

## THAMES NAUTICAL TRAINING COLLEGE, H.M.S. "WORCESTER."

WE give with this brief article a portrait group of the racing crew of the *Worcester*, which ship carried off the Challenge Cup on the Thames in 1892, and on the Mersey in 1893. Captain D. Wilson-Barker, who started as a cadet on the *Worcester*, is now commander of this well-known training-ship, a few particulars about which can hardly fail to interest our readers.

About five hours of the day, it seems, are devoted to schooling; the rest to technical training in all the practical duties of seamanship. The recreations and amusements of the boys have been carefully studied. In the summer a swimming-bath is moored to the side of the ship, in which the boys are professionally taught. On the shore, at Green-

ship, whereby appointments as leadsmen apprentices in the Bengal pilot service are placed at the disposal of the latter. These appointments are very lucrative, the higher grades reaching £1,200 per annum. When accepted, a free passage to Calcutta is given to each cadet, and £20 towards an outfit. Considerable encouragement is given to *Worcester* boys to qualify for cadetships in the Navy. The Queen awards a prize of a binocular glass, and the sum of £35 towards the expense of the outfit, to the fortunate young man who is nominated by the committee to the naval cadetship annually granted to the ship by the Admiralty. The conditions for this are that the boy nominated shall have been two years on board the *Worcester*, be of

given by the parents or guardians; that the candidates approved of by the committee shall be under eighteen years of age, have been two years on board, be of good health, of firm and steady behaviour, smart on duty, and of good address and manners. There are three terms in the year—Lent, Easter, and Michaelmas, commencing January, May, and September—and the payments for each term are £17 10s. for cadets in the upper school, and £15 15s. for those in the lower school, a charge of ten guineas per annum being made for uniform, etc. This consists of best blue jacket, waistcoat, trousers, cap, and badge; also one pair second quality blue cloth trousers and cap, and two uniform serge shirts. Pocket-money is permitted in weekly



1. Captain D. Wilson-Barker.]

Racing Crew of H.M.S. "Worcester," 1893.

[2. Instructor Harterton.

hithe, a field of two and a-half acres has been secured for cricket, football, and tennis. To all these aids to muscle-development must, of course, be added that of rowing, which is enjoyed *ad libitum*.

The boys are generally received between the ages of eleven and sixteen, and remain from two to four years, according to their position in the school on joining. After a course of two years on board, a boy is entitled to a Board of Trade certificate, should he then be in one of the nautical classes; and a *Worcester* certificate is recognised by the Board of Trade as equivalent to one year's service at sea. A great advantage that the cadets possess on leaving is the arrangement between the Secretary of State for India in Council and the committee of this training-

good character, and in the first class in school work, and first section in seamanship. He must, moreover, be under sixteen and a-half years of age on July 15 following the competitive examination, must be able to swim, and his parents must give the usual guarantee as to outfit and private allowance. The two years served on board count as if served on H.M.S. *Britannia*, and an extra year is allowed for good conduct and high attainments in examinations. Again, in the Royal Naval Reserve the Admiralty annually present several midshipmen's commissions to the *Worcester* cadets, on the following conditions: That each cadet is a British subject, and possesses a first-class certificate from that training-ship; that a written notification of concurrence in the appointment be

instalments, but the introduction of wine, spirits, or tobacco on board is rigidly prohibited.

The Bible which was presented to each cadet leaving last term contained his name and the following inscription:

"Dear Boy,—As you now leave the *Worcester*, and enter upon the duties of life, the committee request me to present you with this Bible, in the hope that the Divine lessons it contains may guide you in your future career. They would urge you to read some portion of it every day, and study the spirit more than the mere letter of it. They advise you especially to read the life of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and to learn from that how, under all temptations and trials, He trusted