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ANSWERS

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ANSWERS.

51. (1911). CUTTY SHARK.—"O. G.," in "M. M.," February, 1913, says he has been unsuccessful in his search for a picture of this ship at the Antipodes. If this gentleman will write me at 12, Shannon Street, Wellington, N.Z., I will be pleased to send him, or any other reader, a print taken from a negative of this ship, showing her in Sydney harbour in 1891, in exchange for a similar print of any other clipper. I also have photos of most all the old Australasian sailing ships of the last 40 years that I will be pleased to exchange with your readers.—F. G. LAYTON.

39. AN EARLY GERMAN FLEET.—J. K. L. dismisses as "preposterous" the idea that any of the ships of the Duchy of Kurland (or Courland) carried as many as 80 guns. He seems, however, to have limited the scope of the query to the year 1625, whereas the fleet is said to have lasted till 1658. I see no reason why there should not have been 80-gun ships in the Baltic by the latter date. The English *Sovereign* of 100 guns had been in existence for twenty years, and there were two other ships in the English fleet carrying 80 guns or more, the *Prince* (rebuilt) and the *Naseby*. The Swedish *Krona* and *Viktoria* both carried 74 guns in 1658, and the latter afterwards carried 84. If this Kurland fleet really existed, there must be somewhere records of its composition; presumably Admiral Kirchoff based his statement on some good authority.—R. C. A.

63. COMMANDER.—Commanders being addressed as captain is an old custom, hence the expression "being posted" on attaining post captain's rank.

It must be remembered that until the middle of the 19th century a commander was always captain of his own ship; line

of battleships carried first lieutenants and no commanders.

Addressing a lieutenant, verbally, as "Mr." is correct—except in the American Navy.

Sailing orders are still, as a rule, addressed "John Brown, Esquire," and not "Captain John Brown." I have never heard a captain address a lieutenant otherwise than as "Mr.," but I consider it correct to put the "Lieutenant" on the envelope when addressing him; in the case of a subaltern "Esquire" is, of course, substituted.—R. F. P.

74. JORNDY.—With reference to the term *Johndy* (not *Jorndy*) for the Master-at-arms, the first time I heard it was on July 22nd, 1844, a few days after I joined my first ship. An old bandsman was had aft for threatening the Master-at-arms. The words he used were:—"Johndy Cross!" "Johndy Cross! beware of the fate of *Johndy Brown*." Asked what he meant he said he did not mean anything. But we thought he had killed *Brown*, and he was always called the assassin.

I asked the oldest officer I knew, Sir Joshua Rowley who entered the service in 1802, and he told me that the term *Johndy* had been used for the Master-at-arms ever since he had been in the Navy. It originated with the French prisoners, who called the Masters-at-arms *Gens d'armes*, which was corrupted, on the lower deck, into *Johndy Damn*, and soon got abbreviated into *Johndy*; so Sir Joshua said.—CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM.

77. DEFINITIONS—SMITTING LINE.—The old spelling was *smiting line*, a line used for breaking the stops with which a sail was stopped up. "Smite the mizen," that is, hale by the *smiting line*, that the sail may fall down.—C. C. G.