cross legged or sideways to the table, and at the same time work the machine.

HOW THE TRICK IS DONE.

Taking up the machine at the knee, where Kepplinger left it off, this invention arranged a light harness of elastic webbing running down the back of the leg with circular bands to hold it in place, and through this webbing continued the silk cord, the lower end terminating in a small hook. Next he had a light but stiff bit of steel inserted in the back part of one of his shoes, so arranged that the hook of the silk cord could be attached to it. This hooking apparatus is the most ingenious part of the whole affair. It can be fastened and unfastened by a mere touch of the toe of the other shoe, and the wearer may move about as freely as if he had no harness on. The tension of the cord and springs is fixed so that with the heel of the shoe resting on the floor the raising of the toe part will draw down the cord and force the end of the card-holder out into the hand. The nicety of this apparatus will be appreciated by mechanics, as it involves the forcing of the arm mechanicism at least seven inches by the raising of the toe less than two inches and the entire strain comes on the two small rubber bands. Such skill put to any legitimate and honorable use would make the inventor famous the world over.

This machine is usually worn on the left leg and arm, but can be made for the right side of the body. In use the operator puts it on while dressing in his room, and may wear it around all day, if desired, and suffer no inconvenience, but few men care to do this, as it entails exposure should they meet with any accident. The common method is to slip it on just before sitting down to the game, and this can be done in less than ten minutes. It is noiseless in operation, entails no false motions in its manipulation, and may be used for months in the same game without arousing suspicion if the sharper has sense enough to refrain from trying to break the whole crowd at one sitting. One man who is said to be fleecing members of an eastern club with it, is credited with having won over $150,000 inside of a year, but the play there is unusually heavy, and big winnings and losings are of common occurrence.

USES OF THE MACHINE.

With this apparatus on a man sits in any kind of a card game and when occasion offers sneaks out a card for future use. Say the game is poker and he has a poor hand dealt to him, one of the cards being an ace. Taking up his cards in the manner shown in the cut, with the ace next to the palm of his hand, he raises his left foot and the steel catcher is forced down into the hand where it nips the ace; when the foot is lowered, back the spring flies taking the ace with it. The sharper pretends to study his cards a moment and then throws those he has left into the discard and "passes." Two or three cards may be taken at the same time, but the reserve of one makes the percentage a stiff one. On the next hand, or in the next deal for a jackpot, the sharper gets a pair of aces. Holding his cards up as if to "skin" them over, he works his foot again and brings down the ace from his sleeve, the same movement serving to take away the extra card so that his hand is right as to the number of cards, and he has three aces to begin with and a draw to make in addition. If he has a short flush on the first helping and the ace in the hold out is of the same suit, he can fill his hand to a certainty and it gives him an opportunity to bet before the draw. Then he takes one card.

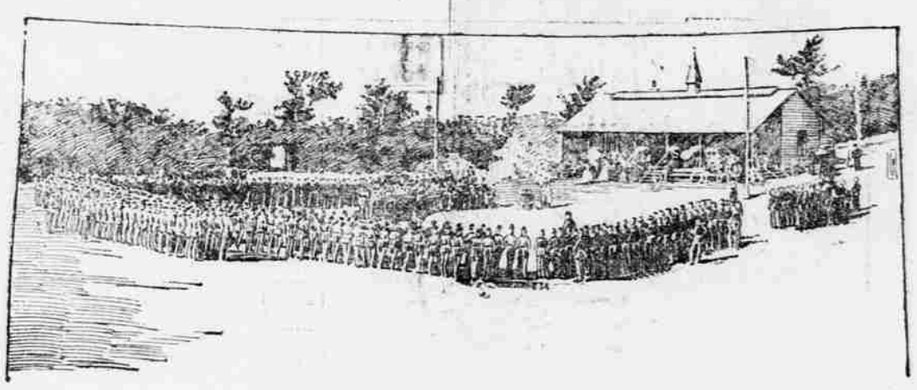
If it makes his flush or straight he does not have to use the ace up his sleeve, but if the honestly dealt card is of the wrong kind a movement of the foot serves to make an exchange for the ace. Frequently, without taking him into his confidence and explaining just how the job is done, the sharper finds it convenient to have a confederate to make the winning. To outward appearance these men are only card-room acquaintances, the confederate being generally some broken-down member of a good family who is anxious to get money and not particular as to the means. To such a man the sharper says, "Let's play in together tonight, and divide our winnings or losings. One of us ought to win sure, and perhaps we both may." The broken-down gentleman is glad of the opportunity to limit his losses, and when he makes a phenomenal winning his associates, bearing in mind his previous bad luck, are earnest in their congratulation. It is on occasions of this kind the full capacity of this devilish machine is shown. The sharper gets three good-sized cards in the hold-out and bides his chance. There is a big stake on the table, and his confederate is trailing along with a pair of aces and small hopes of winning. If the sharper has a poor hand he drops out and makes no attempt to better it, being content to let his assistant get the plunder.

CAPS THE DECK NEATLY.

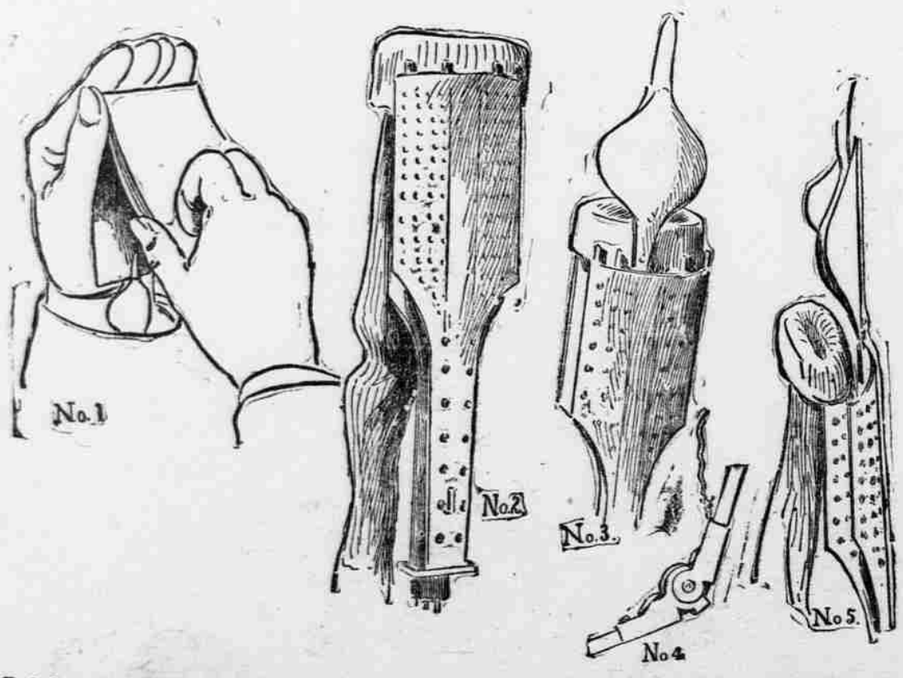
The sharper helps everybody honestly until his confederate's turn comes. If the latter has only a pair and draws three cards, that handy foot is raised and down come the three kings or queens, or whatever is wanted, the deck being held so that they drop neatly into place on top and are dealt out in the regular way to the confederate, who gets a full-hand and very likely rakes in the pot. It is all done so quickly and cleverly that no one, not even the confederate, has any suspicion of wrongdoing. He goes on getting big hands at intervals through the game—the sharper, in order to make a showing, frequently having quite a tilt with him and losing or winning heavily. After the game they meet and divide the money. It may happen that, after playing together in this way for a time, the sharper, concealing his knowledge of the machine, will make his confederate believe he is a slick manipulator of the cards, and a set of signals will be arranged by which the confederate makes known exactly the cards he wants to help a certain hand.

On the sharper's deal, if the confederate signs quickly, it is possible for the operator to jerk out the card wanted from his own hand before he discards, and take it up his sleeve with the machine, there to be held until the time comes to cap the deck with it for his confederate. Suppose the confederate signs that he wants a club to make a flush. The sharper skims over his own hand hurriedly and finds the ace of that suit; away it goes up his sleeve, and he passes out. Then in helping the cards on the draw he brings down the ace of clubs and serves it to his partner, and the latter has a fine fat flush to fight for the pot with. In a hundred different ways, and in every known game of cards, this ingenious machine may be used to the immense advantage of the operator, and a knowledge of this fact ought to make men careful about playing cards for money even when they think they know all the participants thoroughly.

Another deadly improvement in the Chicago machine is its arrangement for use with an ordinary shirt, the mechanism being covered with a false underwrapper sleeve, thus allowing the operator to play in his shirt sleeves and without cuffs, which could not be done with former hold-outs.



Soldiers at Service, Prospect Hill, Bermuda.



No. 1—Spring catch forced down into the hand to take away or deliver a card, by a movement of the foot. This cut also shows method of holding the cards to conceal the movement of the machine.
No. 2—Machine and false sleeve as it rests on the arm when not in use.
No. 3—Arm part of machine and false sleeve, with the spring-catch extended for use.
No. 4—Ingenious joint which allows the tubing to fit itself to motion of the body in all directions.
No. 5—Side view of spring catch and holder showing double receptacle for the purpose of taking away and delivering a card with one movement. The long tongue keeps the cards apart.

BALLAST FOR DUCKS.

Birds Know How to Balance Themselves with Pebbles.

Few people credit a duck with the sense he really possesses," said Fred Ozenne, a disciple of Nimrod. "For years I have been wondering what had caused the presence of a good-sized pebble bank on the shore of the lake in the Grandivola section of the Louisiana marsh.

Had it been a sand bank I could have understood it, but it was composed of pebbles, all very much alike, rounded and smooth almost to a size, and apparently differing from the small stones found in the gravel beds of the South. Several of the hunters in that section had seen the pebble beach, and, like myself, they could not understand it. All winter long it seemed fresher than at other times, and during the summer the grass would kind of cover its upper portion and the mud from the fresh water dim the lustre of the stones near the edge. There was not another beach like it in the marsh.

"One winter, in fact it was just when the first cold spell had struck us, I was hunting with a friend in the lake I spoke of. It was one of the finest ducking spots in the State. This was before they had begun to make glue from the eggs in Canada. When we reached the lake there was not a duck to be seen. The next morning I was hiding in the grass near the pebble beach when I heard a sound of wings and a large flock of mallard settled near me. Before I could raise my gun the entire lot walked out on the pebble bank and, to my astonishment, began to disgorge a lot of small stones like the ones already there. This occupied but a short time and the flock began quacking and sailed into the lake and I shot several. This settled the mystery of the pebble beach.

In the spring I was again hunting in the lake, and when the first warm weather came the ducks began to go home. They would come to the beach, and, after a few preliminaries, swallow a lot of the pebbles, then fly around for a few minutes in order to see if their balance was all right. If they were too heavy they would disgorge a few stones, or if too light swallow a half dozen more.

"I found by observation that in order for the ducks to make long flights it was necessary for them to fill up with a certain number of stones to secure a proper equilibrium for the return trip. After I found this out I always had plenty of game to show my friends."

PARADISE FOR CRIMINALS.

Various Islands in the Mediterranean Where They Are Well-Treated.

A correspondent writing from Italy gives some interesting details of the treatment of prisoners on various Italian islands he visited while on a trip in the Mediterranean. Each of the islands contains several hundred prisoners, who are locked up every night at sunset, released at daybreak and locked up again from midday until 2 o'clock. During the night no prisoner is allowed to absent himself under any circumstances, but at midday those who work on farms at a distance from the prison are allowed to remain out by special permission of the director.

During these free hours the prisoners can go anywhere they like on the island, and can engage in any work offered them by the townspeople or farmers. Any infraction of the rules of ordinary life around them or their prison is punished by seclusion.

The government furnishes physicians and medicines, a summer and winter suit of clothes, to each prisoner every year, and allows him fivepence in money daily for his food and other necessaries of life.

Danger of escape is prevented by a squad of soldiers—one to every ten criminals—and a swift-sailing felucca, manned by marines. On account of the cheapness of labor, the islands are so highly cultivated as to resemble gardens.

The correspondent adds: "As for the prisoners, the open air makes them the healthiest of any criminals I have ever seen. There is no sign in their faces and bodies of that prison blight which strikes every visitor to ordinary gaols."

PREFERS BLINDNESS TO CHICAGO.

Charles Broadway Rouss Is Loyal to the New York Spirit.

Chicago Tribune.

Dr. W. D. Lonergan, 199 South Clark street, read in the Chicago papers on March 5 of Charles Broadway Rouss, a wealthy New York merchant, who offered his store to any person who would cure him of blindness.

The noon train carried the Chicago doctor to New York, and March 6 found him in consultation with the Broadway merchant, who was reported to be gradually going blind. There was no promise of the store or of a specific sum in the event of a cure.

During the course of the conversation the Chicago man intimated that if a cure was attempted it might be necessary for the New Yorker to remain in Chicago for a month.

"That settles it," remarked the Broadway merchant. "I would not live in Chicago even to get back my eyesight."

He Turned.

"Right face! Left face! About face!"

The little, fat, red-faced sergeant bawled out his orders and watched the line of feet as the raw recruits endeavored to follow them out. To his astonishment one pair of feet, more noticeable on account of their extra large size, never turned. Without taking his eyes off these feet the little sergeant bawled out a second order, "About face!"

He could see that all the feet except those he watched turned in obedience. Rushing up to the owner, a little fellow, he seized him by the shoulder, shouting, "Why don't you turn with the rest?"

"Why I did," replied the trembling recruit.

"You did, eh? Well, I watched your feet and they never moved."

"It's the shoes they gave me, sir," said the poor fellow. "They're so large that when I turn my feet turns in them."—Harper's Round Table.

Largest Circulation in the World.

The distinction of having "the largest circulation in the world" belongs to the Bible. Every year, we gather from an interview with Rev. John Sharp, the secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in the Christian Commonwealth, more copies of the Scriptures are sold than that of any other publication. In 1894-5, for instance, the society alone issued nearly a million complete Bibles and over a million New Testaments, the exact total, including portions, being 3,837,822. The number of Bibles, Testaments and portions issued up to March 31, 1895, in over 300 languages by the society amounts to 143,396,320, while those issued by allied societies bring the total up to 231,291,824.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Not the Kind Wanted.

"Have you got anything that's good fur to keep the hair from fallin' out?" inquired the customer from the other end of the township.

"We've got Higgintop's Brazilian Hair Restorer," replied the druggist's clerk.

"Hain't ye got any United States Hair Restorer?"

"There isn't any in the market."

"Well, I ain't no durned Brazilian," rejoined the customer, turning away in a huff.—Philadelphia Press.

A Peer Becomes a Brewer.

Many brewers become peers; it is not often that a peer becomes a brewer. The young Marquis of Waterford is the most recent addition to the ranks of the brewers. His lordship has just taken over the St. Brigods Well Brewery at Dungarvan from the liquidators of the company, with the object of continuing and developing the industry.—Philadelphia Press.

LIKE A BIG MOSQUITO MENACING OUR COAST

Buzzing Little Bermuda Is Ever a Pestiferous Annoyance to Great Uncle Sam to the Westward.

THE WATCH STATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

Careful Estimate of the Strength of the Post Not Reassuring to the United States.

GLIMPSE OF A BIG ENGLISH WARRIOR IN DRY DOCK

A Dot in the Ocean, the Island is Something More Than a Mere Health Resort.

GUNS NEVER FIRED, BUT SHE IS THE GAGE OF WAR

(Copyright, 1896.)

LOOK at a map of the United States and notice how tiny is Rhode Island, compared with the 3,000 miles of land to the west of it. Here, dropped almost in mid-Atlantic, 760 miles from shore, is a land so tiny that by its side Rhode Island is as a leviathan to a minnow—so tiny that it is but a mosquito buzzing just beyond arm's length of Uncle Sam's big body. Now the bite of a mosquito isn't such a terrible calamity, but its presence is a nuisance.

There is a good deal of conservatism about John Bull's military methods. He began to think Bermuda of importance during the Revolution, when the colonies were public enemies; and he has kept adding to his fortifications here until they are held to be the strongest in the world—excepting only those of Gibraltar—until the natives say that the forts are "built of gold," such has been their cost.

Lay a fishhook or a letter J on its back, the shank to the right, the point sticking up on the left, and you have a fair idea of the shape of these islands, which curve through rather more than twenty miles of length, and average rather less than a mile wide. Something like one quarter of all the land is reserved for military use; and the Colonial Parliament, which is ready to yield almost anything to the home government so long as it retains the power of self-taxation for which the United States fought so successfully, has rendered it possible for Great Britain to take any other land it likes for purposes of defense by condemnation proceedings. She will not take a great deal more, however. There must always be some room left for the civilians who are to feed the soldiers. The civilians are naturally properous, in spite of the fact that their exports in 1894 were only £97,377 and their imports £286,047. This difference between income and outgo doesn't mean spendthrift profits. It measures the money brought into the country by the soldiers and by tourists from the States. When two regiments are quartered here, local trade booms, as it would in the West with wheat at $1.50 a bushel. When there is but one, the tourists nearly make it up.

As has been said, Bermuda is like a fishhook on its back, but the barbs are nine miles out and hidden. It curls up, like a bug in its chrysalis, in a nest of jagged coral reefs, far from shore on the north, but near it on the south. The usual steamboat channel is on the east, close to the islands, and so at the eastern end are the big forts and the big guns. At the western end are the dockyard and the anchorage of ships of war, protected not only by their own guns, but by twenty miles of reef navigation, which can be torpedoed and false buoyed to increase its dangers, and by the forts at the beginning of that lovely lane. This long channel is on the north of the islands, and in that direction the big forts look, making long noses at Brother Jonathan with the muzzles of their big guns. There is a feasible channel to the north—feasible, but narrow and crooked, though perhaps not worse than the main channel. Because this cut happens to be near the North Rocks the British government has urged Bermuda to consent to have the rocks blown up by dynamite; but as the rocks are not only an interesting geological survival, but a useful landmark, the colonial parliament has thus far refused to sanction this barbarous proposal.

The normal garrison of Bermuda is two regiments of infantry. At present there is but one, the Prince of Wales' Royal Leinster regiment from Canada. There are two companies of artillery, not enough to man all the guns, but a company of colored volunteers, officered by white men, is ready to help in case of need. They receive some trifling pay in time of peace as a retainer. There are also three companies of volunteer infantrymen, white and unpaid. There are two companies of regular engineers, of which one is always wise in the ways of torpedoes. These, with the signal men, surgeons, telegraph operator and the like, make up a total of about 1,300 regulars and 400 volunteers, more of the former, I fancy, than are gathered at any military post in the United States. There is no telegraph line on the island except the military line.

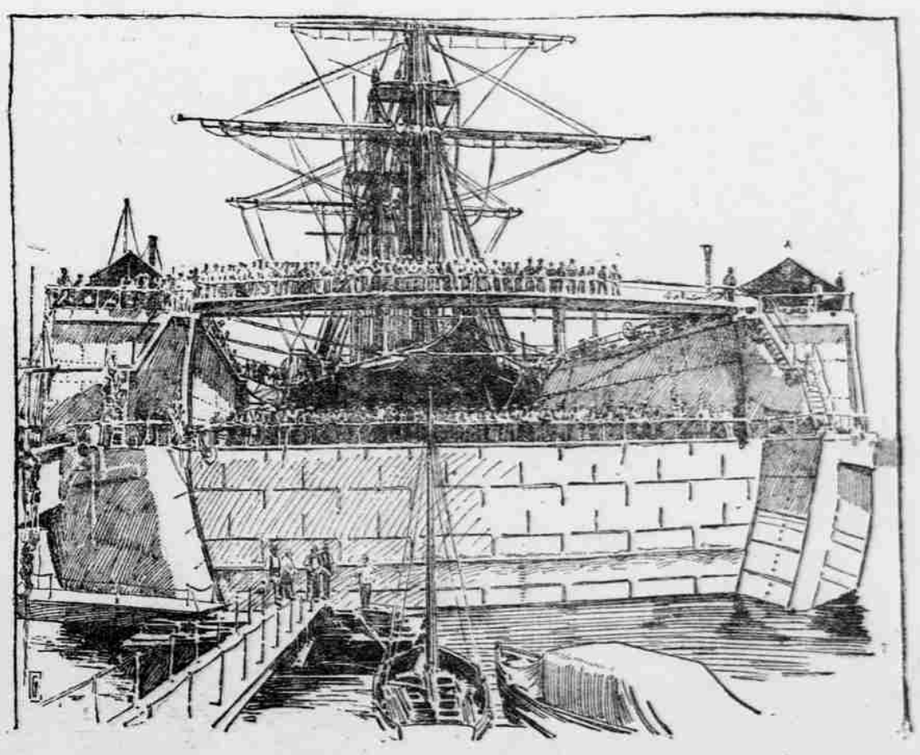
I take it for granted that no one in the United States cares very much about the Bermuda forces. They would be hard nuts to crack, but no one is obliged to break his teeth on them. Nobody need feel the least desire to do so, except the United States, Mexico or the Central American States, and the latter may be discarded in this connection. As a matter of fact, the Bermuda outfit is a mosquito to the United States; and it is nothing else, and intended to be nothing else. It is for this that the governor general is always a general in the British army, and combines the civil and military command. It is for this that in the council which he appoints the army element is strong, although the military members are scarcely residents in the ordinary sense of the word. It is for this that for 100 years money has been spent like water in Bermuda by the British military engineers.

The flagship, H. S. M. Crescent, is a twin screw cruiser of the first class, 7,700 tons, thirteen guns. The Tourmaline is a third-class cruiser of 2,120 tons; the Cordelia, 2,380 tons; the Mohawk, 1,770 tons, and the Buzzard 1,140 tons. There is also a coast defense turret ship, the Scorpion. About 9,000 tonnage of small ships are on the West Indian station within call, and there are in Bermuda four or five torpedo boats, good for nineteen or twenty knots an hour, besides a receiving ship and other trash. Of all these the Crescent is the only craft of consequence, and she is not the equal of some of the crack American cruisers. But the anchorage would hold as many more ships as the admiralty cared to send here.

The number of sailors in the British warships in Bermuda, varies, of course, much more than does the number of soldiers on shore. Probably when the squadron is all here they may considerably outnumber the soldiers. There are never less than 200 or 300 dockyard laborers. Strike an average between the two regiment garrisons and the smaller ones, and between the fleets of various sizes, and it will doubtless be fair to put the all-around average at 2,500 men, one-tenth as many as our regular army numbers.

The dockyard is in one way a melancholy sight, speaking of a wanton sacrifice of human toil. Much of the work of construction was done by convicts, who heaped up those great stone walls which time has rendered obsolete, who laid the sea wall of British granite and put in place the freestone blocks from Nova Scotia, who leveled hills to plains and heaped up hills where none had been, after the manner of ants. They are dead and gone now, and their work seems as one looks on it today as pathetic in its waste-fulness as that of the very coral insects who, through uncounted years, reared these islands from the sea only to topple, at the end, back into the sea again.

Bermuda, after nearly 300 years, has never yet fired a gun in a serious fight. It has never been the gauge of battle. It exists only as a nagging to a nation to whose people a war upon Great Britain seems now so impossible that nature might herself cry out upon it, powder mutiny against the fuse, and lead sulk in the harmless barrel.



H. M. S. Bellerophon in the Bermuda Dry Dock.