

THE MILITARY AND NAVAL SERVICES OF THE HOOD FAMILY.

The services which the members of the Hood family have rendered the country in both branches are narrated as follows in the *Free Press* of Saturday last:—It is claimed for the Hood family - and it is perfectly true -that they have taken more ships and guns, without losing one, than any other English family. Sir Alexander is the head of a family of which Viscounts Hood and Bridport are cadets. His ancestor stuck to his small landed property, and the youngest brother became a clergyman and had four sons, two of whom distinguished themselves considerably. The two eldest were made first Irish, then English, barons, and at last viscounts. The third son became a naval chaplain, and the fourth was drowned in the river Brue. The first three lived to a good old age. Sir Alexander's grandfather was a post-captain at the age of 25, and was killed when in command of the *Mars* (74) in a successful action with the French ship *L'Hercule* in Brest harbour. The flag of *L'Hercule* now hangs in the hall at St. Audries. The younger brother of Sir Alexander's grandfather, Sir Samuel Hood, became a distinguished admiral, he took the Russian ship, *Sewolod*, off Swesbourg, and the flag of this ship is also hanging in the hall at St. Audries. Sir Samuel Hood became commander-in-chief of the fleet in the East Indies, and died there, upon which event Sir Alexander's father succeeded to the baronetcy. An interesting story is told of Sir Samuel Hood. When he was Captain Hood, in command of the *Juno*, in 1794, he had to take dispatches to Lord Hood, who had been holding Toulon, but had been obliged to evacuate it. Captain Hood arrived at Toulon at twilight, anchored his ship, and was boarded by two French officers, whom he invited into his cabin. On arriving in the cabin, the French officers told Captain Hood that they had an unpleasant duty to perform namely, to tell him that Toulon had been re-taken by the French and that he was their prisoner. But they begged him to take courage - a quality British officers are never found lacking in - saying that the French were a brave nation and would treat him well. Captain Hood's suspicions had been previously aroused by hearing one of the Frenchmen whispering to the other, as they went down to the cabin, "This is a fine frigate we have got hold of." But there is a wholesome proverb known to the English upon the folly of counting one's chickens before they are hatched. Capt. Hood was certainly not a man to be quietly hoodwinked and captured, even after the alluring assurance that the French were brave and that they would treat him well. He acted with a promptitude and energy which alone would fit him for so important a command. He went on deck, cut his cable, set Sail, and ran his frigate safely out of the inner harbour through the fire of all the batteries. It was rather rough on the French officers to find that instead of taking an important prisoner, with a fine frigate to boot, they were themselves taken prisoners. When Capt. Hood had got well out to sea he sent for the two French officers, and, with the most delicate irony, he copied their own complacent style and told them that he had an unpleasant duty to perform - to tell them that they were his prisoners, but he begged them to fake courage, as the English were a brave nation, and would treat them well. Two days afterwards he put them ashore. Sir Samuel Hood was M.P. for Westminster for some time. Lord Hood's eldest son was killed in action in the Pyrenees, and his grandson, Col. the Hon. Grosvenor Hood, was killed in the Crimea. Sir Alexander's brother - Sir Arthur Hood, K.O.B. - is now for the second time First Naval Lord of Admiralty. Sir Alexander has himself served in the Army, and his oldest son is a captain in the Grenadier Guards, and rendered good service in Egypt, and also by his prompt organisation, in capturing the dynamitards who attempted to blow up the Tower of London. For this work he was warmly complimented by the Commander-in-Chief.

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BUTLEIGH WOOTTON.

THE NEW PEER - Admiral Sir Arthur William Acland Hood, G.C B., one of the new peers, is the son of Sir Alexander Hood, M.P. for West Somerset, and was born at Bath on July 14th 1824, and is the brother of the present baronet. He married, in 1855, a daughter of Sir C. F. Maclean, and has two daughters. He entered the Royal Navy, in 1837, was at St. Joan d'Acre in 1840, served with the naval

brigade in the Crimea in 1855, and commanded her Majesty's ship Acorn in the Chinese War of 1857. During the last-mentioned campaign he was present at the action of Fatshan, and assisted in the capture of Canton. In 1869 he became Director of Naval Ordnance, a Lord of the Admiralty in 1877, and Senior Naval Lord in 1885. From 1870 to 1881 he commanded the Channel Squadron, and was Admiral in 1886, being placed on the retired list three years subsequently. The new peer is J.P. for Somerset, has the Fifth Class Medjidié, and medals for Syria, Crimea and China,

THE HONOURS OF THE HOODS.

No naval family in this country has received so many and such well-deserved honours as the distinguished family of: Hood, members of which now hold three separate peerages and one baronetcy. The earliest of the peerages, the barony of Hood, made a Viscounty in 1796, was conferred in 1782 upon Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, who led the van in Rodney's victorious action with De Grasse in that year. The second peerage, the Barony of Bridport, made a Viscounty in 1868, was conferred in 1794 upon Admiral Sir Alexander Hood, who was a brother of Lord Hood, and was second in command under Lord Howe at the victory of the Glorious First of June. The Baronetcy was conferred in 1809 upon Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood (a cousin of the Sir Samuel who had been raised to the peerage in 1782), for numerous important services, including the expulsion of the French from Naples, the capture of Demerara, and the destruction of the Russian 74-gun ship Sowolod. Admiral Sir Arthur William Acland Hood, who has; now obtained the third peerage for his family, is a grand-nephew of Sir Samuel, the Baronet, and a grandson of that gallant Alexander Hood who accompanied Cook in one of his voyages round the world, and who, as captain of the Mars, 74, fell gloriously in action with the French Hercule, 74, in 1798. It used to be said of the Hoods that they had taken or destroyed more French ships than any ten other British commanders of their days. The new Peer has happily had no opportunity of adding to the tale. but he has served with honours in Syria, the Crimea, and China, and has been thrice a Lord of the Admiralty,

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DEATH OF ADMIRAL LORD HOOD OF AVALON, G.C.B.

We regret to announce the death of Admiral Lord Hood of Avalon, G.C.B., who passed peacefully away on Saturday morning last, at Wootton-house, near Glastonbury. His lordship had been ill for some time past, and on account of his advanced age it was not thought he would recover sufficiently to take that active part which he had hitherto taken in the interests and pursuits of former years. A shooting party had been entertained at Wootton House, Butleigh Wootton, during the past week, Admiral Baird being one of the guests, and his lordship seemed then about the same as usual, but towards the end of the week a change for the worse took place, and at one o'clock on Saturday morning his lordship passed peacefully to his rest, surrounded by the members of his family. His body has since been lying in the private chapel at Wootton-house.

Lord Hood, who was in his seventy-eighth year, was raised to the peerage in 1892, when he took the title of Lord Hood .of Avalon, Avalon being the ancient name of Glastonbury and made famous by Tennyson. He married Fanny Henrietta, daughter of Sir Charles Fitz -Roy Maclean, and leaves two daughters, the Hon. Emily Isabel (who is married to Mr. Francis Alexander MacKinnon, elder on of Mr. W. A. MacKinnon, of Aeryse-place, near Folkestone, chief of the Clan MacKinnon) and the Hon. Miss F. S. Hood, but no heir to succeed to the title. Lord Hood had been in failing health for some months, and the end was not unexpected. Lady Hood and his daughters were with him at his death. The deceased admiral was a keen sportsman, an amateur artist of considerable talent, and an enthusiastic collector of naval prints and pictures. His taste lay naturally in the direction of sea pieces, and his paintings were mostly of this character; he possessed also a number of interesting sketches made when serving in the Crimea.

In several respects the late peer, bearing an historic name, had a remarkable career, and will be remembered as the First Sea Lord of the Admiralty at the time when Lord Charles Beresford resigned, and when the Naval Defence Act was adopted by Parliament. He was born at Bath in 1824, being the second son of Sir Alexander Hood, grandson of the gallant Captain Alexander Hood, who

accompanied Captain Cook in one of his voyages round the world, and grand-nephew of Vice-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood (whom the Hood Monument commemorates), who sustained so splendidly in the latter part of the eighteenth century and the early years of the nineteenth the fame of a family on which the first Viscount Hood, the victor of the "Glorious First of June," had shed so much lustre. Entering the Navy sixty-four years ago, Lord Hood of Avalon was in time to take part in the closing operations of the war in Spain in 1837, and three years later was present at the campaign on the coast of Syria, including the bombardment of St. Jean d'Acre in 1840. In the Russian war he was employed on shore with the naval brigade at the Siege of Sebastopol, being promoted to Commander for his services. In this rank he subsequently took an active part in the China war of 1857, serving at the attack on Canton and the destruction of the Fatshau flotilla of war vessels. In 1871 he received the honour of C.B. From January, 1877, to September, 1879, Lord Hood, or, as he then was, Rear-Admiral Arthur William Acland Hood, served as one of the Lords of the Admiralty, leaving Whitehall to hoist his flag as senior officer in command of the Channel Squadron, which position he held till April, 1882. From June, 1885, to July, 1889, he was First Sea Lord of the Admiralty during one of the most exciting Administrations of the last century. He succeeded that brilliant officer, Sir A. Cooper Key, and was at Whitehall when Lord George Hamilton came into office in August, 1886. The board included also Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony Hoskins, Vice-Admiral Graham, Lord Charles Beresford, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, and Sir A. B. Forwood. No sooner was the body constituted than the agitation for an increase of the Fleet became insistent and the panic was increased by the publication of Lord Charles Beresford's confidential memorandum on the naval deficiencies and by this popular officer's resignation, partly because he would not assent to Estimates he considered inadequate. Before Lord Hood left the Admiralty in 1889, practically the same scheme of augmentation which was outlined by the former captain of the Condor had been laid before Parliament and adopted after violent controversy. In 1892 Admiral Hood was raised to the peerage. The news of the death of Lord Hood caused great regret in the West Country, where his lordship in his more vigorous days was a familiar figure, and especially in Glastonbury, where in 1860 he formed the Volunteer Company and became its first captain, which command he held for three years. He also took great interest in the Glastonbury annual great market before it was allowed to lapse. His last local public appearance was about two years ago, when he was present at a lecture given by General Luard, under the auspices of Lady Hood, on behalf of 'the Sailors' and Soldiers' Widows and Orphans Fund.

The funeral will take place to-day (Saturday) at Butleigh church at half-past two o'clock, and the Bishop of Bath and Wells, an intimate friend of the family, who administered the last rites of the Church to his lordship, will officiate. The body will be borne from Wootton House by a contingent of blue-jackets from Portsmouth, and the C Company (Glastonbury and Street) Volunteer corps will also be in attendance.

Amongst numerous messages of condolence was one from the Mayor of Glastonbury (Dr. Doidge), on behalf of the inhabitants of the town.