

MEN-OF-WAR NAMES

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THEIR MEANING AND ORIGIN

BY

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ROYAL NAVY



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P R E F A C E

THANKS to the numerous naval hand-books and works of similar nature which are now being published periodically in this and other countries, very complete and minute information concerning the war fleets of the world is at every one's disposal. When dealing with speed, armour, displacement, guns, etc.—all the items, in fact, upon which the fighting value of a ship is based—her name is only used to distinguish her from others. What may be called the sentimental aspect—that is, why a ship bears a particular name and how she came to receive it—would be decidedly out of place in the above-mentioned works. It appears none the less to be a subject not devoid of interest, to those at least who, like myself, serve in our men-of-war and meet those of other nations. These pages have, therefore, been compiled in the hope that my brother officers may occasionally turn to them—possibly, too, our intelligent and educated ship-mates before the mast.

It may be thought by some to be an omission that no mention is made in the case of our own Navy of the history, both in peace and in war, of the several ships which have successively borne the same name. When, however, it is borne in mind that nearly all names in the present Navy List have a long record of past services, covering three centuries in some cases, it will be readily conceded that it is a subject worthy of

separate and ample treatment. I sincerely hope that abler hands than mine will deal with it one day.

In compiling these pages I have received most valuable and welcome assistance from many sides, for which I beg to offer my most cordial thanks.

In the British section the data showing how old each name is, and how many representatives it has had, as well as various notes concerning captures in war, have been contributed by Mr. W. Laird Clowes and Captain H. Garbett, R.N. Captain Sir John Hext, K.C.I.E., Captain W. Mayes, R.N., and Captain J. Denison, R.N., have helped with the Indian and Colonial Navies.

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In conclusion, I wish to state that but for the devoted assistance of my wife, this little book would certainly not have seen the light of day.

L. B.

H.M.S. *Majestic*,
 CHANNEL SQUADRON, Oct. 1897.

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