

ENGLAND'S ADMIRALS.

By HERBERT S. JEANS.

Admirals all, they said their say
(The echoes are ringing still).
Admirals all, they went their way
To the haven under the hill.

But they left us a Kingdom none can take,
The realm of the circling sea—
To be ruled by the rightful sons of Blake
And the Rodney's yet to be.

NEWBOLT.

THE word Admiral comes to us through the French *amiral* from the Arabic *amir*—a lord, a chief, a prince; and it will be readily admitted that the old sea heroes to whom England owes so much are appropriately named.

Lord Howard of Effingham may be justly described as the father of the Admirals. He was not the first English Admiral nor the greatest; but, in the official sense, he stood at the head of the galaxy of great seamen whose deeds made the reign of Elizabeth one of the most brilliant in naval annals, and whose line has been continued in almost unbroken splendour to the present day. There were, of course, sea fights before the days of Elizabeth, and there were Admirals before Howard of Effingham. As early as the year 288 the Britons put out to sea in a vain endeavour to join their fleet with that of the Franks in the Mediterranean, where they were to have acted together against the

Romans. But the Romans in their usual thorough-going fashion prevented the alliance and destroyed both fleets. Alfred formed a navy to resist the Danes; and Edward III, in

1350 (at which date cannon is supposed to have been used for the first time at sea) engaged the Spaniards off the coast of Sussex, capturing 24 out of their fleet of 44 sail of large carracks. But these battles were fought in what may be called pre-Naval days. It was Henry VIII, who first made the Navy a

distinct profession and laid the foundation of the Admiralty as we know it to-day; and in the bluff King's reign (1512) and again in the days of Mary (1554), we find kinsmen of Howard of Effingham waging war at sea against the French and Spaniards, with varying success.

But it is the part which Effingham played in the defeat of the Spanish Armada (1588) that has given him his high place among England's Admirals.

He had not, perhaps, the genius and dash of Drake, nor the mind for detail of Hawkins; but he possessed other qualities which contributed as much towards the defeat of the Spanish Armada as the more showy attributes of the

Admirals who served under him. He had patience, and a lofty patriotism, and he was a good seaman.

It was Effingham who kept up the heart of the



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LORD HOWARD, OF EFFINGHAM.

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