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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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'Twas in TRAFALGAR'S BAY.

One hundred and three years ago today was fought the most decisive naval action in modern history, a conflict which once and for all broke the maritime power of Napoleon and compelled him to abandon his long-cherished hopes of an invasion of England. The brilliant personality of the British commander at Trafalgar renders it easy to overlook the immense issues involved in the action itself. When in 1803 Horatio Nelson was appointed to command the Mediterranean squadron, Napoleon was maturing his deep-laid plan for invading England; the magnificent army which afterwards swept through Europe had been marshalled along the cliffs at Boulogne; a huge flotilla of flat-bottomed vessels had been constructed, and lay ready to convey the army of France across the twenty odd miles of blue Channel water that lay between the French legions and their goal. Meanwhile Nelson had taken up his station off Toulon, and then began the most thorough and lengthy blockade in naval annals. For two whole years he kept the French close in port, maintaining his station in spite of repeated efforts made to dislodge him, and of the tempestuous weather with which his stout three-deckers were continually assailed. With Villeneuve, the French admiral, bottled up in port, Napoleon found it impossible to bring together a sufficiently powerful fleet to overcome British supremacy in the Channel, and until this had been done there could be no thought of embarking the army which was bidding its time on the cliffs of Boulogne and chafing to be led against perfidious Albion. This state of affairs lasted until the end of March 1805, when Villeneuve managed to effect his escape from Toulon, his intention being to rally a Spanish squadron, raid the West Indies, and then, returning to European waters, to liberate the French and Spanish squadrons blockaded at Ferrol, Rochefort, and Brest, and to reach the Channel with a great armada of some half a hundred ships of the line, against which the British fleet could not hope to prevail. Writing of Nelson's Toulon blockade, Captain Mahan, the great American naval authority, has summed up the situation in one of his inimitable phrases: "Those far distant storm-battered hulks, upon which the Grand Army never looked, were all that stood between it and the dominion of the world."

Immediately after Villeneuve's escape from Toulon, Nelson instituted a vigorous pursuit; but circumstances were against the British fleet, and for three months nothing was heard of the French ships; they seemed to have vanished from the face of the waters. Towards the end of June Villeneuve was back in European waters, this time with Nelson hot upon his track. The French admiral, acting directly against his master's orders, put into Cadiz. Preparations were at once made to bring him to action. Nelson was placed in supreme command of the British fleet, and in the last days of September he was cruising off Cadiz with thirty-four sail of the line. Villeneuve's force was numerically the same. Now occurred an incident typical of Nelson's personal daring and of his confidence in the potency of his ships and men. He knew that the French would not venture to fight him on equal terms, so he actually despatched seven or eight of his vessels home in order to bring about an engagement, which, he had resolved, should prove decisive.

On October 20 Villeneuve put to sea with the combined fleets of France and Spain, obeying a

peremptory command of Napoleon, who had stigmatised him as a feeble coward. By daybreak on the 21st Villeneuve's fleet was descried by the British forces off Cape Trafalgar. Nelson formed his ships into two columns, the first of which he himself led in the "Victory," the second being commanded by Collingwood. The two vast armadas slowly approaching each other under the impulse of a light breeze must have presented a grand and imposing appearance. A roar of cheering broke from the English ships as the famous signal flew from the masthead of the flagship, "England expects every man to do his duty." Towards noon the opposing fleets were locked in a deadly struggle; the "Victory," assailed by a tremendous fire, broke through the French lines soon after twelve, her belching guns working havoc in Villeneuve's flagship on the one side, and exchanging double-shotted broadsides with the immense "Santissima Trinidad," the largest warship afloat, on the other. Slowly but none the less surely the crushing fire from the English ships put one after another of their opponents out of action; the long columns were at first broken up into small groups of twos and threes, and finally into single units, each of which sustained a merciless hammering from the British gunners. At the crisis of the battle a musket-ball fired from the "Redoubtable's" tops inflicted a mortal wound on the English admiral, and towards evening the greatest of all Britain's seamen rendered up his gallant soul, after living long enough to hear that two-thirds of the enemy's fleet had been destroyed or captured. After Trafalgar the French made no serious effort to recover their power at sea, and towards the end of the same year the French army had disappeared from the cliffs of Boulogne, Napoleon having realised that so long as the command of the sea was in British hands he could not hope to set foot with his legions on British soil.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE INCORRIGIBLE MR. GRAYSON.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, October 19.

Mr. Victor Grayson, the Socialist M.P. who on Saturday last was suspended in the House for gross misbehaviour, addressed a mass meeting of the unemployed at St. Pancras last night, and took advantage of the opportunity to indulge in a volume of impudent abuse at the expense of King Edward. His wild remarks have excited the greatest indignation here, and a movement is on foot for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is not possible to permanently remove his name from the membership roll of Parliament, since he has conclusively demonstrated himself unfit to take a part in national legislation. From newspaper accounts of last night's meeting it appears that Mr. Grayson said: "I hear that the King has invited John Burns to some castle or other to stay with him. John Burns and Edward Rex, both in the same smoking-room, discussing how they may avoid solving the unemployed problem. John Burns is in his proper position; flunkey to a genteel, idle parasite. Fine company! And if there is any advantage it is on the side of the King. He has been an idle parasite from the beginning. John Burns is the man who dedicated himself to the people, and has sold their cause for

a handful of gold pieces. I say to-night, with the utmost calm, I am proud to tell the hungry man that he is less than a man if he starves while he can steal. I can trust you not to steal it from the needy man or woman. If you are going to steal, steal it from those who have it. They won't miss it. You will, at any rate, save them from indigestion."

One of the peculiarities of British law is that its representatives are told off to defend a man of Mr. Grayson's stamp from the just wrath of people who will not stand idly by and hear their sovereign abused in such vile terms. A strong cordon of police kept order last night at the St. Pancras meeting, and it was from behind a rampart of stalwart constables that Mr. Grayson delivered himself of his stream of vituperation. The consensus of opinion is to the effect that the remarks quoted above constitute a breach of the peace, and it is hoped that proceedings may be taken against this impudent demagogue who is incessantly seeking to urge the untutored masses forming his adherents to acts of violence. It is satisfactory to note that so far they have not acted upon his wicked advice, but in the event of such a happening, Mr. Grayson must be held personally responsible for the crimes of his deluded hearers.

THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

London, October 19.

Reuter learns that the programme of the proposed Conference is now being discussed by the Powers concerned, and that Italy has signified her agreement as to the necessity of a Conference. Reuter is authorized to state that neither the Dardanelles question nor the annexation of Crete by Greece will be brought before the Conference. Both questions will be settled in accordance with the wishes of the Turkish Government. Reuter learns further that the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires has informed the British Government that he has been charged to give the most positive assurances on the part of his Government that Bulgaria will take all possible steps to avoid a war with Turkey.

WRECK OF A NORTH SEA STEAMER.

London, October 19.

The steamer "Hull" of the Wilson line, on her return voyage from Hamburg to Hull, ran ashore today at the mouth of the Humber. All on board were rescued by means of a rocket apparatus, but the attempts to get the ship afloat were unsuccessful.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

FROM THE POLITICAL ARENA.

Less than two weeks have to elapse before the Presidential campaign is brought to a close, and already there are signs of a lull in the activity of the rival candidates and their backers. Apparently the spell-binders have talked themselves to a standstill and, in theory at least, the electors should now take advantage of the calm to review the volumes of eloquence with which their ears have been assailed, striving to distinguish facts from mere windy rhetoric, personal qualifications from prodigal promises. So far there is no record of the number of speeches delivered since the Republican and Democrat Conventions, but when the statistics are issued it will

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