

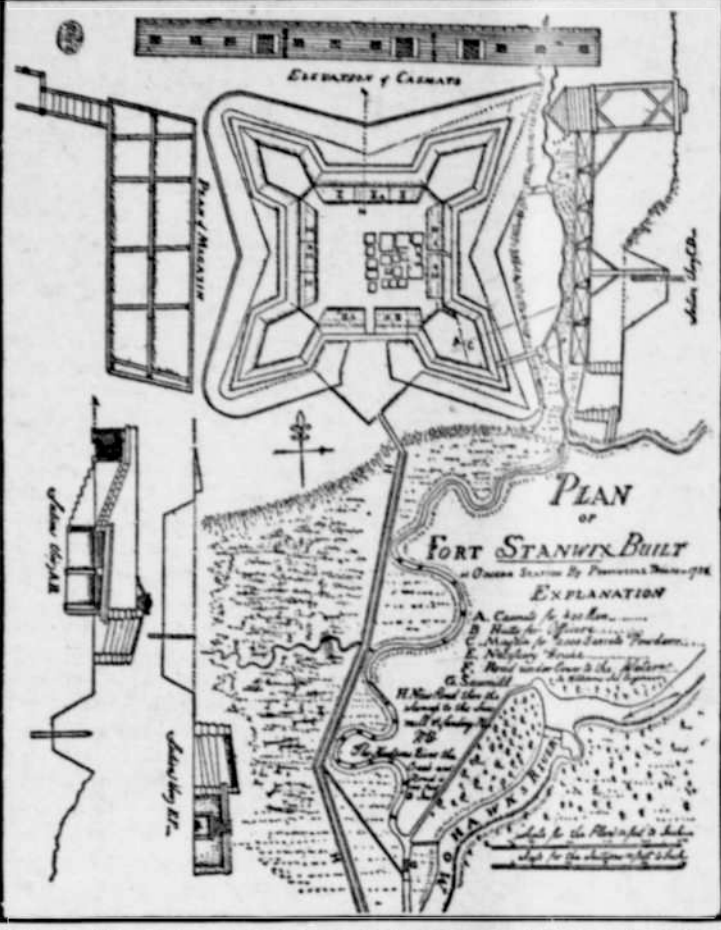
Where "Old Glory" First Faced the Enemy



FORT SCHUYLER, BUILT UPON RUINS OF FORT STANWIX



GEN. PETER GANSEVOORT



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

NE hundred and fifty years ago the United States had arrived at a crucial moment in its struggle for independence from the mother country. Despite Washington's brilliant victories at Braddock and Trenton, which had retrieved the earlier disasters in the campaign of 1776 and which had raised the hopes of the patriots for the ultimate success of their cause, the year 1777 opened with the promise that the decisive struggle was yet ahead.

For one thing, the British had realized by this time that in Washington they had to deal with a master strategist and that in the Continental army which he led they were no longer dealing with an "undisciplined rabble of farmers." So the bulldog qualities of the Briton which are brought out best by defeat began to assert themselves and the British ministry began to make adequate preparations for the stern task ahead. The first evidence of Great Britain's determination to strike a telling blow at her rebellious colonies was to plan a campaign which would split the colonies in two and isolate New England, which it looked upon as the head of the rebellion.

The plan, as conceived was a sound one and with every promise of success. The natural line of operation to bring about this split was the route between Lakes Champlain and George and the Hudson river. Gen. John Burgoyne was to start from Canada and come south via Champlain and George while Lord Howe, who then held New York, was to proceed up the Hudson and meet him at Albany. A third force, starting from Canada, was to move from Oswego on Lake Ontario, proceed down the Mohawk river, ravage the rich interior of New York and with the stores thus accumulated supply Burgoyne's and Howe's forces when the three armies met at Albany.

Out on the western frontier, where the city of Rome, N. Y., now stands, there was situated a fort which was destined to play an important part in the breaking up of the British campaign and where one of the most dramatic events of the Revolution was to take place. Originally it was known as Fort Stanwix, built by colonial troops in 1758 as a protection for the western frontier against the French and Indians and named for Gen. John Stanwix, a gallant Irishman, who had served in the French and Indian wars.

After the menace of the French and Indians had been removed, Fort Stanwix was allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. Its wooden buildings and stockade rotted to the ground and its earthworks almost leveled by the elements. Early in 1776 Gen. Philip Schuyler, commander of the American forces in the north, ordered Colonel Dayton to occupy this important place, which guarded the western gateway to the Mohawk valley, and to rebuild the fort. Dayton set about to do this and gave the new fort the name of Fort Schuyler, in honor of his commander.

In the meantime the British expedition which was to sweep through the Mohawk valley was under way. It was commanded by Col. Barry St. Leger, who started at the same time that Burgoyne started south. St. Leger ascended the St. Lawrence, landed at Oswego about the middle of July, 1777, and set out for Fort Schuyler. Meanwhile that post had been garrisoned by troops commanded by Col. Peter Gansevoort, an officer in the New York line, who had served with Arnold and Montgomery before Quebec and who had been ordered there to finish the work of repairing the fort started by Dayton. He was later joined by Col. Marinus Willett, an able officer whose later services were brilliant.

On August 2 Lieut. Col. Mellon, bringing with him 200 men of the Ninth Massachusetts regiment and two bateaux of provisions, arrived at the fort

to reinforce Gansevoort and Willett. The fort now had a force of about 750 men and on August 8 the post was surrounded by St. Leger's army of some 1,700 British regulars, Tories and Indians. According to the tradition which is now generally accepted, with Mellon's supplies came the news that on June 14, 1777, the Second Continental congress had adopted a resolution whereby the flag of the United States was to be composed of thirteen alternate red and white stripes and a blue field upon which appeared 13 stars. Upon his arrival St. Leger had sent a formal demand to Gansevoort for the surrender of the post. The reply was an emphatic refusal and to add point to the refusal a new flag which had been hastily contrived was run up to the top of the mast and a cannon that had been leveled at the enemy's camp was fired. This flag is described in Colonel Willett's diary as follows: "The necessity of having a flag had, upon the arrival of the enemy, taxed the invention of the garrison a little, and a decent one was soon contrived. The white stripes were cut out of an ammunition shirt, the blue of the camlet cloak taken from the enemy at Peekskill, while the red stripes were made of different pieces of stuff procured from one and another of the garrison."

But this historic event is only one of the several which took place at Fort Schuyler, or Fort Stanwix, as it is so often called. At the approach of St. Leger, General Schuyler had called out the Tryon county militia under the command of the veteran Gen. Nicholas Herkimer, who with an army of some 800 men was on the way to Fort Schuyler. Near Oriskany creek, eight miles from the fort, Herkimer halted and sent messengers to Gansevoort, requesting him to fire three guns immediately upon their arrival. Gansevoort was then to make a sortie against the enemy and Herkimer would advance and try to break through the enemy to join him and thus raise the siege.

The plan was an excellent one, but unfortunately it was upset by the impatience of the militia, and especially some of Herkimer's officers, who demanded to be led against the enemy at once. The general pleaded with them in vain to wait until the guns of Fort Schuyler announced that Gansevoort would support their movement. But they insisted on rushing forward to their own destruction for they fell into an ambushade prepared by a large party of Tories and Indians and half of their number was slain in the fierce little Battle of Oriskany.

In the midst of the battle Herkimer's messengers reached Gansevoort, who had heard the distant firing and then realized for the first time what it meant. He immediately dispatched a force of 250 picked men under Willett, who fell upon St. Leger's camp, stampeded a part of his force with heavy losses, captured twenty wagon loads of plunder, five British flags and returned to the fort without losing a man. These flags were hoisted on the flagstaff of Fort Schuyler under the new flag as a further gesture of defiance to the enemy. It was more than that—for it was also a prophecy of the ultimate triumph of the cause for which that flag stood.

St. Leger continued the siege, but could accomplish little against the stout defense of Gansevoort and Willett. Colonel Willett had volunteered for the duty of making his way through the enemy lines and carrying news of the fort's condition to Schuyler. That general immediately dispatched Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold with a force of 1,200 men to raise the siege. By this time the Indians dismayed by their losses at Oriskany (for St. Leger's allies had suffered as heavily in that engagement as had Herkimer's men) and frightened at the reports of the strength of Arnold's force which was moving against them, got out of hand and finally deserted St. Leger in a body. That commander realized that he was up against a hopeless proposition. So he raised the siege of Fort Schuyler and retreated precipitately.

So Fort Schuyler is more than a landmark where Old Glory first flew in the face of the enemy. It was the first American victory in the decisive campaign of the war. St. Leger's failure was the first blow struck at the success of the British plan. The second came at Bennington, Vt., on August 16 when Gen. John Stark and his Green Mountain Boys won their victory over the Hessians whom Burgoyne had sent to that place to capture a store of supplies. By this time Burgoyne was in a predicament. The British ministry, after laying its ambitious plan, by some strange blindness to the necessity of assuring absolute co-operation of all units in it, had failed to notify Howe of his part. So he did nothing while Burgoyne hoped in vain for help from that quarter. Fate held in store for Burgoyne Saratoga and surrender!

The author of this article, Elmo Scott Watson, is a well-known writer on the history of the United States, particularly that of the American frontier, and he has made a special study of the thrilling and romantic Revolutionary war period in the famous Mohawk valley of New York. In preparing this article, which deals with an incident in that period, he has drawn upon the most authentic sources of information available in order to present here an accurate account of the events recorded. Read it and you can tell your children on Flag day the story of the historic occasion, "When Old Glory First Faced the Enemy," an army of British and Indians one August day 150 years ago on the old New York frontier.



Elmo Scott Watson

pared by a large party of Tories and Indians and half of their number was slain in the fierce little Battle of Oriskany.

In the midst of the battle Herkimer's messengers reached Gansevoort, who had heard the distant firing and then realized for the first time what it meant. He immediately dispatched a force of 250 picked men under Willett, who fell upon St. Leger's camp, stampeded a part of his force with heavy losses, captured twenty wagon loads of plunder, five British flags and returned to the fort without losing a man. These flags were hoisted on the flagstaff of Fort Schuyler under the new flag as a further gesture of defiance to the enemy. It was more than that—for it was also a prophecy of the ultimate triumph of the cause for which that flag stood.

St. Leger continued the siege, but could accomplish little against the stout defense of Gansevoort and Willett. Colonel Willett had volunteered for the duty of making his way through the enemy lines and carrying news of the fort's condition to Schuyler. That general immediately dispatched Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold with a force of 1,200 men to raise the siege. By this time the Indians dismayed by their losses at Oriskany (for St. Leger's allies had suffered as heavily in that engagement as had Herkimer's men) and frightened at the reports of the strength of Arnold's force which was moving against them, got out of hand and finally deserted St. Leger in a body. That commander realized that he was up against a hopeless proposition. So he raised the siege of Fort Schuyler and retreated precipitately.

So Fort Schuyler is more than a landmark where Old Glory first flew in the face of the enemy. It was the first American victory in the decisive campaign of the war. St. Leger's failure was the first blow struck at the success of the British plan. The second came at Bennington, Vt., on August 16 when Gen. John Stark and his Green Mountain Boys won their victory over the Hessians whom Burgoyne had sent to that place to capture a store of supplies. By this time Burgoyne was in a predicament. The British ministry, after laying its ambitious plan, by some strange blindness to the necessity of assuring absolute co-operation of all units in it, had failed to notify Howe of his part. So he did nothing while Burgoyne hoped in vain for help from that quarter. Fate held in store for Burgoyne Saratoga and surrender!

This year marks the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of those stirring events which made world history. New York is planning to celebrate their anniversary with sequentennial celebrations which will have nation-wide interest because they were events of vital importance to the whole nation. No doubt the most important of these celebrations will be the one which will be held near Saratoga on the anniversary of Burgoyne's surrender. But on August 8 there will be one which will commemorate one of the most dramatic events in all American history. It will take place where Fort Schuyler once stood and it will commemorate the day on which Old Glory first faced the enemy. So Flag day this year has a particular significance, not only because June 14 marks the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as our national emblem, but because it foreshadows the anniversary some six weeks later of the day when Americans first fought in defense of that emblem and the principles for which it stands.

orative value. They furnish the modern square hall, and can be used as electric lamp standards, although that idea sometimes detracts from their appearance. They cost anything from a couple of guineas to twenty-six pounds, and both small and large are built to scale. Most of them are brilliantly colored with blue, green, red, silver, and gold, but the colors have been skillfully toned down in order to give the appearance of age to the models.—The Manchester Guardian.

Boiling Point of Oils

The bureau of standards says that the boiling point of petroleum oil varies widely and no definite figure can be given. Kerosene may begin to boil at 150 degrees Centigrade (300 degrees Fahrenheit) or lower, while many oils decompose or "crack" before the boiling point is reached, and the boiling point cannot be measured.

The standard working week in this country has been shortened by 20 per cent within a generation.

New Inventions Will Help Man

Scientists Work on Ways to Run Human Machine More Efficiently.

New York.—Discoveries that will enable human beings to run themselves as efficiently as they now run their automobiles, their radio sets, and their washing machines are predicted by Sumner N. Blossom, editor of Popular Science Monthly.

Mr. Blossom, who has just completed a world-wide survey of scientific trends, pointed out that in ever increasing numbers scientists are devoting themselves to physiological and psychological research.

"Regiments of trained men are studying human beings, their emotions, their senses, and their bodies," he said. "From these efforts to help us get more out of ourselves may well come results of larger importance to humanity than scientific achievements with steam, steel, electricity, and other tools. Able scientists see the possibility of transmitting thought without speech and other astounding discoveries as a result of studies of the human mind."

Human Machine Secrets Sought.

The most obscure functions of the human body are being studied, according to Mr. Blossom, in a tremendous effort to learn the secrets of the human machine. The isolation of all of the life-giving vitamins and the development of methods for their curative use is today a possibility. Urease, the first of the important enzymes which play such a mysterious and important part in human digestion, has already been isolated and purified in crystalline form at Cornell. More complete knowledge of the body enzymes may shortly be expected, together with new and probably profound results in the treatment of stomach disorders.

"Further discoveries in the study of bacteriophage, the mysterious substance now believed to prey upon germs hostile to the human body, are imminent," he continued. "As a result science may shortly equip us with a natural weapon to rid the human body of destructive organisms that cause our fatal diseases."

Rewards for Cancer Cure.

Every day brings us one step nearer to final conquest of cancer. The war against this baffling scourge has been intensified by announcement of a \$50,000 award to the discoverer of the cause of cancer and \$50,000 to the discoverer of its cure.

"The mysteries of the endocrine glands and the functions in the body are rapidly being solved by a large group of brilliant investigators in this field of research. Sufficient already is known to establish the conviction that the endocrines play a profound part in body functioning, and that they also probably bear on personality and affect individual characteristics.

"Not only gland secretions but body chemistry in general is subject to exhaustive study in biological laboratories throughout the world. The action of poisons on the human life cells is being studied and the existence of 'toxamins,' or elements opposite to vitamins in food, is suspected.

"The hidden mysteries of heredity and sex are rapidly yielding to science. A female hormone has been isolated. From inquiries already far ad-

vanced the scientific predetermination of sex in individuals seems no longer beyond the range of possibility.

May Conquer Diabetes.

"Diabetes, brought under control by the discovery of insulin, may be expected to yield to definite conquest as investigators approach discovery of its cause, as yet unknown. Sleeping sickness, tuberculosis and other diseases seem to be on the verge of disclosing their mysteries to research workers."

Turning to the field of practical invention, Mr. Blossom declared that the collective efforts of scientists in several countries indicate the possibility of practical development of radio transmission of motion pictures and television in the near future.

"The year will witness far-reaching developments in the use of the radio 'beam.' Transmission in a single direction is already an accomplished fact between several long distance radio telegraph stations and the extension of this system to other radio telegraph stations, and the newly opened trans-Atlantic radio telephone will result in a vast saving in the amount of power required to insure consistent results. 'Beam' transmission also will greatly increase the secrecy of communication—one of the defects of commercial radio in its present form.

Study of "Cosmic Rays."

"Profound discoveries are not unlikely from the present study of the Millikan 'cosmic rays,' which are now known to bombard the earth from space and which can penetrate nine feet of lead. Science suggests the possibility that man may be able to harness this 'free energy' as one solution of the world's power problem.

"Another step toward realization of the fascinating dream of obtaining power from the sun is seen in the recent success of Dr. W. W. Coblentz, of the United States bureau of standards, in generating electricity by light through the agency of the mineral molybdenite. This mineral is one of the chief sources of the metal molybdenum used in steel manufacture.

Doctor Coblentz discovered that a crystal of molybdenite, when exposed to natural light, produces an electric

Whale Chews 80 Feet Of Cable to Alaska

Washington.—The whale which interrupted traffic on the Alaska cable early in April chewed up so much of the cable that an 80-foot replacement was necessary to restore communication. A report reaching the War department and just made public said that when the cable ship Delwood reached the scene and pulled up the cable a 20-ton whale, 28 feet long and about 19 feet in girth was found trapped in coils of the cable that had become wound about its lower jaw and tail.

"The core of the cable had been completely severed by the teeth of the whale in eight different places," the announcement said. "Inasmuch as the cable core was covered both by gutta-percha and heavy iron armor, some idea of the whale's strength may be obtained."

Eccentric Farmer's Will Scatters \$100,000

Lebanon, Pa.—William Hunsicker, an eccentric but highly successful farmer, who died at his home at Hamlin, left an estate of nearly \$100,000, which is disposed of in a will probated here in 146 bequests of cash to neighbors and friends for miles around, ranging from \$50 to \$500, and in about a dozen other bequests to churches.

The homestead farm of 215 acres, owned and tenanted by Hunsicker's ancestors for 200 years, and 50 shares of Lebanon National bank stock, worth \$175 a share, go in trust for life to a favorite niece, and then, "never to be sold," to the Lebanon National bank, of which the testator was a director. This is the first direct bequest to a bank in Lebanon county and is believed to be the first in the state.

Most of the bequests will be doubled under a clause which divides the residuary estate among the legatees on a basis proportionate to the main allocation in the will.

current. In fact, he was able to obtain in this way two ten-thousandths of an ampere of current. Moreover, by using vacuum tube amplifiers, such as are employed in radio, the feeble current may be magnified greatly, making the crystal available as a delicate light detector, or electrical "eye," such as the photo-electric cell.

"The experiments," Mr. Blossom said, "prove conclusively that electric power from light is not an impossibility, while the demonstration at the University of Nebraska of the use of wind power in the generation of electricity may lead to new ways of supplying power for household and commercial needs."

Aircraft Production Up 65.8 Pct. in Year

Washington.—Air craft production showed an increase of 65.8 per cent during the last year, as compared with 1925, the census bureau announces in connection with the opening of the aircraft exhibition here.

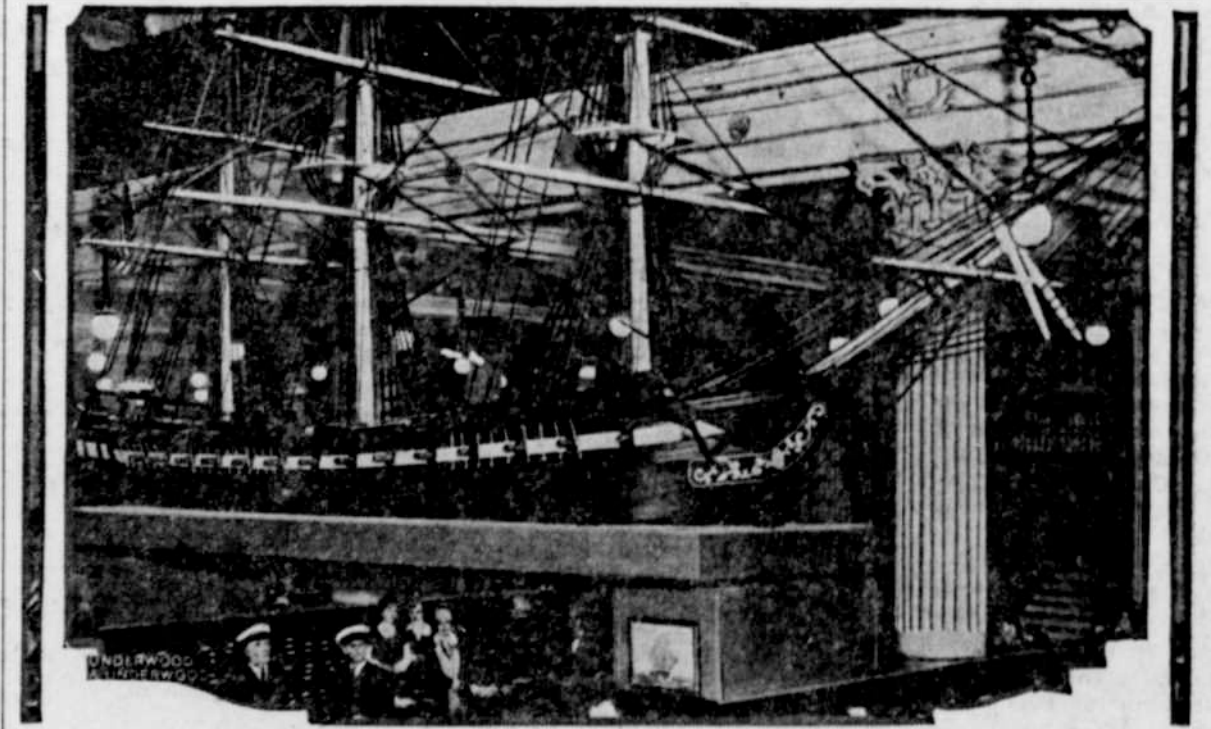
Airplanes numbering 1,170 were produced and, in addition, seven seaplanes, as against 711 airplanes and 78 seaplanes manufactured in 1925. Total value of the airplane output was \$8,771,077 and the seaplanes \$90,050, compared with \$5,908,830 and \$705,324 in 1925.

The total value of products reported for 1926 by establishments in the aircraft industry proper is \$20,081,181, an increase of 69.3 per cent compared with \$12,524,719 for 1925. There were 67 establishments, including five aircraft engine plants. New York had 16 establishments, Michigan nine, California seven, Illinois and Ohio five each and Missouri and Pennsylvania four each.

Academic Gowns Popular With London Debutantes

London.—Professors who look for their gowns and hoods for the approaching commencement season may find that their daughters have purloined the garments. The academic hoods have become very popular with the chic young debutantes of Mayfair and are worn draped over the back just as the professors wear them. Jokers insist that it is the nearest approach the wearers will ever make to real learning.

Model of Old Ironsides in a Chicago Store



Large model of the frigate Constitution, owned by the Great Lakes naval training station, set up on the main floor of the Marshall Field men's store in Chicago. The model is 38 feet long, 27 feet high and weighs 1,200 pounds.

TOMAHAWK ISLAND COMES BACK AND GETS OLD NAME

Appeal of 50 Girls of a Portland (Ore.) School to Uncle Sam Bears Fruit.

Portland, Ore.—An island which for over a century hid its face under the waters of the Columbia river has risen again and, through the appeal of 50 girls in a local school, has had its name restored to it.

It is Tomahawk Island. According to the legend, Lewis and Clark named the island because of an incident that occurred when they stopped for a meal at the place where Vancouver, Wash., now stands.

While they were eating, a party of Indians came up. The conference was peaceable and the explorers wanted to be as courteous as possible, so Clark let them smoke his greatly prized tomahawk pipe.

When time came for the Indians to go the pipe was not to be found. In-

It just naturally hid its face in the mud.

It appeared again shortly after the Interstate bridge was built over the Columbia river. When the girls in the local school were told the story of the island they all wrote in to the United States geographic bureau, with the result that the original name was restored.

Police to "Educate" Parisian Jaywalkers

Paris.—"Pedestrian day" is shortly to be staged by the police to give jaywalkers a postgraduate education.

Every law and every ordinance is to be strictly enforced by traffic officers and every violation will be noted. Offenders probably will be informed of their guilt but arrested only in extreme cases.

Pedestrians generally are "fairly good," the city traffic commission has agreed, after a recent survey of the streets and inspection of police records, but further improvement is considered possible.

While they were eating, a party of Indians came up. The conference was peaceable and the explorers wanted to be as courteous as possible, so Clark let them smoke his greatly prized tomahawk pipe.

When time came for the Indians to go the pipe was not to be found. In-

Static Hits Chess

London, England.—There was a radio chess match between M. P.'s and Australian legislators at the opening of Canberra, New Australian capital. The duke of York and Premier Baldwin made the first moves. Then came static and the match was called a draw because the Australians wanted to go to bed.

Ship Models Recall Britain's Sea Glory

Models of historic ships which sailed from England in the Fifteenth to the Eighteenth centuries are being perfectly reproduced in miniature for the purpose of decoration. These models are from fourteen inches to five feet long, and are correct in every detail. There are very many interesting specimens for the models include some reproductions of Dutch ship-building, and there is even a copy of a Roman

man-of-war of the Fifteenth century. The model of the Golden Hind, built by Queen Elizabeth for Sir Francis Drake, is the most beautiful of them all. The Golden Hind had the lines of a yacht, and although these are not seen to such good advantage in some of the smaller models, even the smallest is a very fine little ship. Models of this kind are not toys, but genuine works of art, which have a high de-