

GATEKEEPER to-day, at the front lodge of a country house in the County of Westmeath, is the fine old Naval veteran whose portrait is here reproduced. David Verrent was born at Fareham, in Hampshire, in 1819, and is thus the same age as the great Queen-Empress he has served so loyally. Also he entered the Service, or rather took his rating as an able-bodied seaman in it, in 1837, the year Her Majesty came to the throne.

As the medals on his left breast show, he has seen a bit of service, and his first one came to him early in his service, for it is the Naval general service medal that covered all the operations of the Great War, and he holds it in right of having served in the last campaign for which it was issued—the



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"AN HEART OF OAK."

capture of Acre and the operations on the coast of Syria in 1840. His next decoration was earned in the Crimea, where he won the Baltic medal, gained only by the Navy, and a transfer to a ship in the Black Sea gave him the Crimean medal with the Sebastopol clasp, and also the Turkish medal. That he holds that for long service and good conduct goes without saying. This fine old veteran, after nearly thirty years' service, is now over thirty years retired.