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THE ROLLA EXPRESS.

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A VISIT TO THE MONITOR.

I had the pleasure to day of accompanying Lieut. Wm. Jeffers when he proceeded, under orders from Commodore Goldsborough, to take command of the Monitor, and relieve Lieut. Selville of the Cumberland, who had been appointed temporarily in the absence of Lieut. Worden. As we approached this novel naval wonder, I was struck with the correctness of the description of her as "a Yankee Cheese Box on a raft." It gives a better idea of her appearance than any of the descriptions in the New York papers.

They all fail to afford a correct idea of the general appearance of the vessel, especially when she is in action. She is oval shaped, 172 feet long and 41 feet in width at the centre. Her hull rises perpendicularly out of the water, as straight all round as the sides of a stone wall, and as flat on top as a table, with out any rail or guards around her. She has two square smoke stacks, about seven feet in height, but in time of action these are removed, and the smoke and steam come through the grates in the deck, the iron of which is about eight inches thick. Nothing remains on her deck but the pilot-house, which is a square iron stand, about three feet high, about the size of an ordinary dry goods box. When walking her deck, although anchored at the end of H. motor Bar, where the sea is quite rough, not the slightest motion of the way could be felt. Her deck is firm and steady as a rock. This position, half way between Newport News and Soller's point, has been chosen in order to keep watch and ward over the Merrimac; should she attempt to make another visit to the Roads. Steam is all the time kept up, and a man on the lookout with a glass keeps a constant watch from the top of the tower.

The tower rises about nine feet high from the top of the decks and looks, when close to it, like a large iron gasometer or gasholder. On closely examining it, however, you find that its sides and top are about one foot thick, whilst the whole tower is twenty-two feet in diameter, and that it has two portholes, close together on one side, not more than three feet above the deck. The interior of the tower exhibits still stronger the superior strength of the vessel. There is a solidity about it that makes the thought of any earthly power disturbing its movements or penetrating its interior seem simply ridiculous. An examination of this part of the boat explains the confidence which her officers and men have in her entire and complete invulnerability. They say, "we fear nothing on land or water," and are ready, when the order is given, to proceed direct to Norfolk or Richmond. The guns set side by side in the center of the tower, and they are intended to be fired simultaneously, the close proximity of the muzzles of the two guns enabling the balls to strike the side of the enemy in similar proximity to each other. The moment the two guns are fired two immense pillars of steel, on the

inside, about six feet long, two feet in width, and one in thickness, slide before the portholes, completely closing them, and protecting the gunners from the balls of the enemy.

There are marks on the tower and hull of about twenty balls, and some of them seem to have struck the tower fair and square; with no more apparent effect than could be produced by a blow of a sledge hammer. The paint is rubbed off, and if repainted it would be difficult to discover where most of the shots struck. The gunners of the enemy seem, however, to have early abandoned the attempt to damage the tower, though most of their balls even were aimed at the portholes, three striking in close proximity. Two of the six or seven marks on the tower are said to have been accidental shots from the guns of the Minnesota.

The greater part of the shot marks are on the edge of the hull, which it should be remembered, does not rise more than twelve inches out of the water. They seem to have been under the impression that there must be a weak spot underneath the water line, and they hammered away all around, but here too the invulnerability of the Monitor was equally great, and the indentations are only to the extent of a quarter of an inch. There is a small fracture of the edge of the iron, at one point, which only seems to show its great strength at a point which might seem to be its weakest.

The shot that struck the square pilot house did little more than knock the cement out. Half the pilot house been round instead of square, as it is now proposed to make it, the ball would have glanced and lost half its force, and failed to injure the eyes of the gallant commander. He is, however, I am pleased to learn, rapidly recovering. The retiring of the Merrimac from the contest with her insignificant antagonist is not to be wondered at, when the exercise of all the power she possessed, for five hours, had done little more than deface her paint. The attempt of the Merrimac to run her down, left no mark on the iron, except some splinters from her timbers, which are sticking to a nut and screw on her hull. She struck her precisely amidships, directly opposite the centre of the tower and this experiment having so entirely failed, it was evident that no hopes could be entertained from its repetition.

RODMAN GUNS.

It is well known here that Captain Rodman is the inventor of casting guns on the hollow principle, as also of the perforated cake powder, which in exploding gives the greatest propulsive power to the projectile just at the time and place most needed to give it the greatest force, range and directness. Rodman's principle is, substantially, that guns which are cast around a hollow core, through which a stream of water is constantly running and cooling the inside, must always be stronger and more reliable than those cast solid and then bored out. The old process of cooling was a very slow one, and the outside became stronger, denser and tougher than at the inside core, where the greatest tenacity and resistive strength were needed. Another very material advantage is also gained by this new process, namely, that solid cast iron guns must be made of inferior metal to prevent fatal contractions in cooling, while the hollow method enables the manufacturer to use the best quality of iron, brought to its maximum capacity of work.

The first Rodman gun which was cast here had a fifteen inch bore. The second of "Union" gun, had, we believe, but a thirteen inch bore, but being rifled, it could throw an elongated ball of greater weight and to a greater distance than the other. If now there is constructed a rifled twenty inch bore gun, throwing a weight of metal at one discharge of full half a ton, there is no iron-plated ship ever invented which could resist it. If its projectile could

not perforate the thickest iron plates, it would certainly come upon them with such ponderous and crushing weight as to thoroughly displace them and destroy the posterior timbers and render the vessel leaky and useless.

But what would be the terrible effect produced if the balls used in such guns were made of wrought iron, instead of cast iron, or better still of steel. In the trials lately made with the mailed section of a ship's side like the warrior, immense balls of over a hundred pounds hovered off from its impenetrable side like powder. Plates could even, probably be made so thick and tough that wrought iron balls would be harmless, and bound back flattened and crushed. But we are informed that hard steel balls will cut and penetrate through anything, and prove perfectly irresistible to any armor that can be made. How large a ball could be cast of steel, or whether they would prove effective beyond a certain size, has not yet been ascertained.

Large balls of wrought iron or steel, would be frightfully expensive, but if when projected from these monster twenty-inch guns, they prove, as it is thought they will, a complete protection to harbors against the heaviest mail clad vessels yet fashioned, they would not be a hundredth part as expensive as the monster ships themselves or floating batteries like those of Stevens. The mail clad ships now being built in England, cost each about 35,000 dollars which would pay for enough twenty-inch guns with wrought iron balls to sink whole navies. A Mr. Swett, of our own city, has, we learn, just received a patent for steel balls, and the firm of Robinson, Minis & Co. are now manufacturing them to be tried in Washington. If they turn out a success as we have no doubt they will, we see no reason why they cannot be made and hammered to any requisite size.

THE NEW REBELLION.

The Memphis papers of the 6th state that the "new defensive line" of the rebels, is to "extend from New Madrid to Cumberland Gap," and that their Generals "are arraying their defenses on a scale commensurate with the interests at stake." The impression has gone abroad that Cumberland Gap was already in the possession of the Federal army; but the information must have been premature. It is a most important strategic point, and if Johnson is allowed to fortify it with a large force, it may give us trouble. However we have no doubt but that the "new defensive line" will very speedily be removed still farther south, and will soon be wiped out altogether. Jeff Davis in his late dispiriting message to the rebel Congress admitted that "recent events have demonstrated that the government had attempted more than it had power successfully to achieve. Hence in the effort to protect by our arms, the whole territory of the Confederate States, seaboard and inland, we have been so exposed as recently to encounter serious disasters." Events will speedily demonstrate that Jeff Davis' conspirators will not successfully "achieve" anything by their treason, except a sure and certain punishment for their high crimes against the best government on earth.

Caution to the Public—Some retail dealers have been defrauded by the following trick. Some knave cuts the coupons off the \$50 seven-thirty treasury note, and passes the note as a demand note in trade, thus pocketing some \$10 95, the amount of the coupon for three years, which he may collect half-yearly upon presenting them to the Government offices. Traders should bear in mind that there are no \$50 demand notes—only \$5's, \$10's, and \$20's.

A Bill Acceptor—A Dead Wall.

The stone fleet was sunk in Charleston harbor because the South Carolinians were so wreckless.

PORTER'S MORTAR FLEET.

The steamer Westfield, flag ship of the second division of the mortar fleet, Lieut. W. B. Benschaw in command, and the steamer John P. Jackson, flag ship of the third division, Lieut. Selim Woodworth in command, have been put in commission at the Brooklyn navy yard and are now in the stream receiving their powder. Each of these vessels carries a Sergeant's guard of marines, a crew of 112 men, and an armament of four 32 pounders and two pivot guns. The steamer Clifton, Lt. Chas. H. Baldwin, will be put in commission this afternoon.

Capt. Porter's flag ship, the Octorara has had steam up for two or three days, testing her engine, and is expected to be ready for sea within a week. The intended movements of the mortar fleet are necessarily very secret. Even the officers do not know where they are going; but as the steamers are not taking out much coal, they expect to have a short voyage. Two of the mortar schooners, the Racer and the Griffiths, have arrived at Key West. These vessels and the steamer Ward, were the first of the steamers that left the navy yard.

THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL APPORTIONMENT.

The following table shows the number of members assigned in each State, under the census of 1850 and that of 1860:

State	1850	1860
Alabama.....	7	7
Arkansas.....	2	2
California.....	2	3
Connecticut.....	1	1
Delaware.....	1	1
Florida.....	1	1
Georgia.....	8	8
Illinois.....	9	15
Indiana.....	1	1
Iowa.....	2	3
Kansas.....	1	1
Kentucky.....	10	9
Louisiana.....	6	6
Maine.....	6	6
Massachusetts.....	6	6
Michigan.....	6	11
Minnesota.....	5	5
Missouri.....	7	7
Montana.....	1	1
Nebraska.....	3	3
Nevada.....	1	1
New Hampshire.....	3	3
New Jersey.....	5	5
New York.....	33	41
North Carolina.....	7	7
Ohio.....	21	19
Oregon.....	1	1
Pennsylvania.....	25	24
Rhode Island.....	2	2
South Carolina.....	6	4
Texas.....	10	8
Vermont.....	5	5
Virginia.....	13	11
Wisconsin.....	3	6
TOTAL.....	233	241

This table is interesting as showing the rapid rise of the Northwestern States in power and influence. Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Michigan and Wisconsin all gain largely in their representations. The older free States lose or barely maintain their old proportion. Of the Southern States the only ones that gain are Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana. South Carolina's representation has fallen to four members—two less than the young free State of Iowa. And yet South Carolina, with this insignificant amount of political power, has brought on our country all the miseries from which it is now suffering. If the wishes of the loyal citizens could be consulted, her boundaries would be obliterated, her territory would be apportioned among other States, her name should no longer appear on the list of States, and the names of her representatives should never again appear on a Congressional roll.

Ague Cure—This is something of a science as well as medicine. The supreme difficulty of the science is to accomplish its end without injury to the health—the supreme excellence of the medicine is in accomplishing just that. Fever and Ague has, long been cured by Quinine, Arsenic, Bismuth, Mercury, but the mischief was, the deep and often painful footprints they have left on the constitution treated by them.—Dr. Ayer's new remedy cures without a particle of either of these or any other deleterious substance. And he promises not only absolute safety but perfect certainty of cure, with which we may mention another quality of excellence that is his low price, which puts this crowing glory of his art, within the reach of all.—(Herald, Lake Co. Ind.)

Will not the tax on carpets require upholsterers for collectors?

A popular preacher received so many pairs of clippers from the female part of his congregation, that he got to fancy himself a centipede.

ELEVEN REBELLIONS.

Since the organization of the Federal Government, eleven attempts have been made to resist its authority.

The first was in 1782, a conspiracy of some of the officers of the regular army to consolidate the fourteen States into one and confer the supreme power on Washington.

This second was in 1787, called Shay's Insurrection, in Massachusetts.

The third in 1804, called the "Whiskey Insurrection" of Pennsylvania.

The fourth in 1814, by the Hartford Convention.

The fifth in 1820, on the question of the admission of Missouri into the Union.

The sixth was a collision between the Legislature of Georgia and the Federal Government, in regard to lands given to the Creek Indians.

The seventh was in 1830, with the Cherokees in Georgia.

The eighth was the memorable nullification ordinance of South Carolina, in 1832.

The ninth was in 1842, in Rhode Island, between the "Suffrage Association" and the State authorities.

The tenth was in 1856, on the part of the Mormons, who resisted the federal authorities.

The eleventh is the present gigantic attempt at secession.

WORLDLY FAME.

Daniel Webster had wrought out a statesman's majestic life as if it had been a statue; and the noon-day shone full upon it, and no shadows fell around the broad pedestal.

A very aged man was his companion, one day, as the stage coach labored over the granite hills of his native State. Conversation beguiled the weary way, and Webster inquired of him if he ever knew Captain Webster.

"Indeed I did," replied the old man, "and a brave and good man he was, sir, and nobly did he fight with Gen. Stark at Bennington."

"Did he leave any children?"

"O, yes; there was Ezekiel, and I think, Daniel."

"And what became of them?" asked Webster.

"Why, Ezekiel—and he was a powerful man, sir—I have heard him plead in court often, and he fell dead while pleading at Concord."

"But what became of Daniel?"

"Daniel—Daniel," thoughtfully repeated the old man, "why Daniel, I believe, is a lawyer somewhere about Boston!"

And so he thought there was such a son as Daniel, and this is worldly fame for which men toil and strive, and struggle out their lives.

A little girl, after being out some time trying to ensnare the little fishes in the neighboring stream with a crooked pin and a thread line, came running into the house, out of breath with excitement, and exclaimed:

"Oh, mother, I've got it!"

"Got what, my child?"

"Why, I got the fish."

"But I don't see any fish."

"Why, mother," answered the little angler, her voice suddenly changed to mournfulness, "I got it, but it unbit and dived!"

A little boy, five years old, while writhing under the tortures of the ague, was told by his mother to rise up and take a powder she had prepared for him. "Powder! powder!" said he, raising himself on one elbow, and putting on a roguish smile, "mother, I aint a gun!"

The hero of a hundred flights—Floyd.

A toast for the Secretary of the Navy—May you ever put your best foot forward.

When Floyd will understand his true position—When he gets the Hang of it.

Polite way of impeaching a gentleman's veracity—Sir, you tell a telegram.