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BRITAIN'S NAVAL POWER

A SHORT HISTORY

OF THE

GROWTH OF THE BRITISH NAVY

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO TRAFALGAR

BY

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INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE TO NAVAL CADETS IN H.M.S. BRITANNIA

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TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

Prince George

DUKE OF YORK, K.G., K.T.

CAPTAIN R.N.

THIS SIMPLE NAVAL HISTORY

IS

BY PERMISSION

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

PREFACE

THIS short history of the British Navy is the outcome of a serious demand for such a book to supply a want recognised and admitted by all branches of H. M. Navy, and also, it is believed, by those ashore who wish their boys to know something of the story of British Naval renown.

The information has chiefly been gathered from the Naval Histories of Campbell, Southey, and Yonge, the two volumes of Sir Harris Nicolas, Mr. Froude's *Seamen of the Sixteenth Century*, a Pamphlet on the Armada by Mr. W. H. K. Wright; F.R.H.S., and the well-known work by Captain Mahan, U.S.N.

It is a matter of regret that the first Volume published by the Navy Records Society, dealing with the defeat of the Spanish Armada, was not issued until this work was in the press. Otherwise several statements now made on that subject would have undergone considerable modification, and one or two

misapprehensions which had previously obtained general credence would have been corrected.

No special fitness for the task can be claimed by the compiler, save a very keen interest in the subject : his pen is an inexperienced one : there are numbers of naval officers more capable for the work than himself ; but the lot fell to him, and in offering this book to the public, he can only allow himself to hope that its errors may not prove of so glaring a nature as wholly to destroy its usefulness.

L'ENVOI

AT the instance of my old friend Mr. Aldous, so well known for his services on H.M.S. *Britannia*, I warmly recommend the work of his colleague, Mr. Hamilton Williams, to readers of every class. To the rising generation especially it should be valuable. There is not, so far as I know, any other short Naval History in existence ; certainly there is none on which the same pains and study of authorities have been bestowed.

In the admirable little book which is now put forth it is shown by what efforts our naval inheritance has been won. We see the patriotism and the sacrifices made by our forefathers. We admire the heroism and the sufferings of our sailors. The story of the past cannot fail to inspire the present generation with the resolve to maintain a Navy worthy of our splendid traditions.

Brassey

NORMANHURST COURT, BATTLE,
13th November 1894.

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ERRATA

- Page 44, 12 lines from foot, *for twelve read two.*
,, 44, 11 lines from foot, *for 1525 read 1514.*
,, 56, Marginal note and corresponding line, *for Monday, 29th, read Sunday, 28th.*
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