

ships, and guns, was no match for her three powerful enemies. The British, however, gave the allied navies no time to unite. In 1797, Admiral Sir John Jervis attacked the Spanish off Cape St. Vincent, and won a triumphant victory. But the power of the British navy was for a time crippled by two serious mutinies which broke out among the sailors, the first at Spithead, the second at the Nore. The causes of complaint were brutal treatment of the men by the officers, poor pay, and insufficient food. At one time the whole fleet of Admiral Duncan, who was watching the Dutch, joined the mutineers. With a single ship, the brave old Scotsman blockaded the Dutch fleet for three days, deceiving them by constantly running up signals, as though he were sending messages to his other ships. The mutiny was put down by liberal concessions on the part of the government, and by the hanging of the more outspoken of the leaders. As soon as all his ships had returned to him, Duncan engaged the Dutch fleet off Camperdown.

“I’ve taken the depth of a fathom!” he cried,
“And I’ll sink with a right good-will;
For I know when we’re all of us under the tide
My flag will be fluttering still.”

The Dutch fought bravely, but they were in the end defeated, with the loss of eleven ships.

While the British fleet was engaged in winning victories on the sea, a daring scheme had occurred to Napoleon Bonaparte, who was now high in the councils of the French republic. He proposed that he should lead an army into Egypt, conquer that country, and by extending his conquests eastwards, strike a blow at British power in India. His plan was accepted, and, in 1798, with an army of thirty-six thousand men, he set out for Egypt, escaping by the merest chance an encounter with Admiral Nelson, who, in command of a strong British fleet, was watching his every movement. He succeeded in landing in Egypt, and in the hotly contested Battle of the Pyramids, gained control of the country.

Napoleon had left his fleet anchored in Aboukir Bay, and here it was discovered by Nelson. In the battle that fol-