

*Neptune's Preparations for Crossing the Line—A
Pathetic Scene at Burial at Sea—Naval Routine
Aboard the Grandest Fleet Ever Assembled.*

10

This first-class battle ship is named after the famous armored cruiser Maine, which was blown up in the harbor of Havana, just prior to the Spanish-American war. She cost \$2,885,000, and is of 13,500 tons displacement. She was launched July 7, 1901.

It was "be watchful every minute of the hour." The midshipman often had to report distances every fifteen or twenty seconds, and the corrections of speed were going on every two or three minutes.

Maybe you think it was not a hard job to keep that 18,000 tons of steel moving about cleanliness.

The men were cautioned to keep themselves and their clothes clean on penalty of going on the scrubbing list. It did not mean that there were men on board who were slack in this respect, there were a lot of youngsters who never been to sea before and they need