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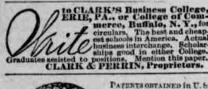
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FOR SHIAWAESEE COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 1888-89.

Special public examination Friday, Sept. 28.
Special public examination Friday, Oct. 26, 788.
Special public examination Friday, Nov. 30, 788.
Regular Public Examination, Thursday and
Friday, March 7 and 8, 789.
Special Public Examination, Friday, March cial Public Examination Friday, Apr

26. 89.

Regular Public Examination, Thursday and Friday, August 1 and 2. 89.

Special Public Examination Friday, August 30. 89.

First and second grade certificates can be granted only at the regular examinations in March and August. Third grade certificates granted at all examinations.

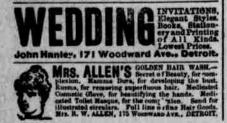
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By order of the Board of Examiners.

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# The Great War Syndicate.

By FRANK R. STOCKTON.

Author of "Rudder Grange," "Amos Ellbright," "The Bee Man of Orn," "The Christmas Wreck," "The Lady or the Tiger," "The Late Mrs. Null," "The Hundredth Man," "The Casting Away of Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine," "The

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The most important object was to :vide a defense against the serew/extracting and rudder breaking crabs; and to this end the Adamant had been fitted with what was termed a "stern jacket." This was a great cage of heavy steel bars, which was attached to the stern of the vessel in such a way that it could be raised high above the water, so as to offer no impediment while under way, and which, in time of action, could be let down so as to surround and protect the rudder and screw propellers, of which the Adamant had two.

This was considered an adequate defense against the nippers of a syndicate crab; but as a means of offense against these almost submerged vessels a novel contrivance had been adopted. From a great boom projecting over the stern, a large ship's cannon was suspended perpendicularly, muzzle downward. This gun could be swung around to the deck. hoisted into a horizontal position, loaded with a heavy charge, a wooden plug keeping the load in position when the gun lung perpendicularly.

If a crab should come under the stern this cannon could be fired directly downward upon her back, and it was not believed that any vessel of the hind could stand many such tremendous shocks. It was not known exactly how ventilation was supplied to the submarine vessels of the syndicate, nor how the occupants were enabled to make the necessary observations during action. When under way the crabs sailed somewhat elevated above the water, but when engaged with an enemy only a small portion of their covering armor could be seen.

It was surmised that under and between some of the scales of this armor there was some arrangement of thick glasses, through which the necessary observation could be made; and it was believed that, even if the heavy perpendicular shots did not crush in the roof of a crab, these glasses would be shattered by concussion. Although this might appear a matter of slight importance, it was thought among naval officers it would necessitate the withdrawal of a crab from action.

In consequence of the idea that the crabs were vulnerable between their overlapping plates, some of the Adamant's boats were fitted out with Gatling and machine guns, by which a shower of balls might be sent under the scales, through the glasses and into the body of the crab. In addition to their guns, these boats would be supplied with other means of attack upon the crab.

Of course it would be impossible to destroy these submerged enemies by means of dynamite or torpedoes; for with two vessels in close proximity, the explosion of a torpedo would be as dangerous to the hull of one as to the other. The British admiralty would not allow even the Adamant to explode torpedoes or dynamite bombs under her own stern.

Cleanses armored vessel, the Adamint would rely upon her exceptionally powerful armament and upon her great weight and speed. She was fitted with twin screws speed. She was fitted with twin screws and engines of the highest power, and it was believed that she would be able to overhaul, ram and crush the largest vessel, armored or unarmored, which the syndicate would be able to bring against her. Some of her guns were of immense caliber, firing shot weighing nearly 2,000' pounds and requiring half a ton of powder for each charge. Besides these she carried an unusually large number of large cannon and two dynamite guns. She was so heavily plated and armored as to be proof against any known artillery in the

world. She was a floating fortress, with men enough to make up the population of a town, and with stores, ammunition and coal sufficient to last for a long term of active service. Such was the mighty English battle ship which had come forward to raise the siege of the Canadian

The officers of the syndicate were well aware of the character of the Adamant, her armament and her defenses, and had been informed by cable of her time of sailing and probable destination. They sent out Repeller No. 7, with Crabs J and K, to meet her off the Banks of Newfoundland.

This repeller was the largest and strongest vessel that the syndicate had ready for service. In addition to the spring armor with which these vessels were supplied, this one was furnished with a second coat of armor outside the first, the elastic steel ribs of which ran longitudinally and at right angles to those of the inner set. Both coats were furnished with a great number of im-proved air buffers, and the arrangement of spring armor extended five or six feet beyond the massive steel plates with which the vessel was originally armored. She carried one motor cannon of large

One of the crabs was of the ordinary pattern, but Crab K was furnished with a spring armor above the heavy plates of her roof. This had been placed upon her after the news had been received by the syndicate that the Adamant would carry a perpendicular cannon over her stern, but there had not been time enough to fit out another crab in the same way.

When the director in charge of repelle No. 7 first caught sight of the Adamant, and scanned through his glass the vast proportions of the mighty ship which was rapidly steaming toward the coast, he falt that a responsibility rested upon

him heavier than any which had yet been borne by an officer of the syndicate, but he did not hesitate in the duty which he had been sent to perform, and imme-diately ordered the two crabs to advance to meet the Adamant, and to proceed to action according to the instructions which they had previously received. His own ship was kept, in pursuance of orders, several miles distant from the British ship.

As soon as the repeller had been sighted from the Adamant a strict lookout had been kept for the approach of erabs, and when the small exposed por-tions of the backs of two of these were perceived glistening in the sunlight the speed of the great ship was slackened. The ability of the syndicate's submerged vessels to move suddenly and quickly in any direction had been clearly demonstrated, and although a great ironclad with a ram could run down and sink a crab without feeling the concussion, it was known that it would be perfectly easy for the smaller craft to keep out of the way of its bulky antagonist. Therefore the Adamant did try to ram the crabs, nor to get away from them. Her commander intended, if possible, to run down one or both of them, but he did not propose to do this in the usual way.

As the crabs approached, the stern jacket of the Adamant was let down and the engines were slowed. This stern jacket, when protecting the rudder and propellers, looked very much like the cow catcher of a locomotive, and was capable of being put to a somewhat similar use. It was the intention of the captain of the Adamant, should the crabs attempt to attach themselves to his stern, to suddenly put on all steam, reverse his engines and back upon them, the stern jacket answering as a ram.

The commander of the Adamant had no doubt that in this way he could run into a crab, roll it over in the water, and when it was lying bottom upward, like a floring cask, he could move his ship to a distance and make a target of it. So desirous was this brave and somewhat facetious captain to try his new plan upon a crab that he forebore to fire upon the two vessels of that class which were approaching him. Some of his guns were so mounted that their muzzles could be greatly depressed and aimed at an object in the water not far from the ship. But these were not discharged, and, indeed, the crabs, which were new ones of unusual swiftness, were alongside the Adamant in an incredibly short time and out of the range of these guns.

Crab J was on the starboard side of the Adamant, Crab K was on the port side, and, simultaneously, the two laid hold of her. But they were not directly astern of the great vessel. Each had its nippers fastened to one side of the stern jacket, near the hinge like bolts which held it to the vessel, and on which it was raised and lowered.

In a moment the Adamant began to steam backward, but the only effect of this motion, which soon became rapid, was to swing the crabs around against her sides and carry them with her. As the vessels were thus moving the great pincers of the crabs were twisted with tremendous force, the stern jacket on one side was broken from its bolt, and on the other the bolt itself was drawn out of the side of the vessel. The nippers then opened, and the stern jacket fell from their grasp into the sen, snapping in its fall the chain by which it had been raised and lowered.

This disaster occurred so quickly that few persons on board the Adamant knew what had happened. But the captain who had seen everything, gave instant orders to go ahead at full speed. The first thing to be done was to get at a distance from those crabs, keep well away rom them, and pound them to pieces with his heavy guns.

But the iron screw propellers had scarcely begun to move in the opposite direction before the two crabs, each now lying at right angles with the length of the ship, but neither of them directly astern of her, made a dash with open nippers, and Crab J fastened upon one propeller, while Crab K laid hold of the other. There was a din and crash of preaking metal, two shocks which were felt throughout the vessel, and the shat-tered and crushed blades of the propellers of the great battle ship were powerless to move her.

The captain of the Adamant, pallid with fury, stood upon the poop. In a moment the crabs would be at his rudder! The great gun, double shotted and ready to fire, was hanging from its boom over the stern. Crab K, whose roof had the additional protection of spring armor, now moved round so as to be directly astern of the Adamant. Before she could reach the rudder her forward part came under the suspended cannon, and two massive steel shot were driven down upon her with a force sufficient to send them through masses of solid rock, but from the surface of elastic steel springs and air buffers they bounced up-ward, one of them almost falling on the deck of the Adamant.

The gunners of this piece had been well trained. In a moment the boom was swung around, the cannon reloaded, and when Crab K fixed her nippers on the rudder of the Adamant two more shot came down upon her. As in the first instance she dipped and rolled, but the ribs of her uninjured armor had scarcely sprung back into their places before her nippers turned and the rudder of the Adamant was broken in two and the upper portion dragged from its fastenings; then a quick backward jerk snapped its chains and it was dropped into the sea.

A signal was now sent from Crab J to Repeller No. 7, to the effect that the Adamant had been rendered incapable of steaming or sailing, and that she lay subject to order.

Subject to order or not, the Adamant did not remain passive. Every gun on board which could be sufficiently de-pressed was made ready to fire upon the crabs should they attempt to get away. Four large boats, furnished with machine guns, graphels, and with various appli-ances which might be brought into use on a steel plated roof were lowered from their davits, and immediately began fir-ing upon the exposed portions of the

with small shells, and if these penetrated under the horizontal plates of a crab, and through the heavy glass which was supposed to be in these interstices, the crew of the submerged craft would be

soon destroyed. The quick eye of the captain of the Adamant had observed through his glass, while the crabs were still at a considerable distance, their protruding air pipes, and he had instructed the officers in charge of the boats to make an especial attack upon these. If the air pipes of a crab could be rendered useless the crew must inevitably be smothered.

But the brave captain did not know that the condensed air chambers of the crabs would supply their inmates for an hour or more without recourse to the outer air, and that the air pipes, furnished with valves at the top, were always withdrawn under water during action with an enemy. Nor did he know that the glass blocks under the armor plates of the crabs, which were placed in rubber frames to protect them from concussion above, were also guarded by

steel netting from injury by small balls. Valiantly the boats beset the crabs, keeping up a constant fusillade and endeavoring to throw grapnels over them. If one of these should catch under an overlapping armor plate it could be con-nected with the steam windlass of the Adamant and a plate might be ripped off or a crab overturned.

But the crabs proved to be much more lively fish than their enemies had supposed. Turning, as if on a pivot, and darting from side to side, they seemed to be playing with the boats, and not trying to get away from them. The spring armor of Crab K interfered somewhat with its movements and also put it in danger from attacks by grapnels, and

it therefore left most of the work to its

Crab J, after darting swiftly in and out among her antagonists for some time, suddenly made a turn, and dashing at one of the boats, ran under it, and raising it on its glistening back, rolled it, bottom upward, into the sea. In a moment the crew of the boat were swimming for their lives. They were quickly picked up by two of the other beats, which then deemed it prudent to return

to the ship. But the second officer of the Adamant, who commanded the fourth boat, did not give up the fight. Having noted the spring armor of Crab K, he believed that if he could get a grapnel between its steel ribs he yet might capture the sea monster. For some minutes Crab K contented itself with eluding him: but, tired of this, it turned, and raising its huge nippers almost out of the water, it seized the bow of the boat and gave it a gentle crunch, after which it released its hold and retired. The boat, leaking rapidly through two ragged holes, was rowed back to the ship, which it reached half

full of water. The great battle ship, totally bereft of the power of moving herself, was now rolling in the trough of the sea, and a signal came from the repeller for Crab K to make fast to her and put her head to the wind. This was quickly done, the crab attaching itself to the stern post of the Adamant by a pair of towing nip-pers. These were projected from the stern of the crab, and were so constructed that the larger vessel did not communicate all its motion to the smaller one, and could not run down upon it.

As soon as the Adamant was brought up with her head to the wind she opened fire upon the repeller. The latter vessel could easily have sailed out of the range of a motionless enemy, but her orders forbade this. Her director had been instructed by the syndicate to expose his vessel to the fire of the Adamant's heavy guns. Accordingly the repeller steamed nearer, and turned her broadside toward

the British ship.
Scarcely had this been done when the two great bow guns of the Adamant shook the air with tremendous roars, each hurling over the sea nearly a ton of steel. One of these great shot passed over the repeller, but the other struck her armored side fairly amidship. There was a crash and scream of creaking steel, and Repeller No. 7 rolled over to windward as if she had been struck by a heavy sea. In a moment she righted, and shot ahead, and, turning, presented her port side to the enemy. Instant examination of the armor on her other side showed that the two banks of springs were uninjured, and that not an air buffer had exploded or failed to spring

back to its normal length.

Firing from the Adamant now came thick and fast, the crab in obedience to signals turning her about so as to admit the firing of some heavy guns mounted amidships. Three enormous solid shot struck the repeller at different points on her starboard armor without inflicting damage, while the explosion of several shells which hit her had no more effect upon her elastic armor than the impact of the solid shot.

It was the desire of the syndicate not only to demonstrate to its own satisfaction the efficiency of its spring armor, but to convince Great Britain that her heaviest guns on her mightiest battle ships could have no effect upon its armored vessels. To prove the absolute superiority of their means of offense and defense was the supreme object of the syndicate. For this its members studied and worked by day and by night; for this they poured out their millions; for this they waged war. To prove what they claimed would be victory.

When Repeller No. 7 had sustained the heavy fire of the Adamant for about half an hour, it was considered that the strength of her armor had been suffi-ciently demonstrated; and, with a much lighter heart than when he had turned her broadside to the Adamant, her director gave orders that she should steam out of the range of the guns of the British ship. During the cannonade Crab J had quietly slipped away from the vicinity of the Adamant, and now joined the re-

The great irouclad battle ship, with her lofty sides plated with nearly two feet of solid steel, with her six great guns, each weighing more than a hun-dred tons, with her armament of other

appliance of naval warfare, with a small army of officers and men on board, was left in charge of Crab K, of which only a few square yards of armored roof could be seen above the water. This little ves-sel now proceeded to tow southward her vast prize, uninjured, except that her rudder and propeller blades were broken

and useless Although the engines of the crab were of enormous power, the progress made was slow, for the Adamant was being towed stern foremost. It would have been easier to tow the great vessel had the crab been attached to her bow, but a ram which extended many feet under water rendered it dangerous for a sub-merged vessel to attach itself in its

During the night the repeller kept company, although at a considerable dis-tance, with the captured vessel; and early the next morning her director pre-pared to send to the Adamant a boat with a flag of truce and a letter demanding the surrender and subsequent evacuation of the British ship. It was sup-posed that now, when the officers of the Adamant had had time to appreciate the fact that they had no control over the movements of their vessel; that their armament was powerless against their enemies; that the Adamant could be towed wherever the syndicate chose to order, or left helpless in mid-ocean, they would be obliged to admit that there was nothing for them to do but to surrender.

But events proved that no such ideas had entered the minds of the Adamant's officers, and their action totally prevented sending a flag of truce boat. As soon as it was light enough to see the repeller the Adamant began firing great guns at her. She was too far away for the shot to strike her, but to launch and send a boat of any kind into a storm of shot and shell was of course impossible.

The cannon suspended over the stern of the Adamant was also again brought into play, and shot after shot was driven down upon the towing crab. Every ball rebounded from the spring armor, but the officer in charge of the crab became convinced that after a time this constant pounding, almost in the same place, would injure his vessel, and he

signaled the repeller to that effect. The director of Repeller No. 7 had been onsidering the situation. There was only one gun on the Adamant which could be brought to bear upon Crab K, and it would be the part of wisdom to interfere with the persistent use of this gun. Accordingly the bow of the repeller was brought to bear upon the Adamant, and her motor gun was aimed at the boom from which the cannon was suspended.

The projectile with which the cannon was loaded was not an instantaneous motor bomb. It was simply a heavy solid shot, driven by an instantaneous motor attachment, and was thus impelled by the same power and in the same manner as the motor bombs. The instantaneous motor power had not yet been used at so great a distance as that between the repeller and the Adamant, and the occasion was one of intense interest to the small body of scientific men having

charge of the aiming and firing.

The calculations of the distance, of the necessary elevation and direction, and of the degree of motor power required, were made with careful exactness, and when the proper instant arrived the button was touched, and the shot with which the cannon was charged was instantaneously removed to a point in the ocean about a mile beyond the Adamant, accompanied by a large portion of the heavy boom at which the gun had

been aimed. The cannon which had been suspended from the end of this boom fell into the sea, and would have crashed down upon the roof of Crab K, had not that vessel, in obedience to a signal from the repel-ler, loosened its hold upon the Adamant and retired a short distance astern. Material injury might not have resulted from the fall of this great mass of metal upon the crab, but it was considered prudent not to take useless risks.

The officers of the Adamant were greatly surprised and chagrined by the fall of their gun, with which they had expected ultimately to pound in the roof of the crab. No damage had been done to the vessel except the removal of a portion of the boom, with some of the chains and blocks attached, and no one on board the British ship imagined for a moment that this injury had been occasioned by the distant repeller. It was supposed that the constant firing of the not had cracked the boom, and that it had suddenly snapped. Even if there had been on board the

Adamant the means for rigging up an-other arrangement of the kind for perpendicular artillery practice, it would have required a long time to get it into working order, and the director of Repeller No. 7 hoped that now the British captain would see the uselessness of continued resistance.

But the British captain saw nothing of the kind, and shot after shot from his guns were hurled high into the air, in hopes that the great curves described would bring some of them down on the deck of the repeller. If this beastly store ship, which could stand fire but never setum of the could stand the but never setum of the stand stand the stand st never returned it, could be sunk, the Adamant's captain would be happy. With the exception of the loss of her motive power, his vessel was intact, and if the stupid crab would only continue to keep the Adamant's head to the sea until the noise of her cannonade should attract some other British vessel to the scene, the condition of affairs might be altered.

All that day the great guns of the Adamant continued to roar. The next morning, however, the firing was not resumed, and the officers of the repeller were greatly surprised to see approaching from the British ship a boat carrying a white flag. This was a very welcome sight, and the arrival of the boat was awaited with eager interest.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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