

THE DEMOCRAT

B. H. ADAMS, Publisher.

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI

SINGING IN CAMP.

The army camp in quietude
"Nath Cuban skies was near to slumber.
For rank on rank within the wood
Had stacked the arms that heavy cum-
ber.
It seemed the world was wooing sleep,
A sleep to hush the hearts so wily.
When down the line some voice rang deep
A note of love to "Mamie Reilly."
A hush of death, save for that voice!
But oh! how many thoughts were wing-
ing!
And then, as though 'twere each one's
choice,
A thousand others joined the singing:
For each had sweethearts somewhere,
home,
And war had lost its dash and splendor;
The Cuban wood and twilight gloom
Had made each soldier's heart grow ten-
der.
Then, farther down the line, there rang
The notes of "Sweet Marie," and solemn
As anthems ancient choirs sang
The chorus rolled, adown the column;
For soldier hearts, in war so strong,
Hath ever peaceful memories clinging,
And every voice that line along
To some afar Marie was singing.
A hush, and then from out a group
Of tents that in the woodland rested
A song broke forth that to the troop
A loyalty and love attested.
"Along the Wabash" reached the ears
Of tired corps in rest reposing,
And then there rose a burst of cheers,
The Indiana camp disclosing.
Then sudden blew a bugler's note,
The call of "taps"—"lights out"—and
sleeping
The soldier breathed a prayer by rote:
That One might hold within His keeping
The destinies of those at home,
To whom his sweetest thoughts were
winging,
And in the gathering even's gloom
A heart was softened by the singing.
—Roy Farrell Greene, in Leslie's Weekly.

A Self-Isolated Crusoe.

ON CEDROS ISLAND, 350 miles south of San Diego, off the coast of Lower California, a man is living the life of Robinson Crusoe and he likes it so much that he won't come home. He is Dr. F. G. Powers, of San Diego. He was sent down to the island to retain possession of it in the name of a mining company claiming a concession upon it. The life was pleasant to him, and after some months spent there he consented to remain. His mother desiring to go down to the island, the lonely man consented to have her do so, and they have been there ever since, apparently without a desire to see civilization. They are heard from occasionally through the visits of passing schooners, and the report from the island invariably is that "Dr. Powers and his mother are well and happy and don't care to leave the island."

It is now almost four years since the couple chose that lonely spot for a home. The loneliness, they say, soon passed away. Dr. Powers, it must be confessed, has a streak of laziness in his make up.

"I take it easy," he told the skipper of the schooner Alta. "I have plenty of time on my hands, but I am not idle as much as you would think. There is wood to get for mother, helping her with the housework, the killing of a goat occasionally, the catching of fish, the repairs to our house, and so on. I ramble over the island and get specimens of plants and flowers and trees, and pick up mineral specimens, too. We have books to read and nature to contemplate. It is the ideal life."

Judging from this it may be conjectured that Dr. Powers is somewhat of a philosopher, as well as a well-educated man. The chances are that he is a natural philosopher—every lazy man is said to be. Perhaps he is right. At any rate, he declines every offer to transport him back to civilization, and his mother says that she, too, is perfectly contented.

Some months ago a schooner was wrecked on the mainland opposite Cedros island, and three of the crew, jumping into a small boat, rowed and sailed to Cedros, where they were cared for by Dr. Powers and his mother. The men were more dead than alive when they staggered from the boat upon the beach. They had been without water for two days and without food for four days. One of the men was ill for six weeks. The others, hardy Swedes, rapidly recovered.

A schooner going up from the guano islands to San Diego stopped for water, and one of the Swedes and the sick man eagerly took passage for home. The third man, known as Stuttering Pete, refused to leave the island. In the few weeks he had been there a spell had been woven around him by Dr. Powers that was too strong to break. While the sight of a sail in the offing brought a thrill of happiness to his heart, the chains of Robinson Crusoe's life pleased him still better. He saw the sail fade away on the horizon without much regret. From that day to this Stuttering Pete, from all that can be learned, is as happy a castaway as was ever seen. He and Dr. Powers are companions and enjoy their long walks over the island. They hunt goats on the precipitous sides of the mountains and seek out the strange growths to be found in the mossy canons and on the higher hills.

Dr. Powers is more fortunate than Crusoe in one respect, and that is, he has communication with the mainland, infrequent though it be. A coasting steamer calls at the island about every six weeks and leaves provisions for the islanders. A store of illustrated papers and magazines, books and other reading matter is also left. Thus the trio live in comfort.

"When we were there last week," said the purser of this steamer, "Dr. Powers rowed out to see us. He rarely

visits our vessel, preferring to remain on the island. He has a fierce black beard, and his hair is very long. But otherwise his appearance is civilized. He has none of the wild light that is seen in the eyes of men who have been cast away or marooned to starve, such as we saw in the crew of the Minna when we picked them up at Black Warrior lagoon. Dr. Powers is very quiet, however, and seems to grow more retiring and taciturn every time we go to the island. He replies to questions pleasantly enough, but volunteers no information.

"I was curious to know if he kept a garden to supply himself and his mother with fresh vegetables. No, he said, he didn't bother with keeping a garden. They had canned vegetables, and when cooked nicely they were just as good as fresh. Now the fact is that Dr. Powers is too lazy to hoe in a garden. He might have a very nice patch of green things growing. There is plenty of water that could be diverted for irrigation, and the warm climate would make vegetables grow amazingly. But he prefers to climb the hills with Stuttering Pete, killing goats. When our steamer was sailing away we saw Dr. Powers and Pete start out for a walk along the beach hunting for mussels.

"I have not seen Mrs. Powers for some months. The last time I saw her was when I went ashore to see the home of the couple. It was a little cabin that had been built by the mining company for the superintendent, but now everything was deserted except by these three people. The house was quite comfortable inside. Mrs. Powers was cheerful as you please. She greeted us all kindly, and went bustling around apologizing for the scant luxury of her home, just as Mrs. Leeks or Mrs. Aleshine would have done. She thought no more of being alone on a desert island, with only her son and a Swedish sailor for company, than if she had been on a ranch five miles from town. Yet she is, year in and year out, almost entirely alone, and for four years she has not seen one of her own sex.

"The comfort of the lonely home and the charm of a do-nothing life almost made me desire to stay on the island, too. It is a lotus eaters' life. There is no worry about it, no straining of nerves, no rivalry of pride or pocket-books. On the island Stuttering Pete is joint king of the realm. On the mainland Stuttering Pete is an out-cast sailor, to be cursed and cuffed by some blustering mate. That is the difference.

Dr. Powers wrote a letter to a friend once, giving hints of his life on Cedros island.

"It is more like Robinson Crusoe's life than you would think," he said. "In fact, we have a copy of 'Robinson Crusoe' here, and have done many things mentioned in that book to advantage. I have enlarged a cave, as Crusoe did, for the protection of part of our supplies. While we do not live in fear of wild animals or wild men, we keep a good eye out, especially when guano pirates or goat-killing marauders come along the coast. We heard that at Guadalupe island they had



IT IS A LOTUS EATER'S LIFE.

trouble with a crew of piratical goat-killers, and Stuttering Pete and I prepared to give them a warm reception if they showed up on our kingdom. We rigged up a number of rifles on a place commanding the landing, so that each of us could be protected behind boulders and shoot two rifles each. We could have kept a good-sized crowd at bay. Fortunately for both sides, they did not visit us.

"The charm of this life grows upon me. I would not be a dweller in brick walls and grunting under the burden of modern life for all the wealth there is to be found in New York. What do we get beyond our food and shelter? If I sleep well, enjoy health and a happy mind, I am better off than one living in a city, though he piles up millions. I do not see opera every night, but I enjoy a keen appetite and find intellectual pleasure in contemplating the sea and land. Sometimes I find myself wrapt in thoughts far higher than I have power to express, which yield me the greatest enjoyment. If I were a poet I would not lack for a theme that might do much to change the hearts of men from their money-getting madness.

"In the vastness of the night, with a storm on, the sea boiling and howling all around us, I see the tremendous forces that are little known to those living in cities. I believe I realize more clearly the paltriness of the jostling crowd. On the silent moonlight nights, with leagues of shining sea around me, I feel that even a self-isolated Crusoe may be as important in the scheme of things as a greasy, hoggish millionaire. We are all too small to contemplate."

From which it appears that Dr. Powers spends much of his time in philosophy, when others think he is merely lazy. The question that occurs is: What philosophy does Mrs. Powers apply to make herself contented.—N. Y. Sun.

THE BATTLESHIP ILLINOIS.

Successful Launching of the Great Fighting Sea Monster at Newport News, Va.

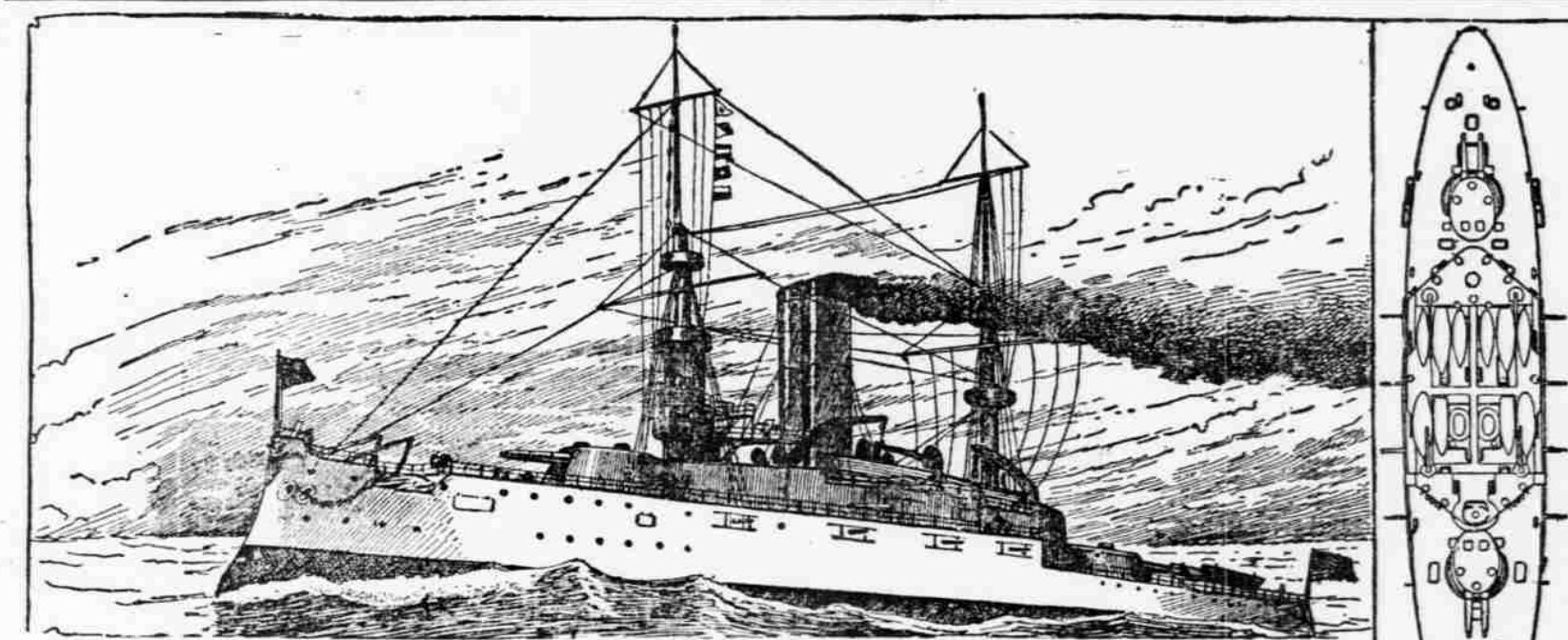
MANY PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE PRESENT.

The Ceremony Witnessed by a Crowd Estimated at Fully Forty Thousand People—The Christening Gracefully Performed by Miss Nancy Leiter—A Christen Thoe Illinois.

Newport News, Va., Oct. 4.—Newport News was thronged with visitors from far and near who came to witness the launching of the battleship Illinois. Chicago and Washington were represented by delegations of prominent men and women, while the nearby cities and villages emptied themselves of their population in order to assist the state of Illinois in honoring the baptism of the great ship which is to bear the name of the Prairie state.

An enormous crowd present. A conservative estimate places the crowd of visitors at fully 20,000, and it is believed that fully 30,000 persons witnessed the ceremonies attendant upon the launching. The weather was ideal.

Among the prominent persons from the national capital was Assistant Secretary of the Navy Allen, who came here from Portsmouth, where he has been inspecting the navy yard. He was on board the dispatch boat Dolphin, and also attended the launching luncheon at the Chamberlain hotel in the afternoon.



THE NEW BATTLE SHIP ILLINOIS.

The dimensions of the Illinois are as follows: Length on load water line, 364 feet; beam, extreme, 72 feet 34 inches; draft on normal displacement of 11,335 tons, 23 feet 6 inches; maximum displacement, all ammunition and stores on board, 12,335 tons; maximum indicated horse power (estimated), 19,000; probable speed, 16½ knots; normal coal supply, 800 tons; coal supply, loose storage, 1,200 tons; full bunker capacity, 1,400 to 1,500 tons; complement of officers 40; seamen, marines, etc., 149. The main battery will consist of four thirteen-inch breech loading rifles in Hinchborn balanced turrets, oval in shape and placed in the center line of the vessel, and fourteen six-inch rapid-fire guns. Secondary battery will consist of sixteen six-pounder rapid-fire guns, four one-pounder rapid-fire guns, two Colt guns and two light guns.

The steamer Newport News brought down from Washington the following invited guests: Commodore and Mrs. M. T. Endicott, Capt. A. S. Crowninshield, Paymaster-General Edwin Stewart, Engineer-in-Chief George W. Melville, Surgeon-General W. K. Van Rypen and wife, Chief Constructor Philip Hieborn and wife, Capt. and Mrs. Samuel C. Lemley, judge advocate general; Secretary of Agriculture Wilson and daughter; Assistant Secretary of War Meikeljohn, Hon. Martin Knapp and wife, J. D. Yoeman and wife.

Successfully launched. The big battleship was successfully launched at 12:32 p. m., amid the enthusiastic cheers of the vast multitude of people and the blasts of hundreds of whistles.



MISS NANCY LEITER.

At 10:30 o'clock Miss Nancy Leiter, sponsor for the Illinois, accompanied by a distinguished party from Chicago, ascended the christening stand. There was considerable delay in perfecting all of the preliminary arrangements, but the immense throng waited patiently until the only remaining obstacle was the single plank which held the vessel in position. A hush fell over the crowd as the sharp saw cut its way through the timber. When the supreme moment came Miss Leiter poised the gaily decorated bottle of champagne in her right hand and, as the big battleship moved slowly toward the river, cast it against the receding bow.

Miss Leiter Used Wine.

The bottle crashed into a thousand fragments and the wine streamed down the side of the nation's new defender. As the great vessel moved down the ways cheer after cheer went up from the multitude of spectators, whose enthusiastic shouts almost drowned the noisy welcome to the new comer sounded by the whistles in the harbor. The Illinois struck the water with a resounding splash, and floated majestically out into the stream.

FAVORABLE FOR INDOOR WORK.

The American Peace Commissioners in Paris Hear the Views of Gen. Merritt and Admiral Dewey.

Paris, Oct. 5.—The morning was cold and disagreeable, favoring indoor work, of which each peace commission has plenty on hand. The American commissioners determined to devote yesterday's session to a conference with Maj.-Gen. Merritt.

The session of the American commission began at ten o'clock and lasted until one o'clock in the afternoon. Gen. Merritt detailed to the commissioners his personal views and those of Rear-Admiral Dewey regarding the physical, geographical, moral and political conditions prevailing in the Philippine islands.

Gen. Merritt's exposition of his personal views and judgment of the Philippine islands was not finished yesterday. He will meet the commission again to-day, when he will continue to discharge his errand here.

President Montero Rios of the Spanish commission and his colleagues were busy yesterday with telegraphic and other correspondence.

A DANGEROUS SITUATION.

Working to Extinguish Fire in the Hold of a Transport Laden with Ammunition.

Santiago de Cuba, Oct. 5.—The United States transport Oldam, which left here on Sunday, has returned with her bunkers on fire. The presence of fire was discovered Sunday morning at ten o'clock in the main hold, which was at once flooded with 50 tons of water, and a gang of men was put to work removing the ammunition, of which the ship carried a large supply. All the officers and soldiers

MORE INDIAN TREACHERY.

White Officers Lured to Their Reservation and Held—Intense Excitement.

THE FATE OF THE LATTER UNKNOWN.

The Fear Gaining Ground that Marshal O'Connor and Inspector Tinker Have Been Captured by the Turbulent Indians on Their Reservation—Hope that the Trouble Can be Peacefully Settled.

Washington, Oct. 5.—The following dispatch about the Chippewa Indian trouble from Indian Inspector Tinker, at the White Earth reservation in Minnesota, sent Sunday night, was received by Secretary Bliss yesterday:

Walker, Minn., Oct. 3. Held a council yesterday. It amounted to nothing, as none but the Indians residing near the agency attended. The lake was so rough that the Indians from Bear Island, Otter Fall and Cass Lake could not come. Adjourned until to-day to give the Indians a chance to come in. From the most reliable information obtainable these Indians would not attend a council, neither will they surrender the guilty parties. All is quiet at the agency.

Inspector Tinker was yesterday wired to telegraph a complete report of the cause of the trouble. The dispatch was discussed at the cabinet meeting yesterday between the attorney-general and Secretary Bliss, and the latter expressed the opinion that there need be no alarm over the outcome.

Hopes for a Peaceful Solution of the Trouble.

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 5.—Gen. Bacon, commander of the department of Dakota, with Capt. Wilkinson and 80 sol-

SCHOONER PALMER WRECKED.

Driven to Destruction by the Bahama Hurricane—Several of the Crew Cast Away and Lost.

Charleston, S. C., Oct. 5.—The four-masted schooner Sarah E. Palmer, Capt. Whittier, with phosphate rock, from Charlotte Harbor to Cateret, N. J., was lost Sunday morning off Stone Inlet, seven miles south of Charleston. The Palmer ran into the storm off when five days out. The pumps were kept working. She lost her anchor Saturday night, then when half full of water Sunday morning the full force of the storm struck her, and her superstructure was washed away. Her crew took to the rigging, where they remained until Sunday morning, when they tried to take to the boats. One boat was smashed and one sunk. The captain and two negro seamen floated on a reefing plank. The captain was washed away three miles, finally sinking. The two negroes were washed ashore at Edisto Island and brought to Charleston yesterday morning.

Besides the captain, six men were washed overboard, the wreck washing on the beach.

The Palmer was one of the largest schooners in the coasting trade, and was a collier for the government in Guantanamo bay.

Took the Prussic Acid Route.

New Haven, Conn., Oct. 5.—Henry E. McDermott, assistant professor of chemistry at Columbia university, New York, was found unconscious at the corner of Beers street and Edgewood avenue, and died soon after. It developed that he had committed suicide with prussic acid.

PEACE JUBILEE WEEK.

Ex-Confederates Especially Invited to be Present and Participate in the Ceremonies of the Occasion.

New Orleans, Oct. 5.—Adjutant-General Moorman, by order of Gen. J. B. Gordon, commanding United Confederate Veterans, yesterday issued an order stating that a cordial fraternal letter has been received at those headquarters from Gen. L. S. Clarkson, past commander of the G. A. R., now general manager of the Transmississippi and International exposition at Omaha, Neb., especially inviting all ex-confederates to attend that exposition during peace jubilee week, from October 10 to 15.

The general commanding desires this generous invitation made known to all the United Confederate Veteran camps and to all ex-confederates, so that as many as desire can attend the most interesting and patriotic ceremonies.

A NOVEL SUIT.

The Owners of a Quarantined Vessel Sue for Relief—They Claim to Have a Clear Bill of Health.

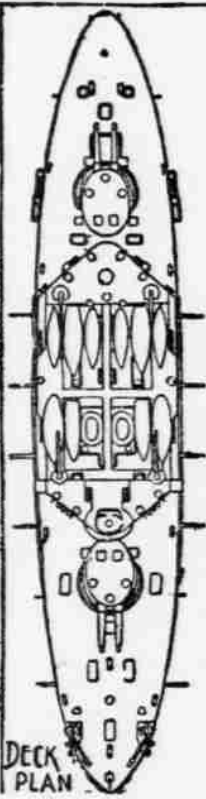
New Orleans, Oct. 5.—An interesting suit, in view of prevailing yellow fever, was filed yesterday by the French Navigation Co., which owns the steamship Britannia. The Britannia arrived several days ago at the mouth of the river with 408 Italian immigrants. Believing that the landing of these strangers in the city might provide fresh material for the fever and thus seriously endanger public health, the board of health issued an order holding the ship at the mouth of the river. The company sues for relief, saying the ship has a clean bill of health, and that the board of health is acting by virtue of a state law that is unconstitutional, in view of the fact that congress alone has the right to regulate foreign commerce. Damages are asked of the officers of the board of health.

To Participate in Ohio Day Celebration.

Denver, Col., Oct. 5.—Hon. Lyman J. Ohio and his staff reached Chicago on the Panhandle, and left on the Burlington for Omaha to take part in the exercises of Ohio day exposition. The party will return home via St. Louis.

Secretary Gage at Denver.

Chicago, Oct. 5.—Over 750 delegates Gage, secretary of the treasury, arrived in Denver, accompanied by his wife. He comes to Colorado for the purpose of inspecting mines in Boulder county, in which he is interested.



DECK PLAN.