AFTER some little delay and slight adjustment the revision of the Chiefs' and Warrant Officers' "Earnest Appeal" has been decided on by a majority vote of the branches, and it will be promulgated at an early date. So far as revision itself is concerned there has been but slight alterations in the wording, and none whatever in the spirit, of the Appeal which has held the field since the concessions of 1896, now nearly five years ago. There are two added clauses only, viz., that asking definitely for opportunities for young Warrant Officers to obtain substantive Lieutenant rank, for gallant or meritorious services, and the clause asking for compassionate allowances for Warrant Officers' children,—which are not at present allowed by the regulations. All else is practically the same. There is the clause asking for the establishment of a new rank approximating to that of Quartermaster and Ridingmaster in the Army. This clause is in the interest of the Chiefs, from whose lists officers to the new rank would be recruited, and fully rewarded by pay, emolument and pension for their long, faithful and oftimes, unrewarded meritorious services of their youth; when promotions and rewards for services in the field were not so much in the air as the work of the Association has made them during recent years. Not that it is anything like satisfactory at present, even though it has wonderfully improved during the last ten years by our constantly pegging away at the injustice and unwise of the old policy of letters of thanks and "noted at the Admiralty." If this rank is created it will at least provide a means of rewarding officers who are at present performing duties in dockyards and barracks and depots, at home and abroad, with pay and position equal to the great responsibilities they bear, and the service they perform for the country as Chief Gunners, Chief Boatswains and Chief Carpenters. We must all acknowledge that our seniors, the Chiefs, have the first claim, and that they must have our first thought in the first clause of our new Appeal. But coupled with the old will come the young; for the branches have decided not to deny to the present young, and the coming generations of Warrant Officers, the opportunities of becoming substantive Lieutenants, if they can earn such a position, simply because those of the senior years never had such full opportunities in their junior days. To take up such a position, the majority of the members consider, would be unfair, unjust, and unworthy the men present on the Chiefs' and Warrant Officers' lists. Rather do they believe that as the young men would like to see the seniors obtain their chance in a Honourary Lieutenancy at the end of their career, so do the seniors heartily wish that the young men should obtain a substantive Lieutenancy if they earn it and cared to accept it. These reciprocal good wishes between old and young have found expression in a common clause, which stands at the head of our new Appeal, and we hope and believe it will get that consideration from the authorities which its justice and expediency should promptly command.

After the old and young the middle-aged are catered for, in a clause which should also appeal very strongly to the authorities for immediate consideration. It was in the last Appeal and it is in this, viz., "that all deserving Warrant Officers should be promoted to Chief at 18 years seniority." Surely 18 years is sufficiently long in one rank to ask that the next step should then be secured, irrespective of the members already on the Chiefs' list. No other rank of officers are called upon to serve anything like that time in any rank, if they are at all deserving and have not had a slip of some sort or other. Why then should Warrant Officers stand alone in this matter? They are not the least useful or the least hard-working among the officers of Her Majesty's Navy; and they ask that they should not be the least rewarded for long and deserving services. To be sure of obtaining one's Chiefship at 18 years seniority is little enough, in all conscience, to look forward to after such a period in one rank. But that little would be gratefully received and prevent many an old servant of the Crown being sent into retirement without ever having reached the Chief rank, and secured for himself and family the privileges which he struggled so hard to obtain, and
which he so richly deserved, been gained by him after
total services, in all ranks, often approaching to nearly
40 years. So reasonable, so just, so moderate a
request, as that of being promoted to Chief at 18 years
seniority, should, then, command both sympathy and
help and eventually be granted and become a boon and
blessing to our middle-aged men.

The next request gives more definite expression to
a somewhat ambiguous clause in the previous Earnest
Appeal where opportunities are asked for Boatswains
and Carpenters to obtain extra pay for extra subjects,
etc. These latter officers have now obtained their
wish that this request should take a more definite
shape, and that fixed and special amounts of pay and
allowance should be named so that there should be no
doubt as to what is desired. This is no new clause,
therefore, but only a more definite wording of a similar
clause in the old Appeal. Another clause in favour of
the young men is that which has been removed bodily
from the old to the new Appeal, viz., that asking that
a young officer may receive 6/- per diem during his
first five years in the warrant rank, instead of 5/6
which he at present receives. This request can be
backed by very strong arguments indeed, for a young
officer is very heavily handicapped during his first five
years of service as Gunner, Boatswain or Carpenter,
in having his expenses increased ten-fold by his new
position, whereas his pay is but slightly increased from
the amount he received as a Petty Officer. Such a
state of affairs does not need dwelling upon, it is so
obvious that if it cannot be seen it can be felt, even
by the veriest tyro in matters naval.

The last, but by no means least, clause of a very
moderate and modest Earnest Appeal requests that the children
of Warrant Officers may receive compassionate allow-
ance. Here, again, we are on the solid ground of
seeking only that allowed to the children of other
ranks of officers, and it must be allowed that the
necessitous children of a Warrant Officer should com-
mand as much compassion from the country their
father has served as do those of any other rank of
officers. Why the line was drawn at the Warrant rank
we cannot comprehend, unless it was that the W.O.'s
had no friends to look after their interest and were too
negligent to do it for themselves. Anyhow, it is not
too late to rectify a mistake, of however long standing,
and we should set about this in real earnest. Practi-
cally this last is the only new principle in the new
Earnest Appeal; so it is the only new thing we have to
tell our naval officer shipmates, or our advocates in
Parliament. The principle of giving substantive
Lieutenant rank has always been within the advocacy
of our former Appeals, and besides that the Admiralty
have insisted on keeping that door open, whether we
liked it or no, as the promotion of Lieutenants Webber,
Cathie and Sims amply testifies. The fear, then, that,
we have to teach our naval officer shipmates and our
advocate something new, in this matter of promotion
from the ranks, is a mistake. Many of our advocates,
with Mr. Gibson Bowles at their head, never cease to
advocate that line of promotion—and they advocate
that line alone—in spite of all we say to the contrary.
With these advocates and the active and exemplified policy of the Admiralty—so late as the case of Lieut. Sims—dead against us, it would, the majority of the members think, be a mistake if they did not put forth their full strength to secure the younger men the full opportunities—quickened and multiplied—the Admiralty already offer them, even as they expect the young men to do all in their power to bring about the creation of Honourary Lieutenancies for a per centage of our present Chiefs. And Warrant Officers of all ranks and ages should, they think appeal for help to our senior naval officers whenever reasonable opportunities present themselves. There is nothing new to tell them, except about the compassionate allowances, for they know and understand about substantive rank, and since the introduction of Supplementary Lieutenants into the Fleet, there has been a vast change of opinion in regard to the claims of our class among naval officers of all grades from the Admiral to the Engineer. And this one clause that contains the only new principle in the Appeal, viz., that of compassionate allowances for our children, only needs, the members believe, to be stated to obtain the sympathy and help of our senior naval officers.