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TARANTULI

Uncle Sam's Monitors Are Slow-Going "Greepy" Monsters, But Their Sting Means Practical Annihilation to the Enemy's Ship.

THE MONITOR MONTEREY'S BIG GUNS IN ACTION.

HETHER or not Spain contemplates any attempt to re-trieve her ill fortunes by an attack on Admiral Dewey's fleet at Manila, it is certain the presence of the Charleston and the Monterey, now on their way to join the American flotilla, will be a sufficient to any effort she may make in that Americans the opportunity to fight her, it means virtual annihilation to her ships and the practical extinction of her naval

The Dons may send their combined fleets to the Philippines, but with the Monterey tere George Dewey may laugh confident-t at the failing power and futile efforts

De Monterey, according to the almost universal testimony of naval experts, is the freatest fighting machine on earth. The Puritan is of a similar type, but is really an old-time monitor remodeled to exear as a sister ship to the Monterey. Monterey is a glorious name, recalling the scene of the victory achieved by Gen. Inday Taylor in Mexico on September 186, and it was also the designation the capital of Upper California—the first spot occupied by our army and navy to the Pacific coast in the Mexican war. It is the latter which is honored in the lame of this growth. as the latter which is honored in the tame of this great warship. Gen Sherman, in his book, gave a spirited description of the appearance of Monterey bay and the town on his arrival there as a betteract of artillery in January, 1847. The warship Monterey is described in the physical services of the physical law.

rate marship Monterey is described in the main mental phraseology as "a bathette new temberar monitor." She has twin screws, with a horsepower of 5.244, and carries only has guns, two twelve-inch and two tentals in her main or primary battery. the in her main or primary battery.

Call four guns indeed, but they have the relative power and destructibility sailor boys in those waters of the Pa-

strikes it crumbles into atoms or dashes be a stone and iron wall or a fortress or the steel casing of a battleship. She can lie at anchor and allow a fleet of ordinary men of war and a string of forts to rain a thousand shells upon her with every prospect of remaining practically un-scathed. In short, the Monterey's almost invulnerable, and there can be little else to do than sing an anticipatory requiem for the antagon'st who ventures to enter the lists of conflict with her. To further illustrate her powers of destruction, it is well known that the heaviest armor on the Spanish vessels is twelve inches thick. The Monterey's shells can penetrate 23-inch armor at 1,500 yards. To express it variantly, the projectiles fired from the

protector is on the way to th

the magazines. She was also to be of the would warrant.

The idea of building the Monterey had its inception during the session of the Forty-ninth congress, which made a general appropriation of \$2,000,000 for floating ship was soon questioned. The experience bateries, rams or other naval structures of Great Britain with 110-ton guns has not for coast and harbor defense. After much been encouraging, and reflection suggested discussion by the board appointed for the that it was an overambitious project to purpose it was decided to call for bids for carry ordnance of that callber on a 4,000the construction of a vessel 256 feet long, ton ship. The Massachusetts, Indiana and with 55 feet beam and a mean draft of 15½ Oregon have no guns heavier than the feet. She was to have 16 inches of steel thirteen-inch. It was therefore settled feet. She was to have 16 inches of steel thirteen-inch. It was therefore settled armor amidships, diminishing to less than that with two twelve-inch guns in her for half that at bow and stern, but the maximum thickness was to cover the vital parts, including the steam machinery and powerful a battery as her displacement

low freeboard type, thus presenting the minimum of surface to an enemy. A curved steel deck of suitable thickness was to give further protection.

be open at the top, but so much objection was raised by naval constructors and officers to the plan, which would allow a shot or shell from the enemy to be dropped upon the gun from above, that it was decided to put a glacial turret over them—that is, a sloping roof—which now affords

The protection of the constructors and officers to the planting same and including the Charleston and not inmand, including the charleston and not including the

There is an armored covering the equiving gear, telegraph, telephones and speak-ing tubes. The commander and naviga-tor, the third officer in command, are sta-tioned here, with possibly one or two oth-

minimum of surface to an enemy. A curved steed deek of suitable tuckness to ware the Monterey's guins will penetrate the armor of any Spanish ship after. They are nearly as effective as the 13-inch shell, which will penetrate the armor of any Spanish ship after. They are nearly as effective as the 13-inch shell, which will penetrate the armor of the four feet of granite and seven feet of concrete.

There is, in addition, on the Monterey now has what is called a projectife of 500 pounds, effects a pure structure from which some rapidire sun, six 6-pounders, two Gattings of 800 pounds, effects a potential and seven feet of concrete.

There is, in addition, on the Monterey as upperstructure from which some rapidire sun, six 6-pounders, two Gattings and four 1-pounders, can help to make an engagement interesting and take care of any torpedo boat or destroyer that may dree politors. The latter firm was awarded the contract or receives \$100 premium for a wful guins that she depends to annihilate any enemy that may dire to oppose the Monterey hovering of Corngidic island, in the harbor of Manila, combating an entire Spanish fleet, while our American foulth remained in the bickground, near Cavite, merely interested spectators of what was known to be a predestined.

The possible fear of the Dons bringing overwhelming edds against our sailor boys in those waters of the Pa-

eight strong fighting ships under his com-mand, including the Charleston and not in-

a total of one monitor, six cruisers, two protected gunboats, one armed revenue cutter, one auxiliary cruiser and unprotected miniature styel gunboat Callao, captured after the great battle of Manila. If Spain sends the battleship Pelayo, her most for-midable naval representative, and three or four other armored craft to the Philipfronted by a powerful squadron, but it is said that "the administration has no fear of the result." And neither, surely, has the Green mountain boy, who would only repeat his May day parade over the waters of Manila bay. But more armored ships are to be sent to him as soon as the exigencles of the Cuban question will permit, not because he really needs them, but simply to make assurance doubly sure.

The Charleston is a protected cruiser, like the Baltimore, Boston and Raleigh, carry-ing eight guns in her main battery. She has an indicated horse power of 6,606, and consequently is a valuable addition to the consequently is a valuable address. but it is that that on those Eastern seas, but it is that that.

Though they are the sallors' bugaboo because of death, the Monterey.

Though they are the sallors' bugaboo because of death, the Monterey. powerful engine of death, the Monterey.
that insures a rapid, decisive victory in cause of their unwieldiness, the more than case the Castillan bravos desire to attempt the release of the capital city of her Philippine possessions.

vessel. Ericeson, that they are the best in the world not only for coast defense, but for any inshore fighting. They are so low other class of warships in existence.

waves renders it unlikely that that portion

of the vessel can be crippled.

The crews and officers of Sampson's fleet comparined loudly because the monitors Terror and Puritan, that were with them, delayed the rate of speed on the run to San Juan and return, as they could only steam an average of seven knets to the cruisers' fourteen, and then, as they required proportionately a greater quan-tity of coal, they were at times taken in So to them has been applied the term "tarantulas of the navy," but they are also scourges like the venomous crea-

All naval authorities are now agreed that monitors are indispensable auxiers and battleships of their own flotilla. For hard, heavy bombarding and close to shore fighting against batteries and forts they are particularly valuable, as they are almost impervious to the shells which may be thrown at them and which usually rebound and ricochet from their decks. For coast and harbor defense they are absolutely unequaled and can only be dis-turbed, if at all, by the crafty torpedo boat when the opportunity is given the latter to hurl its death-dealing missiles at them. But a torpedo boat can be crippled with as small a shot as a Mauser builet, and a single projectile from the guns of a monitor could blow them out of the water into infinitesimal fragments. The torpedo boat is only an agent. It is the missile, the torpedo, it sends that is danger-

Those monitors that are in the navy representing the ideas of thirty years ago are more interesting as possible factors in coast defense, supplemented by torpedors, forts and fortifications, and they are useful in actual battle. The Nahant, for instance, manned by the New York naval reserves, carrying two 15-inch smoothbore guns and several rapid-firers, 's stationed at the entrance of New York harbor. Just what proportional destructive strength a 15-inch smoothbore can have in comparison with an 8-inch or even a 6-inch rifled cannon is yet a question of conjecture. The smoothbores were very efficient in their day, but the ribbed gun long ago demonstrated its signal superfority. The length of the gun also adds to the penetrative power of the projectile. The Ajax is another of the single turore guns and several rapid-firers.

The Ajax is another of the projectile.

The Ajax is another of the single turret monitors built thirty-five years ago,
that instead of being allowed to rest in
mud was used by the naval militia of
Camden, N. J. Her armament at present,

Boston harbor is defended by the time monitors Lebigh and Catskill. The latter was taken to the Massachusetts capital by naval reserves, and both of them, with the usual armament of smooth-bores and rapid-fire guns, are manned by the naval militia. The Lehigh, built by John Erlesson in 1862, saw considerable service during the following during the following three years, and the Catskill in the attack on Fort Wagner during the civil war was struck nearly

times by cannon balls from the fort, smoothbore guns, has been assigned to the defense of Pertiand, Me. A relie of 1865, still presents a vallant appearance.
Jason, another of Ericsson's pets, has een "in ordinary" since the civil war, but guns comprise her main armament. Larger

But it is in the modern fighting monitor fensive ones like those guarding our har-Terror, the Puritan and the Amphitrite. two independent fire rooms. The barbettes alone has turrets. When the monterey are intended, as their name implies, to be onen at the top, but so much objection be onen at the top, but so much objection the first strong fighting ships under his comercial armament of four 12-inch and two 4-

erful armament of four 12-inch and two 4-inch guns in her main battery and six 6-pounders, four Gatlings and two 37-millimeters in her secondary battery, she is a foeman worthy of the respect of any foe.

The Miantonomoh is another remodeled Ericsson monitor, though practically a new ship. Her construction was begun in 1862, but before she was finished she was towed to Annapolis. There she rested in the mud of the Severn river for several the mud of the Severn river for several years, her botiers rusting, until she was taken away and rebuilt of steel.

The Amphitrite is a modern double turreted monitor, ostensibly intended for coast defense only. She carries four 16-inch rifles mounted in pairs, and two 4-inch guns, besides a heavy secondary battery. The Terror is of the same class, though her keel was laid twenty-four years ago. She also carries four 10-inch guns and has an exceptionally low freeboard that gives her an exceedingly formidable appear-

The Monachock is another powerful monitor, with an armament almost identical with that of the Puritan, except that she has four 10-inch instead of four 12-inch guns. These fire steel projectiles weighing neare than 500 pounds, are effective at a distance of more than six miles, and will 'carry' several miles farther even than

usual possibility of their engines becoming disarranged in a heavy sea, their compara-tively slow rate of speed and their vora-ROGER P. BARNUM.

boat cruel of Tories in the war of the In appearance

THE SWORD OF TARLETON: A RELIG OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

There has just been placed in the state base at Columbia, S. C., side by side with the swords of Marion and other reverse when the swords of Marion and other reverse when the control of Tories in the war of the more of that class of weapon,

There has just been placed in the state two officers pressed their way towards clashed the swords of Marion and other reverse when the carried of this hilt is cased in wood that was once covered with leather, but this the decay of years has removed. Col. Dickson's sentence of retort that has come down to sentence of retort that has come down to us in history. "I am told," said Tarleton us in history



Washington was much the better swordsman and that is why he succeeded by a
flerce blow in breaking down the Tory s
guard and cutting his fingers so severely
that the colonel dropped his weapon and
sought safety in flight. This was the event which led the patriot girl to say lyng, the six inches including the bilt, first boxan to wave.

MAIL FOR CAMPS AND FLEETS; ROUTES TO BE ESTABLISHED IN CUBA.

increasing the work of the postal officials throughout the south. The postoffice department is keeping step, speaking, with the war department and .

the navy department.

Wherever the United States flag goes, the mail sack follows apace. Preparations have been completed for establishtroops is made, or the first port is seized for permanent occupation by the fleets. Mr. Eben Brewer has been designated by postmaster general to take charge of the new postoffice with a force of clerks, hang

service will be extended, and when the occasion demends it, regular post routes will be established in Cuba and Uncle Sam's mail carrier will go upon his daily rounds. It will be no international arrangement at the outset, but will be confined solely under the angular of current will be confined solely under the angular of current will be confined solely under the angular of current will be confined solely under the angular of current will be confined solely under the angular of current will be confined solely under the angular post routes the current will be confined to the United communication will be communication will be confined solely under the angular post routes takes hold.

When Tampa is reached, if that is the mail to the United communication will be confined to the the mail for the officers and sailors and ducted solely under the auspices of our own postoffice department. As progress is made in the conquering of Cuba, connection will be made with the postal system which is now maintained by the insurgents in the regions under their control, so that

The war, with the consequent military a letter posted in New York or San Fran- Commodore Schley's flying squadron.

At the present time the service of the of the letters.

At the present time the service of the postoffice stops at Jacksonville, Tampa, Key West or the ports on the Fiorida coast. Connection is made with the ships of the blockeding fleet and the flying squadren, but it is from the coast towns only. Letters addressed to the officers and men of the fleets malled at points north or east of Washington are now coarded south in the through postal cars. carried south in the through postal cars.
The department operates a railway mail service from Springfield, Masz., to Tempa,
Fia., on a quick schedule. The postal car starts from Springfield and picks up the postmaster general to take of clerks, hang new postoffice with a force of clerks, hang out his shingle designating the office, and proceed at once to handling mail.

It will be the first time this government has located a postoffice upon foreign soil.

As the United States armies advance, the As the United States armies advance, the crew takes hold.

Fig., on a quote starts from Springfield and picks up the starts from Springfield and picks up

and naval movements along the South cisco will go safely and speedily to its desAtlantic coast, has resulted in materially tination in the interior of Cuba. dispatch boats to the proper officers of

The mall for the armies at Tampa goes south in the same way. The pouches are delivered to the postmaster and the army officials must apply to him for the mail. Great care is exercised in the handling of the mail after it leaves the postoffice at Tampa. Special messengers are detailed by each commanding officer to get the mail for the troops in particular vicinities, and they transport it to the camps, where it is kept in a stated place, at which the soldiers call and get their letters. The mail for Chickamauga passes through

. When Tampa is reached, if that is the communication will be established until

At this particular juncture the post-office department is maintaining consid-