

BATTLE UNFOUGHT.

COMMODORE SCHLEY ALL BUT ATTACKED AN AUSTRIAN.

It was on the eventful July 3d, when his fleet had submerged the Spanish warships, that he mistook the Austrian for an enemy.

Here is an incident which shows more clearly than anything else just what the navy is ready to do and how delicately balanced is the ship on the shoulders of our sea fighters.

Near Santiago a battleship was sighted, heavily armored and turreted, but at such a distance that her colors could not be distinguished under the glass.

"She is white—an unusual thing in war time," said the commodore, watching the stranger through his glass.

"Not yet, sir," came the answer, followed a moment after by "We have raised her colors, sir, and she is Spanish."

"Send your men to quarters, Cook," said the commodore, "and start an eight-inch shell for her when I give the word."



COMMODORE SCHLEY.

On went the Brooklyn, fast closing the distance between herself and the stranger—a big battleship of modern type, and with her flag at two stripes of red on each side of yellow, as it appeared, and the crown in proper place.

"Certain, sir," came the reply. "I can see her colors distinctly."

The commodore had his glasses on the battleship. Turning to the captain of his ship, he said: "Cook, that fellow is not at quarters. His guns are turned away from us."

Just then the officer on the bridge reported that the battleship was signaling with the international code, and soon translated the message: "This is an Austrian battleship."

Half an hour after the commander of the Maria Theresa (Austrian) was seated in Commodore Schley's cabin.

"If you had sent your men to quarters or moved a turret I should have raked you; it was a narrow escape," said the commodore during the conversation.

"We know that," returned the Austrian, "and we were very much worried. We signalled long before you answered. We had no wish to be troubled. We have seen the wrecks along the coast. But," he inquired, as he rose to leave, "do you send cruisers to meet battleships?"

The commodore smiled as he answered: "We always make a fight with the first ship we have at hand. We never wait because we are outrated. We try to win with what we have."

"You Americans are very remarkable," said the Austrian as he went over the side to his boat.—Chicago Record.

Buy a talking machine? No, friend, I have one at home.

OUR FLEET'S FIRST ADMIRAL.

Interesting and Remarkable Career of Ezekiel Hopkins.

Who was the first commander-in-chief of the American navy? What were the names of our first war ships and when were they built?

Probably not one out of a hundred of the average newspaper readers can answer, without investigation, these questions; yet the knowledge is interesting and valuable and especially timely just now, when the navy and the doings of the naval officials occupy so large a part of the public attention.

The Continental Congress at the outset managed the Revolutionary war through committees, there being at that time no executive. John Adams was chairman of the naval committee, with Stephen Hopkins and three other congressmen as associates.

At the time of his appointment Ezekiel Hopkins was a brigadier-general in command of the Rhode Island troops, acting under commission from the governor.

Shortly after his return from the Bahamas he met two English ships off Block Island and captured both of them. Two days later he had an engagement with the English twenty-nine gun ship, Glasgow, but did not succeed in capturing it.

He was now placed in charge of a large number of war vessels, which Congress was having built. The task was a difficult one. Money and material were hard to get.

Ezekiel Hopkins at once equipped a fast and powerful privateer, and again went to sea. He sailed to the East Indies, where his daring and skill found rich rewards.

When the war ended he returned to Rhode Island, and became one of her most prominent and busy citizens.

The outbreak of the Revolutionary war found the patriots without a navy. Congress had to create one.

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THE FARM. A Chapter on Young Turkeys. Turkey eggs hatch in four weeks after setting. "Strong" eggs hatch out several days earlier.

Helps to Prevent Potato Scab. A correspondent of The Farm and Fireside writes that he has for two years been testing the value of a rye sod in which to plant his potatoes to prevent them from being scabby.

WAS A MARRIED MAN. Buy a talking machine? No, friend, I have one at home.