

AMERICAN SHIPS.

Uncle Sam's New Navy Beginning to Take Form.

TOWNTOWN AND VESUVIUS.

They Were Recently Launched at Philadelphia, and They Are Here to be Described—The Former Is a Gunboat and the Latter a Dynamite Cruiser.

The United States is at last in a condition at which patriots can rejoice, and with the recent launching of six new vessels, it may be said that Uncle Sam's approach for deficiency in naval armament is beginning to disappear.

The four new cruisers—Dolphin, Atlanta, Boston, and Chicago—built under the contracts with the late John Roach, are now upon the sea, and on April 28, at the shipyard of Cramp & Sons, Philadelphia, were launched the gunboat Yorktown.

and that striking novelty in naval work, the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius. As this last, if a success, will greatly revolutionize naval warfare, a full description is of interest.

The Vesuvius is an unarmored ship, with machinery below the water line, 240 feet long, with a knife blade bow and stern and a body like a black cigar. It is but 26 feet wide and 14 feet deep, with a mean draught of 9 feet. The sides are covered with a very light railing of galvanized iron, which gives it the appearance of a pleasure boat, and it is designed not to stand and take shot, but to fire and run away.

The dynamite guns look like immense reflecting telescopes, being 55 feet long, and projecting far out from the forecastle deck. The breeches are firmly fastened to the bottom of the vessel, and around them are thirty-six pipes, each 23 feet long and 16 inches in diameter, into which the compressed air is forced to charge the guns. The compressor brings this air to a pressure of 2,000 pounds to the square inch, and by its force the dynamite shells, weighing 60 pounds, can be sent two miles. As the vessel's engines can give it a speed of twenty miles an hour—its

shape being calculated for speed—it is plain that the destroyer can "shoot and run," like the militia captain of the old story. The engines are toward the stern, triple expansion machines developing 3,000 horse power, to both run the vessel and compress the air.

The guns are the kind invented by Lieut. Zolinski, of the navy, recently tested with great success; and one of them can throw a 900 pound projectile. The vessel contains apartments for its complement of officers and men, and the designers are confident it will prove indeed the "Destroyer of the Seas."

Along with the dynamite cruiser was launched the Yorktown, or Gunboat No. 1, as she was first called—a steel cruiser of 1,700 tons displacement, length between perpendiculars 230 feet, draught 13 feet forward and 15 feet aft, and breadth 30 feet. She has a poop and topgallant forecastle, with open deck between. Her engines are triple expansion, of 3,200 horse power with natural draught and 3,300 with forced draught, giving a speed of seventeen knots per hour. The engines are in separate water-tight compartments, and the coal is in bunkers around them to give protection. The machinery, including the steering gear, are covered by a three-eighths inch water-tight steel deck, which is in the form of a turtle back, curving down at the sides and at the bow and stern, while the crown of it is but little above the water line. Above and below this deck are water-tight bulkheads, dividing the ship into many water-tight compartments, all of which can be drained by the powerful pumps and ventilated by the blowers. An armored tower stands on the forecastle deck, protected by 2-inch steel plates and provided with speaking tubes and telegraphs by which the cap-

tain can communicate with the engineers and men at the guns and control the whole thing in battle. The Yorktown carries 400 tons of coal, enough to sail from 2,000 to 10,000 miles, according to the rate of speed desired, as it is a principle of steam making for speed above eight knots per hour, each added knot requires more coal than any preceding.

While the United States navy is employing its constructive talents on destructive gunboats, Great Britain is devoting her naval energies just at present to the perfecting of torpedoes and torpedo boats. There are fifty such boats in the British navy; but the admiralty a year ago pronounced them unsafe, uncomfortable and of little or no use in a rough sea, and invited proposals for a new class free from the existing defects. The result has been a boat of novel design constructed by Messrs. Yarrow & Co. Their first boat was lately exhibited in the Thames, and is officially declared a success. It is 60 feet long, 5 feet and 6 inches in beam, and can make seventeen knots an hour, and is protected, as is the rapidly and easily with which the boat is turned, its capacity for the roughest sea and the ease with which it is steered, fill the admiralty's want.

The machinery consists of a locomotive boiler and triple expansion engines—all protected, as is the steering apparatus. A revolving torpedo gun is fixed aft, from which a torpedo can be ejected at an angle

while the boat is going at full speed, a great improvement on the firing from the bow, by which the speed of the boat was suddenly checked, greatly increasing the liability to be hit by the enemy's guns. A small Nordenföhr gun is also mounted, so that the craft can be made to that extent, a quick firing gunboat if the necessity arise. The admiralty are so pleased with the new design that they will supercede with it all the old torpedo boats; and, of course, other nations must follow suit. And by the time we get well supplied all around with torpedoes, torpedo boats, dynamores, and other gunboats, we may reasonably expect that some genius will invent something that will render all these useless, and then we shall all begin again at the beginning. But the great point to the United States is that these new gunboats can range the ocean and destroy merchant ships so easily that any commercial nation will think long before going to war with the great Republic.

THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

Melville W. Fuller Nominated by President Cleveland. He has named a successor to the late Chief Justice Waite, of the United States supreme court.

Melville Weston Fuller, of Chicago, the nominee, is a man of 55, and was born in Augusta, Me.

His father was Frederick A. Fuller, his mother Catherine Martin, daughter of Chief Justice Nathan Webster. Melville W. was graduated at Bowdoin in the class of 1833. E. J. Phelps, minister to England, being a classmate. Mr. Fuller began the study of law in the office of his uncle, George Melville W. Fuller, Melville Weston, at Bangor. After attending lectures in the law department of Harvard university he began the practice of his profession in Augusta in 1836. While waiting for clients he acted as editor of the Age. Some time later he went to Chicago, and there he soon had a lucrative practice. In 1861 he was elected a member of the state constitutional convention. In 1862 he was chosen to the Illinois legislature, and, although a Democrat, running each time in a strong Republican district, he was victorious by large majorities. He was a delegate to the Democratic national convention of 1864, 1872, 1876, and 1880. In 1860 he was selected by the citizens to deliver the address of welcome to Stephen A. Douglas, of whom he was an ardent admirer.

Theosophists at Chicago. The Theosophical Society in America have recently held their convention in Chicago, and here present group portraits of some of the more prominent delegates thereto.



MELVILLE W. FULLER.

It is necessary in prosecuting missionary work in the interior of Africa to use the waterways of the continent. Bishop Taylor has a small steamer on the Congo river, in which he makes periodical journeys into the country. It is built in and transported from one stream to another to suit his convenience. His work is confined mostly to that part of Africa known as Congo Free State. According to Stanley's estimate, it embraces over 1,000,000 square miles, and has a population of 27,000,000. The natives are barbarians, and it is said that some of them have been guilty of cannibalism. When a king or chief dies he is killed ten or twelve persons in a most savage manner, and adorn their houses with the skulls. They believe in fetichism and witchcraft.

When a man dies they believe that some one has bewitched him, and they try to find out who it was, that they may put him to death.

The country along the upper Congo is ravaged by Arabs in pursuit of slaves. In traveling along the upper Congo one may see villages of once contained 5,000 and 6,000 inhabitants, but now they are ruins. The Arabs surrounded the villages and burned them, having either killed the people or carried them into slavery. From the mouth of the Congo for nearly 150 miles the river is navigable by the largest vessels. Then come the falls, or rapids, which extend about 180 miles. The descent is 900 feet. When Bishop Taylor's steamer, the Henry Reed, ascended the river it was taken to pieces at the foot of the falls, and one piece was given to each native to carry. With it was also given a scrap of paper describing his load. At the end of their journey they came to the bishop, saying:

"Master, here is my load; look at the paper, see it is all right. Now give me my pay and I will go home."

To do justice to their honesty it may be stated that not a rivet was lacking. Above the falls a steamer can go 1,200 miles on the main stream, or 3,000 miles on the stream and its branches.

A man who goes out to the Congo as a missionary must be not less than 25 years old, and of sound mind and body, and must be able to adapt himself to the exigencies of the weather. Said Bishop Taylor to your correspondent: "Total abstinence is an absolute condition of health. A man must learn what not to do. A young man came there and insisted upon walking eighteen miles a day. In a short time he was dead. Above all a man must not be afraid of the natives. There were three men who came from England, and on the voyage the people on board the vessel frightened them, telling them that they would surely die. The men made their last wills and testaments and expected to die. Shortly after landing they were taken with fever. They gave up all hope. The missionaries tried to arouse them, but it proved useless. They sank down into a mood of despair and died."

The future of the Congo Free State is very promising. Stanley, the explorer, estimates the ivory production alone to amount to \$150,000 annually, but of course ivory cannot be classed as a staple production. The vegetation is luxurious, and as soon as experienced botanists investigate the country many valuable herbs will undoubtedly be discovered.

The temperature of the Congo district is in the dry season, which answers to our winter, about 73 degrees. In the wet season the average is 90 degrees, and the limit about 95 degrees. There is always a fine breeze blowing, so that the weather is never suffocatingly hot. The country is fenced in by mountain chains and threaded with navigable rivers. There are in all over 7,000 miles of waterways in the Congo district.

A citizen who insisted that he could easily live on one meal a day afterward privately explained that he meant oatmeal.

Warm Walls Repel Dust. Heated bodies repel minute particles of dust, the repulsion operating alike in the open air and in confined spaces. Assuming the correctness of this view, it follows that if the floor, walls and ceiling of a room be warmer than the contained air, the dust will be repelled from the walls to the air, and the reverse of these conditions of temperature will bring about the opposite result. According to this view, those methods of warming rooms should be adopted which heat the walls instead of the solid objects, thus excluding open fires.—Globe Democrat.

BISHOP TAYLOR.

HE TALKS ABOUT HIS MISSIONARY WORK IN AFRICA.

He is Now in New York Attending the Big Methodist Conference—Picture of the Bishop and His Famous Missionary Steamer, the Henry Reed.

The African mission of Bishop William Taylor, who is now in New York attending the big Methodist conference, has been singularly successful. He was appointed a missionary bishop at the last general conference, and is the only man in the Methodist church holding that office. Since the beginning of his work 3,000 natives have embraced Christianity under his ministrations. He has under his supervision some fifty preachers, sixteen of whom are women. Bishop Taylor states that Liberia, with its settled communities of Christian Africans, with its organized government recognized by the nations, and its social regulations, will be used by him as the base and support of his operations. He has arranged for opening a dozen industrial schools, the chiefs of the different tribes visited having agreed to plant and attend to the first crops of food required by the mission, to furnish building sites and to erect buildings. Bishop Taylor agrees to provide teachers, preachers and all other things necessary to put the mission in a self supporting way.

"To adequately understand the difficulties which a missionary in Africa has to surmount," he says, "it is merely necessary to state that the languages and dialects of the natives are innumerable. The Bible has been translated into sixty-six different tongues, yet this is but a small proportion of the actual number of languages spoken. It is estimated that there are nearly 600. I can say from experience that it is no play to pick up a language in the study of which all the rules of your own grammar simply help to puzzle you. I was appointed to my work in Africa four years ago, and sailed from New York on Jan. 22, 1885. I took with me fifty-two missionaries. After a short stay in Liverpool I set sail for Africa, and landed at St. Paul de Loanda, on the west coast, where a large mission house had been prepared for me. While staying there many of my workers became ill. One of them died because he would not take quinine, which is the most effective remedy for African fever. Finally I got the permission of the governor of Angola to establish five mission stations—the first at Loanda, the second at Dondo, the third at Uilungue-a-pepo, the fourth at Mat-

hege and the fifth at Lualaba. Dondo is a considerable town, situated about 230 miles from Loanda. It is laid out in long streets, and has sidewalks, lamps and many other improvements.

Where Panama Hats Are Made. "Why is it they make such wonderful hats at Panama and nowhere else?" asked the reporter.

"On the contrary," replied the latter, "these wonderful hats are not made at Panama and are made somewhere else. No Panama hat was ever made at Panama. They came to be called by that name because Panama merchants first made them known outside of local markets. The best Panama hats are made in Guayaquil. They are woven by native women out of the fiber of the pita palm. This fiber is generally spun or stripped by those skillful artists into slender threads ten and fifteen feet long, although it can be stripped into almost any length. These threads are then braided or weaving is all done with the hand held below the surface of water, which keeps it pliable and preserves the peculiarities of its texture. An ordinary Panama hat, made of several pieces of fiber, costs \$5 at first hands in Guayaquil. That seems a trifle high, but it takes a woman three weeks to braid a lot of that kind, and with the best of the former grades require more delicate threads and longer time in making.—New York Evening Sun.

Sympathetic, Yet Cruel. It is strange, by the way, how easily the sympathies of the majority of mankind can be excited in certain directions, while in others they are absolutely irrepensible. People are so hard, so unsympathetic, with those who are brought into daily contact with them—so full of pity for those of whom they know nothing; so mean, so cruel, even to their own families, their servants and their work people—so ready to lavish mischievous charity upon strangers of whom they have heard some tale of woe! In one of the last numbers of The Charity Organization Review the story was told of a London business man who turned away two of his clerks because times were so hard and immediately sent £20 to the fund for the unemployed, to whose ranks he had contributed those two.—Atlanta Constitution.

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THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Most Popular Favourite in Great Britain—Her Early Life.

The Princess of Wales is the most popular personage in Great Britain. So far as the institution of royalty is concerned it can be truly said of her that her life is the most valuable in the kingdom. So long as she lives her popularity will be sufficient to keep the cause of royalty well protected from popular innovation. I have tried to obtain from those who know the Princess of Wales well the secret of her great popularity. She is not a brilliant woman, she has never written anything, and in conversation she never impresses any one with the idea of her having any particular originality or striking force of character. An ordinary society, without the advantage of her position, she would make but little impression. She is excessively ladylike and refined. She has a most marvelous beauty, which chiefly consists in regular features, a fair complexion, a perfectly serene and placid expression.

The most remarkable feature of her good looks is the preservation of her youthful appearance. In the broad glare of daylight she looks today as young if not younger than her eldest daughter. Her figure is also slim and slight as that of a young girl. She dresses with extraordinary taste and good sense, and her society is very much. The secret of her popular charm is said to be this: She has the rare and gracious faculty of impressing people who come in contact with her in the casual meeting of a general reception or a levee with her genuine cordiality. People who have been present to her and who have simply seen her bow and smile, and perhaps have heard her say a dozen words of commonplace greeting, are the ones who are the most widely enthusiastic over her. Her bearing before the public constitutes her chief charm. Every one is led to believe that she is the most gracious and winning personage in the kingdom. In this outward suggestion upon the part of the Princess of Wales of brilliant graciousness that has captivated and thoroughly charmed the British public. Those who know her best say that a more intimate acquaintance with her does not bear out the public estimate. She is thoroughly refined, accomplished and self possessed, but is not interesting in a general conversation.

When I was on the continent last month I heard a number of interesting stories concerning the early life of the Princess of Wales. These stories are not particularly new, and I do not propose to allude to them except to give the exact income of her father before he was called to the throne of Denmark. This prince lived in the most obscure poverty for a number of years. He has an income of exactly \$1,200 a year. They were five children to be supported and educated from this beggarly sum. The young ladies of this household learned to cook, to sew and to do all kinds of housework. They were obliged to make their own dresses for many years. No members of any family so obscurely placed have risen to the brilliant position that this Danish family. The head of the family became the king of Denmark. His oldest son is, of course, the crown prince of that country. Another son is the king of Greece. His three daughters are the Princess of Wales, the Czarina of Russia and the Duchess of Cumberland.—T. C. Crawford in New York World.

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BONNIE GIRZIE O' GLENBRAE.

Leave me, lassie, but I'll be true, And my thoughts run like a song, As the burn o'er the cooie, Country of the West Highland, Gin ye knew their sang by heart, I would, and would I'll be true, Bonnie Girzie O' Glenbrae!

"Mang the lave the only loe I, And my heart is like a bloom, As a glow on the lough side, Burning of the West Highland, Wad ye wear my modest gown, On the boom, best for ye, Song and bloom wad I be true, Bonnie Girzie O' Glenbrae!"

Wad ye sing my thoughts, my dowie, Yours wad I'll be true, Sweet wad ye wear my modest gown, On the boom, best for ye, Song and bloom wad I be true, Bonnie Girzie O' Glenbrae!"

Selling Souvenirs of Sedan. A camp following "tourist" found himself caught in the railway station at Sedan during the engagement. Of course he could not go out except at the risk of his life. So he amused himself within the innermost doors of the office. "Look here," he said to a friend afterward, "opening a small bag full of railway tickets, I've got some souvenirs of Sedan. They were all marked 'Sedan, September 1,' and indicated an immense number of quite impossible journeys, such as that to Metz, as having been made on that day. While the storm was raging around, he had stamped all the tickets he could lay hands on with the date of the battle till the ink gave out. "These will be curiosities," he said, adding, "and I've got money out of the pocket of a dead soldier; they say it's lucky." He showed some silver of which he had robbed a corpse.—The Argonaut.

In California "Flush" Days. It was the "flush" kind of a "flush" time. The years 1852 and 1853, especially the latter, were years of rapid growth as well as of unexampled prosperity. Everything flourished. Fortunes were made in a day. Some idea of the ease with which money was gained and the prodigality with which it was spent may be derived from the following entries in an old ledger of a general store of that period: "One candle, \$3; 1 dozen French sardines, \$5; 2 white shirts, \$40; 100 pounds of white flour, \$150; 1 fine tooth comb, \$6; 1 tin pan, \$9; 1 barrel of cooking pork, \$210; Whisky was 50 cents a drink, and butchers' knives, with which miners picked gold from the crevices of the rocks, sold for \$30 each. Adventurers, villains and scoundrels from every quarter of the globe flocked here in greater numbers than ever before. The extravagance, the dissipation, the complete abandonment to self-indulgence and sensual gratification, the sudden ups and downs of fortunes, and all the other evils of such a state of society were rampant.—San Francisco Cal. Chicago Times.

Learning Foreign Languages. It is claimed that, generally speaking, an aptitude for learning foreign languages is indicative of a low degree of intellectual power, and results from the concentration of the lower intellectual faculties upon such mechanical effort without the distracting influence of the higher reasoning powers.—Globe Democrat.

Physician's Wife—Are your affairs in bad shape? Physicians—Yes, but I hope to pull through. My credit here has extended my paper to the middle of the watermelon season.

Nubia's Whistling Tree. In Nubia there are groves of acacia extending over 100 miles square. "The most conspicuous species," says Dr. Schweinfurth, "is the acacia, 'Sesbania,' whose name is 'soffar,' meaning flute or pipe. From the larvae of insects, which have worked their way into the inside, their ivory white shoots are often distorted in form and swollen out at their base into a globular, bladder like gale about one inch in diameter. After the insect has emerged from a cicada hole the shoot becomes a sort of musical instrument, upon which the wind, as it plays, produces the regular sound of a flute. On this account the natives of the Soudan name the acacia the whistling tree.—The Coronado.

Talking at the Opera. To a large extent the stupid custom of having music between the acts at theatres is responsible for the talking at the opera. For between the acts everybody, of course, wants to talk, and since at the theatre the orchestra merely furnishes a sort of background or support for the conversation, people naturally come to look upon the overtures and interludes and introductions to the second and third acts of an opera in a similar light. Even if entracte music in theatres were much better than it is commonly, this consideration alone ought to suffice to banish it from the theatres. It degrades the art and spoils the public.—Henry T. Finck in the Cosmopolitan.

Feeding Wild Birds. An English family has a custom of feeding wild birds regularly after breakfast. Opening the dining room window, they ring a bell, and immediately all kinds of wild birds, including the sparrow, come to the feeding place. A curious result of the custom is that numerous applicants are seen each morning waiting the sound of the bell, like so many patients at a hospital.—New York Graphic.

Cooks for Jewish Children. The London school board has advertised for a "Jewish cookery instructor." The reason of this is said to be the large number of Jewish children in the schools, and the reputed ability of Jewish cooks to cook some things, coarse fish, for instance, with extraordinary success.—New York Sun.

The "Pale Faces." This is the generic designation of the white race bestowed by our copper-colored brother, the "noble savage" of the Amazon, though many shades lighter, is not necessarily pallid. But when his gut is the parchment-colored tint, and his cheeks the hollows indicate a want of vitality, he will discover the application of "pale face." These facial indications should suggest a course of rest, a change of diet, and a course of invigorating and pure, though not sweetly-scented, stimulants. The stomach, if it is not naturally weak, is usually disordered, is renewed by it, and it effectually tones the liver and bowels. It rouses the system, and restores the vitality of the system, and remedies nervousness and kidney complaints.

The Headmost Lady in Lancaster. Remarkable to a friend the other day that she knew Kemp's Bazaar for the third and last time, and sometimes even squires, come to the feeding place. A curious result of the custom is that numerous applicants are seen each morning waiting the sound of the bell, like so many patients at a hospital.—New York Graphic.

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