

forced his way through it. He dropped into the arms of Wolf, who was waiting on the other side.

8. "Here," said Wolf—"here is your gold belt. I have stolen it from the robber king. Now off you go, along that road until you come to a hill. Cross the hill, and you will see a stream. Follow the stream, and it will lead you out of the forest."

9. Eric did as he was bidden. He followed the road, crossed the hill, and came to the stream. By this time he was quite worn out. He sank to the ground, and fell fast asleep.

#### 41. THE GOLD THREAD.—III.

1. Eric was awakened in the morning by the sound of a sweet voice singing a happy song. He looked up, and saw a beautiful lady, who told him not to fear.

2. "Your father," she said, "sent you into this forest for a wise and good reason, and he gave you a gold thread to guide you. He told you to take it in your hand, and not to let it go.

3. "Instead of obeying him you dropped the thread, and began to chase butterflies and gather wild berries. All your troubles have come upon you because you did not obey your father. Your brothers and sisters have made the same journey safely. They held the gold thread fast in their hands, and it led them safely through all the dangers of the forest."

4. "Please help me," cried Eric, "and I will never disobey again."

The fairy smiled. She told him that she was even then holding the gold thread which he had lost, and that she would give it to him. If he should lose it again, he would once more go astray and fall into danger. Then she gave him food, and again he began his journey.

5. How easily he found his way when he had the gold thread to guide him! At last he came to a green spot in the middle of the wood, and there saw a sight which made him stand still in wonder.

6. It was a bird about the size of a pigeon, with feathers of gold and a crown of silver. Close by was its nest, filled with gold eggs.

Eric thought he would like to have the eggs ; but when he tried to reach the nest the gold thread held him back. It seemed to be as stiff as wire.

7. " I will just let go for one moment," he said. " I can't possibly lose it. As soon as I have the eggs in my pocket I will pick it up again."

8. He dropped the thread, and stepped forward towards the nest. At this moment the bird screamed and flew away, and a cloud of fierce hawks began to swoop about his head.

9. Eric was now frightened. He searched everywhere for the gold thread, but nowhere could he see it. At last he lifted his eyes, and there it was, far above his head amidst the tall tree-tops.

10. Once more he was lost. He wept to think how foolish he had been. Then he remembered the beautiful lady, and falling upon his knees he cried, " Oh, give me back my thread, and help me never, never to let it go again ! "

11. Eric rose from his knees, and as he did so he saw the gold thread come slowly,

slowly down towards him. When it came near he sprang up and caught it. How glad he was to have his faithful guide once more!

12. He never lost it again. The gold thread led him onwards, and at last he reached the palace of the king. His father came out to greet him, and his brothers and sisters gave him a great welcome.

13. If you think over this story you will be able to make out its meaning for yourselves. If you are to be guided safely through all your troubles and trials, and brought home at last, you must hold fast to the *gold thread* of truth and duty.

*Adapted from "The Gold Thread,"*  
by NORMAN MACLEOD.

## 42. THE HEROINE OF LOOS.

1. Loos is a French village in the Black Country of North France. It is much like the villages which you find in the coal-mining districts of Staffordshire and Lancashire. Before the war it had four narrow streets of little houses, and around them were many small gardens.

2. In the middle of the village there is a big coal pit with head gear that our soldiers call Tower Bridge. At a distance it looks something like the noble bridge which spans the Thames near the Tower of London.

3. Before the Great War the village of Loos was quite unknown to British people. Now it has a fame that can never die. On September 25, 1915, our soldiers swept into it and drove out the Germans, who had held it for eleven months.

4. When our men pushed their way into Loos they found the Germans in almost every house. From the windows and from loopholes in the walls they fired rifles and machine guns, and many of our brave fellows fell. Scottish soldiers threw bombs into the houses, and in this way cleared out the enemy.

5. Now in the village there was a French girl of eighteen named Emilienne Moreau. She had lived in the place all the time that the Germans held it. When our soldiers were fighting their way through the streets she was very kind indeed to the wounded. She bandaged them, gave them food and



THE BATTLE OF LOOS.

water, and placed them where they would be safe from shot and shell.

6. While she was doing this noble work she saw some Germans killing our poor wounded men. The sight made her very angry. Seizing a pistol, she shot down several of the cruel fellows, and afterwards flung bombs at them.

7. She was a very gentle girl, and she could not bear the thought of taking a man's life; but when she saw the cowardly Germans killing our wounded, she could not help springing to the rescue. She lost all fear, and became as brave as a lioness in defence of those who could not help themselves.

8. Some months later this gallant girl was taken to Paris, and there a general pinned a cross of gold upon her breast. It was a great day for Emilienne.

9. She was dressed in black because she had lost many relatives in the war. Around her were the bravest of French soldiers, each carrying the flag of his regiment. She cast down her eyes and trembled when the general spoke to her and said, "You do

honour to the women of France. You have set them a noble example."

10. I think you will agree with the general. Emilienne set a noble example not only to her French sisters, but to the women and girls of Britain as well.

### 43. WHERE'S POLLY?

1. Oh, father's gone to market-town—he was up before the day—

And Jamie's after rabbits, and the man is making hay,

And whistling down the hollow goes the boy that minds the mill,

While mother from the kitchen door is calling with a will,

"Polly! Polly! The cows are in the corn!  
Oh, where's Polly?"

2. From all the misty morning air there comes a summer sound,

A murmur as of waters, from skies and trees and ground.

The birds they sing upon the wing, the pigeons bill and coo,

And over hill and hollow rings again the loud halloo:

"Polly! Where's Polly? The cows are in the corn!

Oh, where's Polly?"



## Where's Polly?

3. Above the trees the honey bees swarm by with  
buzz and boom,  
And in the field and garden a thousand blossoms  
bloom.  
Across the farmer's meadow the whispering south  
wind blows,  
While all along the hollow the rippling streamlet  
flows.  
But, Polly! Polly! The cows are in the corn!  
Oh, where's Polly?

4. How strange at such a time of day the mill should  
stop its clatter!  
The farmer's wife is listening now, and wonders  
what's the matter;  
Oh, wild the birds are singing in the wood and on  
the hill,  
While whistling up the hollow goes the boy that  
minds the mill.  
But, Polly! Polly! The cows are in the corn!  
Oh, where's Polly?  
RICHARD WATSON GILDER.

#### 44. WITH STURDEE TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.—I.

##### A MIDDY'S STORY.

##### WE SAIL FOR THE SOUTHERN SEAS.

1. I remember that morning well. It was Guy Fawkes Day in the year 1914. *Invincible*, our ship, was lying in harbour, and we were all feeling anything but invincible. Two days before, the Germans had shelled Yarmouth, and had managed to return to their own ports safely.

2. That was bad enough, but the morning's newspaper brought us worse news. The German admiral, von Spee, had fought a battle in the Pacific Ocean, and had sunk three of our warships. Only one of them, *Glasgow*, had escaped.

3. We had not much time, however, to think of this defeat; for we were ordered off to Devonport, where we were to take in stores without delay. We all knew that this meant a long cruise but whither we were bound nobody could say.

4. An hour later we guessed that we were

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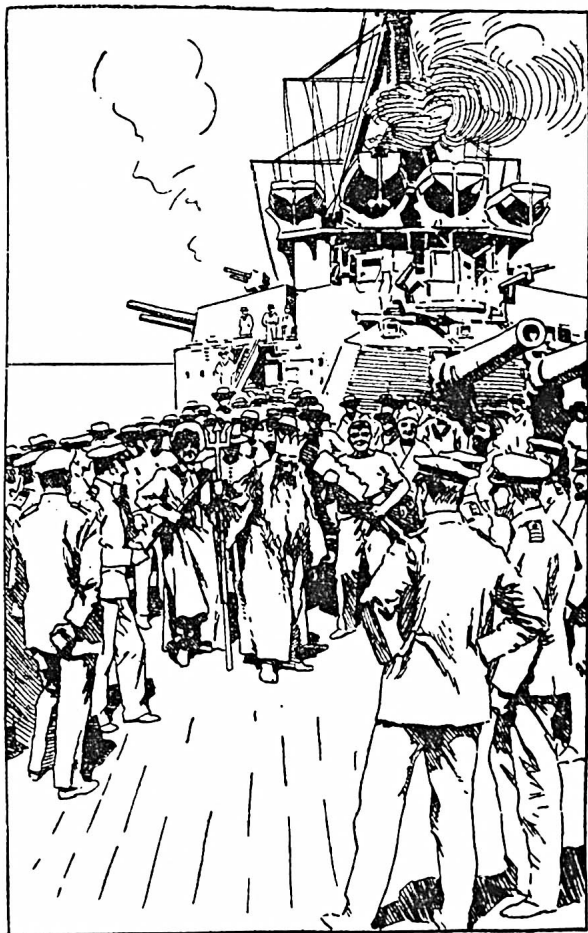
bound for the Southern Seas, and that we were going to fight von Spee. At once all our gloom vanished. We were in the highest spirits. Before long we knew that Admiral Sturdee was to command us.

5. For the next three days we worked as we had never worked before. At the end of the time all our stores were on board, and we were ready to sail. In Plymouth Sound we were joined by *Inflexible*, and away we rolled to the westward, through the darkness of a stormy night.

6. Soon the fogs and cold winds of the north gave way to bright, warm sunshine. We called at a certain island to coal, and then continued our voyage across a summer sea.

7. On Saturday, 21st November, we were due to cross the equator, or the "line" as sailors call it. The evening before, we heard a loud voice from the sea shouting, "Ship ahoy!" The captain, who was on the bridge, made reply, "Ay, ay!" and in a minute or two King Neptune came on board.

8. He was a big fellow, with a flowing beard; and strange to say, though he had



**KING NEPTUNE COMES ON BOARD.**

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just come out of the sea, he was quite dry. As soon as he trod the deck he asked, "What ship is this?" On being told that it was His Majesty's ship *Invincible*, he said that he would visit us next day and make all those who were crossing the line for the first time his true subjects.

9. I haven't time to tell you fully what took place next day. King Neptune and his wife appeared, and gave the admiral and captain big Iron Crosses. Then every officer and man who had not before crossed the line had to come up to the Sea King in turn. I was amongst them, and I will tell you what happened to me.

10. I was seized and thrust into a chair, and my face was plastered with nasty-smelling soap. Then a man with a big wooden razor scraped it off, and I was tumbled backwards head over heels into a big bath, where I was ducked again and again.

11. I scrambled out and changed my clothes, and was proud to know that I was now a true subject of King Neptune. About noon the Sea King waved his hand, and said, "Away, my bonny lads, to the deep." Then

## With Sturdee to Falkland Islands. 151

the band struck up, and we saw no more of him.

12. So ended a very jolly day. All the time our engines were going "full speed" ahead. With every throb we were drawing nearer and nearer to the waters of the Southern Seas in which von Spee was sailing.

13. Early on the morning of 26th November we were joined by other ships. These were *Carnarvon*, *Kent*, *Cornwall*, *Bristol*, and *Glasgow*, as well as several others. I was much interested in *Glasgow*, for she was the ship which had escaped when von Spee sent three of our vessels to the bottom.

14. One of our ships, *Canopus*, had not come up in time to take part in the battle, but had fallen in with *Glasgow* later on. A friend told me that she was now in the harbour to which we were bound.

15. By this time we knew that we were making for Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands. One of our officers told me that these islands are very cold and windy. At half-past ten on the morning of Monday, 7th December, we dropped anchor at Port Stanley.

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16. Lying in the almost landlocked harbour we were quite hidden. No enemy could see us until he came quite close to the entrance. Then it would be too late for him to escape, for our ships were the fastest and most powerful in the Southern Seas.

## 45. WITH STURDEE TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.—II.

### THE ENEMY IN SIGHT.

1. Next morning we crawled out of our hammocks at half-past three. It was very cold, and my teeth were chattering as I swallowed a bowl of hot cocoa. I had hardly got on deck before the bugle blew and the boatswain's mates piped the call, "Clear lower deck; hands coal ship."

2. We had not finished our work when the look-out on Sapper's Hill sent down this message: "Eight ships sighted about twelve miles off, all making for Stanley." It was von Spee's fleet. We had come out to seek him; but he had come to seek us.

3. The good news spread through the ship like wildfire. Our fellows were delighted. There was a grin on every black, honest face. How the men worked! Coaling was finished in double-quick time.

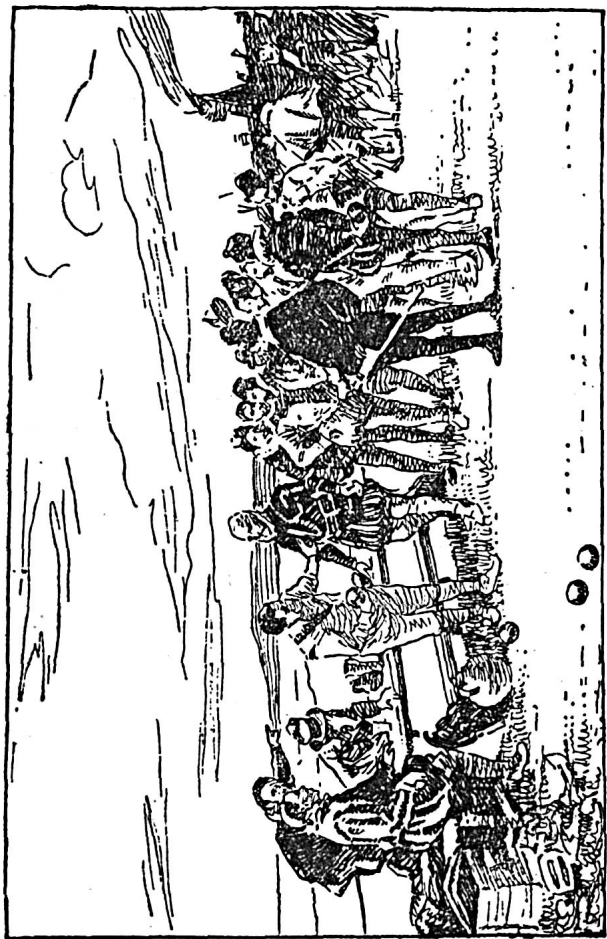
4. Now I must tell you a little story which I hope you will not forget. When our flag lieutenant heard that von Spee's fleet had been sighted he was in bed. He jumped out at once and ran to the admiral's cabin. The admiral was shaving.

5. The lieutenant told him the news; but the admiral took it very coolly. "Well," he said, "that's all right. Now you had better get dressed. We'll see about it later."

6. Perhaps you have read in your history book that when Sir Francis Drake was told that the Spanish Armada was in sight he was playing bowls. When he heard the news he said, "Time to finish the game, and beat the Spaniards afterwards." Our admiral was just as cool and just as confident as the old sea-dog.

7. It was a beautiful morning. The sun was bright, the sky was clear, and the sea was calm. On came the German ships, nearer





*"Time to finish the game, and beat the Spaniards afterwards."*

and nearer. It was clear that von Spee had no idea that a big fleet was lying in the harbour ready to come out and give him battle.

8. By twenty minutes past nine his two leading ships were only about ten miles away. Then *Canopus* opened fire across a narrow neck of land. Her shots fell short; but the enemy's ships wheeled about, and joined the other ships of the fleet.

9. Our big ships were now sending up dense clouds of smoke, so as to hide them from the enemy. On and on came the German ships, and at twenty minutes past ten *Carnarvon*, *Inflexible*, *Invincible*, *Cornwall*, *Glasgow*, and *Kent* steamed out of the harbour. When von Spee saw them he knew that he was trapped. Our ships were faster than his, and our guns were heavier and of longer range. He could not possibly escape.

10 A few minutes later our admiral hoisted the signal, "Chase," and we soon worked up to the top speed, and were flying through the water. Our ship and *Inflexible* easily ran ahead, of the other vessels,

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and had to slow down to enable them to keep up with us.

11. At half-past eleven we were piped to dinner. We were all glad of the meal. We had been working hard since early morning, and were as hungry as hunters. Now, for the first time, we had a chance to wash and change our clothes.

12. By twenty minutes past twelve we were again running at top speed. Five minutes later *Inflexible* opened fire, and three minutes later we joined in. The battle had begun.

## 46. WITH STURDEE TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.—III.

### THE BATTLE.

1. We were now about eight miles from the enemy, and von Spee's two big ships had begun to return our fire. Their shots fell short, and they tried hard to get away; but we followed fast on their heels.

2. From a quarter-past three until a quarter to four the battle raged fiercely. Big guns were roaring; shells were shriek-