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WAR IN THE CHESAPEAKE.

A STEAM DREDGING BOAT A FOCAL OBJECT WITH A FLEET OF OYSTER SCHOONERS.

They Try to Capture Her, but are Put to Flight—Two of Them are Sunk, One is Captured, and Several Men are Killed and Wounded—Re-enforcements Sent.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 11.—Chester River was the scene of a battle last night. Capt. Howard in the state police steamer Gov. McLane relieved a terrified citizen over a fleet of hostile city oyster dredging vessels, which had united upon a plan to fight the State officers. The rest of the story, so far as the part of the dredgers cannot now be estimated, and it is likely that it will never be known. For while those among the rioting who were residents in the city or counties will be found out, the greater part of the crews is made up of immigrants, whose homes no one knows. So far as is known, one man was killed. Two of the dredging schooners were sunk, one was captured, and the crew of all three taken to Centreville for trial.

At sunset yesterday the mouth of the Chester River was full of dredgers, all apparently sailing for the bar off Bell Point, the most southerly one of vessels in the river. When discovered at it, however, they quickly turned their sails and began work on the fruitful grounds. It was about 9 o'clock when Capt. Howard sighted them. The success of the pirates with the police sloops had emboldened them, and for evidently benefit they would be able to rout the steamer as thoroughly as they had the sloops. As soon as the State steamer hove in sight the dredgers gathered close together and as the steamer came to an offer was made to surround her.

Capt. Howard was not to be caught in this way, however, and after three unsuccessful attempts to accomplish this the dredgers spread for upon the McLane on the bar to. Volley after volley was poured into the small little boat, but she showed not the slightest intimation of retreating. Capt. Howard remained at the end of his boat was again and again driven down into the water as the cannon balls came sending groups and commoner into the engine of the steamer.

The steamer was evidently getting the better of the fight, when the dredgers ceased their shooting and more daring tactics. The schooner Hamilton, Capt. Hare, and the schooner Wm. Jones, Capt. Price Hare, were the first to make their way through the channel, coming to the starboard quarter of the steamer, and in the confusion of the moment they succeeded in getting close to the port. The two boats came in contact and Capt. Howard divined their intention to board his vessel from the two sides at the same time. He gave them no chance to do so, however, this plan, and went forward to defend them. For a time, however, power from the rear of the boat, till nearly one, striking her with tremendous force amidships. Another consultation took place between the two captains, and it was decided to run down upon the Hamilton, which then started toward the bar to continue more prizes.

The dredgers, however, had been dismayed at the fearless manner of the police steamer. A panic seized them, and the majority ran up their sails and started off in all directions. Capt. Howard succeeded in capturing the Maggie Corbett, which he turned to Fox Corbett of Baltimore and was commanded by Capt. Wright, son of Jones of Kent county. The other got away.

Having had enough sport for one day, Capt. Howard steamed off with his prize to and arrested crews to Centreville, where Capt. Jones was tried before Justice Goldsborough, who fined him $100 and costs. Capt. Howard was also arrested for the shooting of the boats, but was released on bail to await the action of the Grand Jury in the Centreville jail to await the return of States Attorney Hooper, who was out of town. The Captains neither of the crews was with the crews when the trouble occurred. Capt. Jones admitted that the oyster dredgers had been ordered to surround the State steamer, burn her sails, and make prisoners of all her crew. The fight was to be a relentless one and nothing was to be considered at any price.

Capt. Howard promptly telegraphed a report of the occurrence to Governor Jackson, informing him that the boat was in need of re-enforcements. The Governor ordered the police of Queen Anne, Talbot, and Kent counties to assist the police of Queen Anne, Talbot, and Kent counties to assist the police of Queen Anne, Talbot, and Kent counties to assist