him, oscillated like a small and erratic bob to a large, but jerky kite.

A single bell, repeated at short intervals, sent the department to the bows to repeat the watering of marine vegetation; three bells brought them again amidsthips, when, the ship being now in a presumably sinking condition, unlimited steam-whistles sent the men to the boats. In smooth weather these forlorn hopes are partially lowered, with part of their respective crews and any passengers who may yearn for a cold salt-water bath without its concomitant of a tip to the barber; but on the present occasion rough weather prohibited exercise at the davits, and only the roll of each boat's crew was called under the boat.

This closed the drill, which, although performed with more boisterous good-humor (and in some cases, condescending slowness) than the "snap" and perfect understanding desirable, was evidently useful in giving the men an idea of what they might some time be called on to do in grim earnest, and was, perhaps, after all, the best obtainable under the circumstances.

Paris, April 22d.

Concluding remarks to a course of lectures on Constitutional History given to the Senior Mechanical Engineers.

Here our lessons end, gentlemen, though if I had another term before me — indeed, if I had many terms — I should find no sort of difficulty for want of material to fill them; for the subject of political science is as wide as history, as deep as philosophy itself. You must consider that you have had a glimpse of it only, but I hope you will not hereafter be sorry that you were obliged, or that you elected, to attend this course. For while from one point of view a mere course of lectures is a most unsatisfactory way of dealing with an important subject, we must not, on the other hand, underrate their possible value under circumstances which leave no other alternative. An acorn is a very insignificant affair,— no bigger than a lady's thimble,— but it may make a great difference whether you put it into the ground, or into your pocket. Even if you put it into the ground, it may never come up,— it may be as seed sown by the wayside, or among thorns and stony places; but if it falls into good ground it will grow into an oak; and sturdy as an oak should be every good citizen. I should be glad to think that anything I may have said shall have had the effect of making you feel more deeply the importance of your political duties, and of giving you any light on the right method of fulfilling them. You have given me all that it was permitted me to require,— a most commendable regularity of attendance; and, as the written examinations that have accompanied every lecture have shown, your attendance has not been that of the body only. And I will say on my own part, that though my lectures might be a great deal better, yet you have been listening to no mere hasty performances, but to the results of a great deal of reading spread over a good many years. I have designedly given them a wide scope, for I wanted above all things to make them suggestive. That seems to be the true function of lectures, to stimulate their hearers to further study, and to furnish guidance in the shape of references and general views. As regards references, I am sure you will find your note-books helpful, if you should see fit in times of greater leisure to follow up the study, though every year adds to the list of indispensable new books, and renders some of the old books antiquated. For there is some truth in old Freeman's saying, that "history is only past politics, politics only present history," though it is by no means the whole truth. And just as in Prof. Sedgwick's laboratory all branches of Natural History are connected and comprehended in one general Science of Biology, the Science of Life, so all these historical studies, History, Politics, Political Economy, Jurisprudence, are more and more closely united as branches of one comprehensive study for which we have at present no better name than Sociology. I must, however, add that no sociological scheme has yet been pronounced which seems to me destined to stand, least of all that of Mr. Herbert Spencer. Whether you will ever take an interest in such wide surveys may depend upon your individual tastes and opportunities; but one thing is certain—that in this country, where every man is responsible for his vote and for the political influence he cannot help exerting, no one can excuse himself from so much labor and study as is needful to the acquirement of a sound knowledge of the form of government under which