

# The Designs of the Month

By FREDERICK WALL

## ANTIGUA.

HERE are two very fine Colonial issues for review this month, one from Newfoundland and the other from Antigua.

Of the two I prefer that from the West Indian island because, for one thing, it is a better printer's job and, secondly, because I am getting a little tired of the constant chopping and changing that it seems Newfoundland must have with her postage stamps. Perhaps there are good reasons why they may be deemed necessary, but . . .

The Antigua set commemorates that day, three hundred years gone, when Sir Thomas Warner planted the British flag on the shores of the little island. Very similar occasions have been celebrated within recent years by the postal administrations of Bermuda, Barbados and the Bahamas, but none of the stamps they issued can be considered as fine as this new lot. None of them succeeded, as have the Antiguas, in conveying at one time the scenic beauty that is the British West Indies, and the glamour of romance that was theirs in the days when the "Jolly Roger" flew high on Kidd's mainmast.



There are four designs in the set. That of the three lowest values ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and 1½d.) is the most beautiful. It is a delightful picture, wonderfully engraved and produced by Waterlow, and shows the Old Dockyard at English Harbour. This port is little used now since its draught is too small for the modern steamship, but in the days of old it was a famous careening station and, later, in 1805 it was there that Nelson refitted before chasing the French fleet across the Atlantic to a glorious but tragic triumph at Trafalgar.

This last visit of Nelson's is remembered on the 6d., 1s. and 2s. 6d. values of the set which are labelled as such, and which show the "Victory" and another of his fleet off the shores of the island.

A comparison between the vessels of the 17th and the early 19th centuries can be found in the issue, for, on the 5s. stamp, there appears the ship of Sir Thomas Warner. The differences are quite outstanding, the higher poop and lower bow of the earlier boat

—not much further advanced in design than Drake's *Golden Hind*, or even the *Great Harry* —being particularly noticeable.

On the fourth design, that used for the 2d., 2½d. and 3d. stamps, there is the Government House at St. Johns. Although at first sight this reminded me of the modern Administrative Buildings at Windhoek on the 3d. South West African stamp, I understand that it is an 18th-century piece of work.

