

"NO CLASSES." "No classes here," says this little talk. The village bean sowers at the country hear. The importunate mendicants who walk Our city streets despite the parish poor. The daily toiler at some noisy loom Holds back her garments from the kitchen aid; Meanwhile the looms seem upon her loom. Unconscious of the bow the landress made. The grower's daughter eyes the farmer's lass With laughing glances, while the lawyer's wife Would pay no visits from the trading class If money were not her creed in life. The merchant's son needs coldly at the clerk. The proud possessor of a pedlar's bag Ignores the youth whose father rose by work. The little-seeing maiden seems all three. The aristocracy of blood looks down Upon the *honest* rebel, and in disdain The lovers of the intellectual town On both and worship at the shrine of Brain. "No classes here," the clergyman has said. "We are one family." Yet see his rage And horror, when his favorite son would wed Some pure and pretty player on the stage. It is the vain and natural human way Of vaunting our weak selves, our pride, our worth. Not till the long-delayed Millennium Day Shall we behold "No classes" on God's earth. —Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

### The Confederate Navy.

From the Baltimorean.

Since the day of Paul Jones there have been no achievements of a single ship in naval warfare as brilliant as those of the Alabama. Captain Semmes won for himself and his country imperishable laurels. The extreme sensitiveness manifested by the Northern commercial circles to the operations of a single ship, like the one alluded to, was a proof of the weakness of the United States on the water. With all the well earned reputation of the Federal Government, they found it a hard matter to compete with the Confederacy. The ocean was made uncomfortable for them on several important occasions; and their commerce suffered a shock that it required years to tinker up.

The Confederate naval force in the early part of 1862 consisted of the Alabama, Captain Semmes; the Florida, (Florida) Captain Newland Maffit, one of the famous Methodist preachers; and the Merrimack, captain's name not given. In Charleston harbor there were three iron-clad steamers of course—the Palmetto State, Captain Rutledge; Chicora, Captain Tucker; and the City of Charleston, besides three or four small steamers, such as the General Clinch, Etewan and Chestfield, and the celebrated floating battery, which did such effective damage during the Fort Sumter bombardment. At Richmond a powerful iron-clad ram, called Merrimack No. 2, was nearly completed, watching an opportunity to steal out of the river, but the Federals had one iron-clad and a dozen old style war vessels at the mouth of the James River to prevent her escape. There was also the City of Richmond, her consort pent in. At Savannah the ram Lingua was lying *perdu*. She was a magnificent craft, very powerfully armed, and was altered from an English vessel of superior build. The Nashville did a vast share of service in the signal department. The Thunderbolt was another superior war-steamer. At Mobile there were said to be three iron-clad gunboats that were to be provided with the best Whitworth, Blakely and Armstrong guns. The Sumter was blockaded in the harbor of Gibraltar by a Federal frigate. There was also another U. S. steamer, Harriet Lane, captured by Gen. Magruder at Galveston. Besides these vessels there were two or three efficient mosquito fleets in the Gulf harbors, and some effective floating batteries and rams used in raising the blockade, or opposing the entrance of light gunboats into Southern harbors. Besides these the large rivers swarmed with small craft. To recapitulate—not including the river boats—we had the Confederate Navy consisted of: Cruisers, 4; iron-clads, 8; rams, 2; gunboats and transports, 5; harbor fleets of say 25. Total, 44. With this little navy the Confederates had to meet upward of 300 powerful war vessels!

*The First Naval Victory of the Virginia—Description of the Fight.*

On Saturday, the 8th of March, 1862, the Confederate iron-clad ram Virginia, engaged the Federal fleet off Newport News, at the mouth of James River. She was cut loose from her moorings, Norfolk harbor, and was on her way toward Hampton Roads, when Commodore Buchanan, after calling "all hands to muster," delivered the following brief but spirited address to the crew:

"Men, the eyes of your country are upon you. You are fighting for your rights, your liberties—your wives and children. You must not be content with only doing your duty, but—do more than your duty. Those ships (pointing to the blockading fleet) must be taken, and you shall not complain that I do not take you close enough. Go to your guns."

How well the officers and sturdy crew of that "monster of the deep"

performed their whole duty, we let an eye-witness of that memorable engagement tell.

The morning was as still as that of a Sabbath. The two Federal frigates, the Cumberland and Congress, lay with their boats at the boom and wash-clothes in the rigging. Did they see the long, dark hull? Had they made her out? These were the questions we discussed as we steamed across the flats to the south of the frigates with the two gallant little gunboats well on our starboard beam, heading up for the enemy. Our doubts were solved by the heavy boom of a gun from beyond Sewell's Point. The reverberation rolled across the sunlit waters and died away, but still the clothes hung in the rigging—still the boats lay at the booms. Another gun (21 minutes past one) broke the air and a tug started from Newport News, while at the same time two others left Old Point, taking the channel inside Hampton bar. Steadily, with a grim and ominous silence the Virginia glides through the water, steadily and with defiant valor the Beaufort and Raleigh followed where she led. At 2 o'clock a rifle gun from one of these little boats rang out, then a white puff from her consort. Still the clothes in the rigging—still the boats at the boom—Was it confidences? It could not be ignorance. Did it not mean torpedoes, submarine batteries, or infernal machines? The gunboats have fired again, and lo! here away to the eastward were the Roanoke and Minnesota, rising like ponderous castles above the placid water, the first under steam, the second in tow. Other puffs of smoke, other sharp reports from the gunboats, but the Virginia goes on steadily, silently to her work. Now the inshore frigate, the Cumberland, now the Virginia is close aboard; now Sewell's Point battery opens—the Minnesota—now the Roanoke's—now the air trembles with the cannonade. Now the Virginia delivers both of her broadsides; now she runs full against the Cumberland's starboard bow; now the smoke clears away, and she appears heading up James River. This at 22 minutes to 2. The Congress now lets fall her foretopsail, and then the main, and so with a tug alongside, starts down the north channel where the Minnesota has grounded and presently runs plank ashore. Meanwhile, the Virginia opens fire upon the fort; slowly she steams back, and the Cumberland, now sunk to her white streak, opens upon her again. A gallant man fought that ship! Gun after gun he fired, lower and lower sunk the ship, his last discharge came from her port gun; the ship lurches to starboard—now to port; her flag streams out wildly, and now the Cumberland goes down on her beam end, at once a monument and epitaph to the gallant man who commanded her. The Virginia stops. Is she aground? and the gunboats Raleigh and Beaufort—gallant Parker and Alexander; there they are on the quarters of the Congress, hammering away and creeping up closer and closer all the while. At ten minutes to four the Congress struck. Parker hauled down the ensign, run up his own battle-flag in its place, there the heroic Taylor who fought the Fanny at Roanoke Island and Elizabeth city, got his wound—there the gallant young Hutter fell, all shot by the dastards who fired from the ship and shore when the white flag was flying at the main and mizen masts of the Congress!

Here, too, and in the same way, Flag Officer Buchanan, and Flag Lieutenant, R. D. Minor, were wounded. Now the James River gunboats, whose dark smoke had been seen against the blue distance ever since 3 o'clock, came dashing along past the shore batteries, Tucker, the country and chivalrous, leading the van with the Jamestown, Lieut-Commanding Barney, close aboard, and the little Teaser, Lieut. Webb, in her make like a bow-legged bull-dog in charge of the long, lean stag-hound. It was a gallant dash, and once past the batteries, the two heavy vessels took position in the line of battle, while the Teaser dashed at the Minnesota, looking no larger than a cock-boat, and right well she maintained the honor of her flag and the appropriateness of her name. Now the Roanoke puts her helm up and declines battle. Now the Virginia is thundering away again. The Teaser is still closer in. She comes a shell ahead—presently another stern, finally a third with a clear, sharp whizz, just overhead to the great delight of the Commodore, who appreciated the compliment of those good shots which were the last of six shots directed at the Harmony. Now the schooner Reindeer comes foaming along, cut out from under the shore batteries; she reports, and is sent up in charge of Acting Master Gibbs. And next the gallant Beaufort runs down. Parker steps on board, bringing with him the great piece of bunting we saw hauled down just now.

He brings also some thirty prisoners and some wounded men—men wounded under the white flag yonder!

The Patrick Henry, the Jamestown, the Teaser, the Beaufort, the Raleigh and the grand old Virginia are all thundering away. We steam down and speak to the first. We hear a report of casualties—we shake hands with friends, cheer and steam off toward Swash channel. Presently through the thickening gloom we see a red glare of light, it grows larger and larger, brighter and redder, higher and higher, and now gun after gun booming on the still night as the fire reaches them, the batteries of the burning Congress are discharged across the water in harmless thunder. It was a grand sight to see, and by the light of the burning ship we made our way back to Norfolk. At half-past eleven the act of retribution was complete, for at that hour, with a great noise, the Congress was blown to atoms.

When Commodore Buchanan was wounded and taken below, a feeling of deep sadness pervaded the crew, but the Commodore's incorrigible sense of duty was not to be swayed.

SEATED.—Father—You and Kate Carter have come to an understanding, have you, Fred?

Fred—Yes, sir.

Father—Seated it with a kiss—oh, my boy?

Fred—No, sir; with wax, she wrote her refusal.—Tid Bits.

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J. A. DILLON, Leonardtown, Md. March 20, 84—11.

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Angelina—Oh, ma, do let us have some of that nice glacier stained glass decoration.

Mother—Why, darling.

Angelina—Well, you see, mother, it reminds one so much of church, and church suggests the marriage service; and it seems to me as if Harry wants something to jog his memory.—Puck.

"Now, you young scamp," said Binks, senior, as he led his youngest out into the washhouse and prepared him for dressing down, "I'll give you a lesson in what is what." "I'll give you a lesson in what is what," answered the incorrigible, "I'll give you a lesson in what is what."

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J. B. RIDGWAY, Sup't., Brandywine, Md. May 28, 85—11.

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