

THE AMERICAN NAVY

A History of Its Victories to Be Published Very Soon.

In One Day Yankee Ingenuity Revolutionized Naval Warfare—Momentous Results of the Duel in Hampton Roads.

[Special Washington Letter.]
 IN the Army and Navy club one evening recently a veteran naval officer quoted Admiral Joutet as having said: "All of the navies of Great Britain, France, Spain, Russia, in fact of every nation on earth, were driven from the seas in one day by Yankee ingenuity and fighting. All of them, every battleship, man-of-war and cruiser, fell into helplessness in one day, and the Yankee nation ruled the seas."

The veteran then explained that he referred to the battles of March 8 and 9, 1862, when the ironclad Merrimac and the turreted Monitor fought at Hampton Roads, Va., and he added: "But for the fact that the Yankee nation was then divided into two hostile camps we could have swept the high seas and defied the world. When the Merrimac hammered and rammed the best men-of-war in the American navy the officers of foreign navies who witnessed the feat agreed in saying: 'We have not a real warship in our navy. The wooden ship is no longer a warship.'"

These remarks have been verified in every respect. The British navy, which had cost hundreds of millions of dollars, was as effectually destroyed on that fateful 8th of March as when the noble old Cumberland was sunk to her topsail yards by the Merrimac's ram. The 9th of March but emphasized the value and importance of iron-plated vessels, and illustrated two great principles in the construction of warships which must last for all time, the deflecting and turreted armor. The Monitor reached Hampton Roads on the night of the 8th, and the next day she and the Merrimac pounded each other, at a few yards distance, with the heaviest guns then known, from eight a. m. until one p. m., when they retired from the conflict, neither materially damaged, and each claiming to have gotten a little the best of it. Either of these vessels, with sufficient ammunition, could have destroyed the English, French and Spanish fleets combined in the greatest naval battle of former history, that of Trafalgar.

Another weapon developed by the war and destined to play a wonderful part in future naval conflicts was the torpedo. The confederates by the use of this terrible weapon destroyed more than 50 United States men-of-war. Although in its infancy, the destructiveness of the torpedo was assured, and its application almost infinite. Its improvements have about kept pace with those of guns and ships, neither of which would likely be understood or even recognized by an ante-bellum officer.

When the war with Spain was declared, Admiral Joutet, quoted above, said to the writer: "We will have no trouble with the Spanish navy. Give me the monitor Puritan and I will go out to meet any fleet that Spain can send over here. They could not see me and locate me with their rangefinders until they were within two or three miles of me. I could see them seven miles off, and, with my big guns down close to the water's edge, I could sink them before they realized that the most powerful fighting machine on any water was doing the deadly work." The old veteran of the civil war also said: "George Dewey has a fleet which can take care of the business which he has in hand, if he



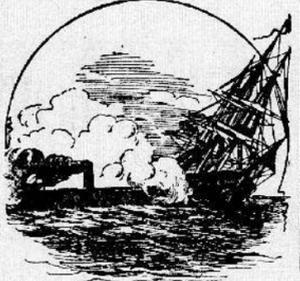
BATTERIES AT VICKSBURG.

can only get inside that harbor without danger from the torpedoes." The old sea fighter was correct, for Dewey did the business in hand, and took a rest in order to get breakfast for the men behind the guns. The foresight of the admiral, which now seems like prophecy, was further vindicated when Schley from the bridge of the Brooklyn, off Santiago, signaled to the captains of the fleet under his immediate command to "close in on the enemy."

The history of our navy has never been officially published, but it is now well under way. Twenty years ago the congress authorized the publication of the records of the war of the rebellion, but that history related chiefly to the movements of the armies and not of our fleets. The preservation of the official records of the navy during the war, 1861-1865, was first broached by Secretary Chandler in 1884. Secretary Whitney heartily committed himself to it, and it was on his recommendation that an appropriation was made, which became available under Secretary Tracy, who also indorsed the measure

with equally unstinted commendation. Under Secretary Chandler there were but one clerk and one copyist. Secretary Whitney strongly appealed to congress and the infant began to learn to walk. Prof. James R. Foley, of the naval academy, was placed in charge of the work, where he remained until appointed assistant secretary of the navy.

As generally acknowledged he was most admirably equipped for the work, and was devoting himself with enthusiasm and excellent results to the task of carrying the records of the navy up to an approximate standard of the merit and value of the records of the army, when he was called to another, if more eminent, no less honorable, field of labor. Lieut. Commander F. M. Wise was left in charge of



MERRIMAC RAMMING THE CUMBERLAND.

the work, and under his regime of research and investigation most gratifying progress was made.

No history of the civil war, and no history of the war with Spain, could be complete or just without the stories of the brilliant exploits and heroic daring of the navy. During the civil war, on both sides, a genius and courage were displayed which must ever redound to the glory of American arms. The inspirations of the one were born of the necessities of the other. The Monitor was begotten of the Merrimac. And from that result, in an hour, the terrible armadas of Europe incumbered the seas as mere wooden merchantmen.

There were indeed many features in the operations of the navies in that war so unique and important as to astound and startle the old world. A glance at contemporaneous European publications shows how profound a sensation was created by the combat between the Monitor and the Merrimac. England, until then the boasted mistress of the seas, and France and Spain, and all the rest who could, hastened to build and equip vessels on the Yankee plan. It was the only war in which ironclads, rams, rifled ordnance and torpedoes had been employed, and in which a steam blockade had been kept up extending over thousands of miles of coast. In no war of modern times had naval operations been so extensively carried on, or with the achievement of so stupendous results.

At the outbreak of the war the union had a navy. The south had none, not even a shop in which the simplest marine engine could be built. Yet so great were the earnestness, the courage and the ingenuity of her people that the reverberation of her guns afloat, the prowess of her rams, the wrecks caused by her torpedoes made indelible her claim to have been conspicuous in the revolutionizing and rebuilding of the navies of the world.

The naval war records will give to history all of these facts, in detail, with copies of official orders issued, as well as with statements of deeds accomplished. The work done by the navy in our recent war will also be portrayed officially, and then we will know all of the reasons which actuated the admirals and their efficient captains, and the men behind the guns. We are to be told all about the wise and swift work done to prepare ammunition and supplies for the war which we did not want, tried to avoid, and were compelled to undertake, because of the inhumanity of man to man, culminating in the destruction of our battleship and the assassination of our sailors in a supposedly friendly harbor, in time of profound peace with all the world.

The naval war records show many facts concerning which casual readers are not informed, particularly as to the work of the federal army during the civil war. Grant's army was aided in a manner not generally chronicled by the gunboats at Fort Donelson, Pittsburgh Landing and Vicksburg. McClellan could not have saved his army at Harrison's Landing but for the gunboats. Two years later, on the same river, Grant maintained his army on both banks of the James by aid of gunboats, in violation of the Napoleonic axiom: "No army can be maintained on both sides of a river." But Napoleon knew nothing of ironclad gunboats. The naval war records will show that Grant's greatest campaign, resulting in the capture of Vicksburg, was planned with complete reliance upon the Mississippi fleet. We are all proud of our navy; but up to date we have had more army history than navy history, an unfairness which is being corrected none too soon. SMITH D. FRY.

The Optimist.
 To-day he has put the Lighted End of his cigar in his mouth, to say nothing of his Wife's Mother having come for a visit of Indefinite Duration.

Still the Optimist sees only the Bright Side.
 "I have no doubt it will at least prove a Valuable and Lasting Lesson to me!" he exclaims, hopefully.
 His neighbors earnestly solicit him to come off the Griddle, but quite ineffectually.—Detroit Journal.

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION.

Some Suggestions That May Be of Service to the Young Housewife.

Individual strawberry shortcakes offer a particularly nice way to serve the dish as a luncheon or dinner course, says the New York Post.

Bread and butter crisps to serve with salad need a fresh loaf baked so as to give a square slice. With a sharp knife cut off all the crust; butter one end of the loaf, and shave off in the thinnest slices possible. Roll each slice tightly, and fasten with a wooden toothpick. Lay on a flat-pan, and place in a quick oven until crisp and lightly browned. Remove the toothpicks, and serve hot, piled on a plate over which is laid a folded napkin.

If alcohol is used to clean gilded picture-frames—and nothing is better for the purpose—it should be applied very lightly with a camel's-hair brush. The beaten white of egg is also a good cleansing agent for the gilt, and needs the brush application with the same light touches.

Oculists say that kerosene lamps furnish the only best artificial light for the eye. As against the flicker of gas and the trying glare of the electric light, the oil radiance is greatly to be preferred. From a sanitary side, too, oil-lamps are not so injurious as gas. The latter is killing to plant life, as florists well know. Hot-houses and green-houses are invariably lighted by kerosene-lamps.

An excellent plain staining fluid for floors is permanganate of potash which may be used in a proportion of an ounce and a half to a gallon of boiling water. The crystals cost only ten cents an ounce, making the stain among the cheapest that can be procured. As is well known, it is an excellent disinfectant, so its sanitary value is appreciable. The easiest way to apply the stain is to use a painter's flat brush, working with the grain of the wood. If after one coat the stain does not seem to be dark enough, a second may be applied. The floor should then be gone over with two or three coats of linseed oil rubbed in with a piece of flannel or chamois, and a final polish, if that is wanted, of beeswax and turpentine. The beeswax and turpentine are mixed in the proportion of two ounces of the wax to four of the fluid, put in a covered vessel, and set where a slow heat will melt the wax. Stir the mixture smooth, and when cool it is ready for use.

HAD NO MORE HAM.

Wanted Her Husband Liberated—The Family Was Getting Hungry Again.

Gov. Taylor, of Tennessee, tells of an interesting interview with a pardon seeking woman. He had fled to his summer home to escape the crowds of pardon seekers, when the woman, who had sought him in vain at the capital, was ushered into his presence, says the Minneapolis Tribune.

"Well, madam, what can I do for you?"

"I want to see the governor, sir."

"Well, I am the governor; what is it?"

"Ah, sir, my man he's been put in prison, sir, and I want to ask if you won't let him out."

The governor's face hardened. He had not, after all, escaped the pardon seekers. But he did not turn away.

"What was he sent up for?" he asked.

"You see, sir, he was hungry and he just stole a ham to keep us from starving."

"Well, I'm sorry, but I can't do anything for you. Your man must serve the sentence. There's too much stealing going on."

"Oh, governor, please, please let him out," pleaded the woman, the tears flowing down her cheeks. The tears had their effect. The governor softened. Stealing a ham was not such a terrible crime, and this poor woman no doubt needed her husband. He decided to question her a little. "But why?" he asked, "should I give your man his freedom?"

"Because, sir, we are hungry again, and we ain't got no more ham."

Names of New Shades.

The prettiest greens are dracaena, which is the light lily leaf tone, and the araucaria, which is a little darker, says an exchange. Soft mauves are the clematite, orchide and penae, and a very beautiful shade is the volubilis, the delicate tint of the convolvulus. One of the newest colors is a sort of fawn, which is called Maryland. A fashionable pink is laurier. Others are Reine, which has a magenta tint in it, and Roi, the new pinky red. Jacqueminot is a name which denotes the color and needs no explanation. Orient is a beautiful light blue with a touch of green in it. Precieuse is the new pink—an old rose. Among the blues are barbeau, matelot and amiral, which are dark. There is a beautiful new turquoise, Petta. Glacier is the greeny-blue of the hue of ice, and near akin is alpine. Siam is after the apricot order, with a dash of red in it. Ceylon is a little darker. The most vivid yellow-green is Caspienne. Many of the new glaze ribbons in all these colors are interwoven with tinsel threads.—Albany Argus.

Sauvage Strawberries.

Select dark colored fruit. Cook three pounds of fine granulated sugar with two cupsful of boiling water, without stirring, till a thread will spin when the sirup is dropped from a spoon. Cook the berries in this sirup for 15 minutes after they begin to boil. Pour the preserve on large platters, cover with gauze and let it stand in the sun for two or more days until very thick. Store in glasses and cover with a paper.—Boston Cooking School.

IN THE WAY OF VARIETY.

The highest shot tower is at Villach, in Carinthia. The shot there falls 250 feet.

In Austria the law requires army horses to be mesmerized for the purpose of shoeing them.

Of 1,822,000 persons at present in receipt of poor relief in the United Kingdom, 499,000 are over 65 years of age.

Explorers have approached within 238 miles of the north pole, but the nearest approach to the south has been 772 miles.

When a vessel is on her trial trip she runs four times over a measured mile, twice with and twice against the tide. Her average speed is thus arrived at.

The work of constructing the Cairo-Cape telegraph line is being actively carried on, and keeps pace with the construction of the railroad from Mombassa to the Victoria Nyanza. Instead of cut poles, living trees, the branches of which are cut off, are planted along the line. Experience has shown that the living trees are not attacked by white ants like the poles.

If the year be divided into two seasons, the warm and the cold (the warm season including the time when the daily temperature is above the annual average), it is found that the warm season is longer than the cold for nearly all parts of the United States. The exceptions are in the Rocky mountain region and in certain small areas in the lower lake region and the middle Atlantic states.

The barometer drops almost exactly one inch for 1,000 feet of ascent.

Paradoxical.

This is the way he wrote to her: "Molly: I has not had a line from you in three weeks. Has you throwed me over?"

And this is the way she answered him: "John: Hain't you hearin' tell that I am on a sick bed, where I am slowly dyin' an' can't write a line to save my life, you fool, you?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Saucer's the Thing.

"Mustache cups?" said the clerk in the chinaware department. "Yes, sir. Here's a pretty design. Cup and saucer, one forty-ninety," said Mr. Porquequeque, "that ain't the saucer that goes with it." "Q! yes." "Not much it ain't. There ain't no mustache guard on it."—Philadelphia Press.

Horrible Combination.

"What a saving of time and other things there would be," remarked the Observer of Events and Things, "if a man could take his first ocean voyage and his first smoke at the same time."—Yonkers Statesman.

Her Luck.

The Illinois woman who called her husband a jackass and then got mad because he called her his better half does not seem to know such a thing as justice.—Denver Times.

Piso's Cure is the best medicine we ever used for all affections of the throat and lungs.—Wm. O. Edsley, Vanuren, Ind., Feb. 10, 1900.

Equal to the Occasion.

Liveried Menial—Me lud, the carriage waits without.
 His Lordship—Without what?
 "Without horses, me lud; 'tis an automobile."—London Tit-Bits.

"We cannot do this work," said the first councilman, "and keep within the limit of the appropriation." "Yes, we can," persisted the father of the bill. "How can we?" "By increasing the limit."—Philadelphia Record.

Nothing will keep some folks from being fools.—Washington (D. C.) Democrat.

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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS

He thinks he lives, but he's a dead one. No person is really alive whose liver is dead. During the winter most people spend nearly all their time in warm, stuffy houses or offices or workshops. Many don't get as much exercise as they ought, and everybody knows that people gain weight in winter. As a rule it is not sound weight, but means a lot of flabby fat and useless, rotting matter staying in the body when it ought to have been driven out. But the liver was overburdened, deadened—stopped work. There you are, with a dead liver, and right now is the time for resurrection. Wake up the dead! Get all the fifth out of your system, and get ready for the summer's trials with clean, clear blood, body, brain free from bile. Force is dangerous and destructive unless used in a gentle persuasive way, and the right plan is to give new strength to the muscular walls of the bowels, and stir up the liver to new life and work with **CASCARETS**, the great spring cleaner, disinfectant and bowel tonic. Get a 50c box to-day—a whole month's treatment—and see how quickly you will be

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