



UNITED STATES BATTLE SHIP MASSACHUSETTS

BIG CRUISER LAUNCHED

THE MASSACHUSETTS GIVEN TO THE SEA AT PHILADELPHIA.

Miss Herbert Gracefully Broke the Bottle Christening the Vessel, and She Dashed into the Delaware.

PHILADELPHIA, June 10.—The big battle-ship Massachusetts was successfully launched from the ship-yard of Cramps at 9:29 this morning, in the presence of Secretary of the Navy Herbert, Attorney-General Olney (the latter representing the State of Massachusetts), a number of distinguished naval and army officers, and a multitude of 15,000. Miss Lelia Herbert, daughter of the head of the Naval Department, christened the vessel with the customary and prettily decorated bottle of champagne.

The Washington party came in on a special train this morning. The weather was pleasant. The sun was shining bright and clear, but its warmth was tempered with gentle, cool breezes. The big hull had received the last touches of a coat of white paint above the water line, and of deep red below on Thursday, and towered on the ways all ready to be sent overboard as soon as the tide should rise at its flood. When this arrived, the supports were cut away, and as the vessel began to move Miss Herbert gracefully broke the bottle on the ship's prow and christened her the "Massachusetts." By her own momentum the latest addition to Uncle Sam's navy slid gracefully down the greased incline, and dashed into the Delaware river. When she reached mid-stream, lines were thrown to tugs and the huge craft was soon made fast to the wharves, where are also moored the cruisers New York and Columbia, and the ship of war Independence.

The usual ovation to a ship when she leaves the ways was this morning fully in keeping with previous demonstrations. Thousands of spectators, both on shore and afloat, Mayor Stuart and a party of municipal officers being among the latter, cheered lustily, while above the sounding of whistles, ringing of bells and booming of cannon. The noisy reception continued for some minutes. A naval battalion, consisting of 125 men and divided into two companies, participated in the ceremonies. One company acted as escort to the guests and stood guard at the launching stand, and when the launch was effected, cleared the way to the cruiser New York on which the second company, with a band, was stationed to salute the Massachusetts as she took to the water. When the guests had boarded the cruiser the entire battalion acted as the crew and salute the Secretary of the Navy's flag as it was raised. The dignitaries inspected the New York, and after banqueting in the office of the Cramps returned to Washington on the special train which had conveyed them hither.

The big warship left the ways a minute or so before the expected time, but no accident of any kind occurred. The warm weather had softened the tallow, and the vessel slid into the river before the three forward keel blocks on the sole pier had been loosened. Miss Herbert, that fair christener, was attired in a black Brussels net, and wore a small black hat, trimmed with crushed roses. She carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley and orchids. The party, which arrived from Washington on the special train, included Secretary Herbert and his daughters, Lelia and Mrs. Micon; First Assistant Secretary of the Navy McAdoo and wife, First Assistant Secretary of State Quincy and wife, Assistant Secretaries of the Treasury Hamlin and Curtis, Major George H. French, chief of the naval division of the Treasury department; A. J. Whitaker, deputy auditor of the Treasury; Captain Phillip, who will command the cruiser New York; United States Senator and Mrs. Dohly, Miss Stewart, daughter of the senator from Nevada; Miss Stilling, Miss Ferguson, Miss Gray, daughter of the Delaware senator; Miss Maury, Mrs. Whitman, Miss David Gee, Miss Cabel, Mrs. Spofford, Miss Safford and Mrs. Chadwick.

Description of the Vessel.
The hull of the Massachusetts is of steel, the stem, sternpost, propeller struts and rudder frame being heavy castings. The transverse frames (the "ribs") are placed four feet apart in the double bottom and 3 1/2 feet at the ends of the ship, the double bottom not being continuous. The Massachusetts is of the following principal dimensions: Length on load water line, 348 feet; extreme breadth, 60 feet 3 inches; mean normal draft, 24 feet (same forward and aft); displacement, 10,390 tons; tons to increase draft 1 inch, 42.

The water line belt will be of Harvey-ized nickel steel—the finest armor in the world—18 inches thick, the rebouds rising at each end of it being 17 inches thick. These rebouds protect the bases of the turrets, the revolving gear, the loading apparatus and other vital machinery, besides preventing a raking fire from forward and aft. It should be added that the 15-inch belt is backed by six inches of wood, two 3-4-inch plates and a 10-foot belt of coal in the bunkers referred to above.

The powerful armament of the Massachusetts is her most conspicuous feature. It consists of four 12-inch, eight 8-inch and four 6-inch breech-loading rifles, 20 6-pounder and four 1-pounder rapid fire guns, four gatling guns and six torpedo tubes. The 12-inch guns are mounted in pairs in two turrets, one forward and one aft, the bases of each being protected by the armored rebouds. The walls of these turrets are 17 inches thick, and they are at such a height that the guns are 17 feet 8 inches above the load water line and 6 feet above the deck over which they fire.

The 8-inch guns are mounted in pairs in armored turrets 8 1/2 inches thick, one of which is located at each corner of the superstructure. They are 24 feet 9 inches above the water and can fire over the turrets on the deck below containing the 12-inch guns. The 8-inch guns, it is interesting to note, can pierce or shatter at a distance of two miles the armor of most of the modern foreign armored cruisers. They can open fire early in an engagement, on account of their great height above the water, and can be used with destructive effect upon the more lightly armored portions of the heavy hostile battleships.

SEVEN TO SEVEN.

The Score Tied in the Game Between Virginia and Petersburg.

Though the score was tied yesterday after ten innings, the game between the Virginias and Petersburg was not the most interesting ever seen at Island Park. It dragged its weary length along with but few plays worthy of more than passing notice, and it was not until the eighth inning that the occupants of the bleachers and the grand-stand showed any enthusiasm. Twice before during the game they had arisen to the importance of the occasion, and gave their opinions as to the "safety" or the "outness" of the base-runner, and once before they had made some pretty rough remarks on the "dirty" playing by Foster. He did not play "clean" ball by any means. From the eighth until the close there was pretty playing done, the field work being brilliant. It was nip and tuck, and both teams used every effort to send a winning run across the plate, but after ten innings it had become too dark for playing, and the teams left the field. There was considerable "kicking" during the game, and at one time Keefer became so disgusted with Umpire Morrissey's decision that he left the field. A young man named Phillips umpired the balance of the game and gave universal satisfaction.

Brodie and Lumsden made home runs; Keefer found a three-bagger, and Gary made a run-earning two-base hit.

Two runs brought the Petersburg team up even with the Virginias, and were gained by the bats becoming lost in the darkness. The last time the Cockade City men played here the same thing occurred, they then winning the game because of the accident. Keefer caught with a very sore thumb, and was finally forced to give way to Foster, who played, by the way, with the Petersburg men. There was a very large turnout of the cranks, the right bleachers being packed with yelling Comanches. Several ladies were in the grand-stand.

The score was as follows:

Virginias 10 5 0 1 0 0 0 0 0—7
Petersburgs 6 1 1 0 2 0 0 0 0—7

At Island Park next Thursday afternoon the University of Virginia team will play the Virginias. The game will be called at 4:30 o'clock.

City Circuit Court.

In the city circuit court yesterday the grand jury found the following indictments: Commonwealth against Miller Jones; same against Frank Cole; same against Oscar Dawson; same against Nicholas Leeves; Robert Thomas Reese; same against Hugh Wiley.

The following convicts from the penitentiary were convicted and sentenced each to additional terms of five years: Charles Smith, William Hill, Albert Battaine, alias Al Jackson; Robert Booker; Nicholas Leeves; Robert Thomas Reese; same against Hugh Wiley.

From Their Point of View.

There was nothing new at the regimental army last night but a couple of recruits. Many of the infantry and cavalry officers were engaged in deep thought, and were attempting to find out what Chairman Richard Taylor meant Friday night when he stated at the meeting of the Grounds and Buildings Committee that "You people (referring to regimental officers) come around here putting on your French business."

Several officers told me that they did not know. Such a statement, however, is merely from their point of view.

Escaped from the Reformatory.

Three boys escaped from the Laurel Reformatory yesterday morning. Their names and descriptions are as follows: Edward Robert Duford, sent from Norfolk, age about seventeen years, height five feet six inches; Dersley W. Crowder, six and a half inches, and Walter Jenkins, from Richmond, sixteen years, five feet eight inches. Each one of the boys wore a blue flannel shirt at the time of their escape. A reward of ten dollars each has been offered for their return.

Tent Meetings on Church Hill.

Rev. M. B. Williams has been greeted with large audiences every night during the past week, and the meetings are increasing in interest and profit. The members of all denominations are assisting in this good work, and doubtless the result will be the building up and strengthening of all the churches. Rev. Mr. Williams will preach this afternoon at 4 o'clock to men only on the subject "Footsteps in the Life of a Fast Young Man." The meetings will continue during the coming week.

Will Be Highly Entertained.

The concert to be given by the McGill Catholic Union on next Thursday evening promises to be highly entertaining to those who attend. Among those to take part will be Mrs. Cowardin, Mrs. Durrert, Mrs. Walker and Mr. H. T. Cardozo and the Old Dominion Symphony Club. The concert will be under the direction of Mr. J. Louis Sullivan.

Another Desirable Site.

It has been suggested by residents in that vicinity that a splendid site for the proposed statue of Jefferson Davis would be in or near the Exposition Grounds. Placed in front of the grounds in the middle of Broad street, the bronze and granite would make an excellent appearance, and would be an attraction worthy of note to that broad thoroughfare.

Two Old Shoes.

Mr. James N. Bickers, of Louisa, a former member of Company "D," Thirtieth Virginia infantry, has a pair of shoes, which he drew in 1864 and wore all through the winter of that year. They are still in good condition, and Mr. Bickers intends to present them to the Confederate museum.

Spent the Day Pleasantly.

A delighted excursion was enjoyed by a party of ladies and gentlemen at Warwick Park yesterday. The occasion was a large gathering, Mr. and Mrs. William Wyatt, of Brooklyn, by their host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Weisiger.

PETROLEUM FOR STEAMSHIP FUEL.

Results of the First Transatlantic Trial Considered to Augur Complete Success.

The new steel tank steamship James Brand, Captain Harding, the first vessel ever to cross the Atlantic driven by steam generated by petroleum instead of coal, arrived here yesterday from Dartmouth after a passage of sixteen days. While the results obtained were not altogether favorable, they were sufficient to convince the engineers and officers of this vessel that in the course of a short time petroleum fuel for steamships will be much used.

For the first three days the steam was made through the burning of the petroleum, and the undertaking worked most successfully until the new machinery became somewhat deranged. After this coal was used as fuel during the balance of the voyage. No difficulties were met with that cannot be overcome, and immediately on her return to England she will be taken to the ship-yards again to undergo some slight alterations.

The new ship is owned by A. Stuart, of London, who is also the managing owner of a large number of the tank steamships engaged in the bulk oil trade out of this port. In the event of the petroleum fuel proving a success after further trial, he will introduce the same system on board all of his vessels. The Brand is the object of much interest here at present, and has already been visited by a number of marine engineers. She is 8,780 tons register, 345 feet long, 48 1/2 feet beam, 28 feet deep, and is supplied with powerful triple-expansion engines. Her voyage throughout was a stormy one.

Captain Harding, in speaking of the voyage last evening, stated that had they had sufficient oil to have lasted throughout the voyage, and barring the slight derangement to the machinery, the trip would have been a record. A proper regulation of this, he thinks, is all that is required to render this new and economical undertaking a success. Captain Harding is positive all the difficulties brought out in the experience of this voyage will be overcome on the return of the ship to the builders. The Brand will return to England with coal as fuel—Philadelphia Press.

Hit in Battle.

That was a good story which the Rev. C. J. K. Jones, of Louisville, told in a Boston pulpit the other day. He said: "An alarmist always reminds me of a friend of mine, who was a commander at the battle of Round Mountain. It was a hot fight—one of the hottest of the war. At a particularly intense part of the action my friend stood beside his horse, scanning the field with his glass and directing the troops. He told me it seemed as if the fire of the whole Confederacy was centered on him, the bullets thick around him.

"Suddenly he heard a minie ball singing in the air, and he felt something strike his forehead. He was struck, and he kept up his glass. There was another 'ping-g-g,' and he felt another strike. And so it continued.

"The captain at last lifted up his hand and prayed: 'O Lord, I can go home to my wife and children without either of my legs, but, O Lord, let me get home.'

"Finally there came the shouts of victory. The battle was won. With a long-drawn sigh the captain turned. He shouted to his orderly at a little distance, 'I'm wounded, Jim. Come and help me on my horse; I must go home. It's my last battle.'

"'No, I guess not,' replied the orderly.

"'What's the matter? Come, hurry up, I'm wounded.'

"'If you want me to help you, come here,' sang the orderly.

"But what's the trouble? Why can't you help me here? Don't you see I'm wounded and almost dying?"

"'Oh, no, you are not,' sang out the orderly.

"'Come here instantly, you rascal,' shouted the commander.

"'No, I don't, that's the biggest nest of yellow jackets there I ever saw in my life,' was the final laughing reply of the orderly.

"The storming swarm of hornets were the only minie balls that had struck him."—Boston Journal.

A Queer Indian Ceremony.

Miss Kate Foote spoke at the monthly meeting of the Hartford Indian Association in the parlors of the Centre church yesterday morning. She mentioned a number of interesting experiences she had among the Riscon and Aqua Caliente tribes of Indians.

She gave a vivid description of the "burning of the eagle," one of the customs of the tribes. When the young eagles are nearly old enough to fly the tribes go to the cliffs with ropes and ladders, and one climbs a tree where there is a nest. After a battle with the old birds they capture a young one. Men are stationed in a line to the village, and when the eagle is caught the announcement is passed along the line across in the village near by it at once. In the evening all the members of the tribe gather around a fire, and from 7 o'clock until the next morning they sing and dance. The eagle is killed by having its neck squeezed. The song sung reminded Miss Foote of "Nancy Lee." Later at night the eagle is mentioned in a prayer basket and thrown on the fire. The fire is made to burn fiercer than ever, and the eagle is burned so that it can carry messages to the friends of the Indian in the happy hunting ground. At this ceremony gifts are made to the poor of the tribe.—Hartford Courant.

Evolution.

"I am looking," said the dusty, travel-stained man with the valise, "for an old friend of mine who used to live on this street."

"What's his name?" inquired the policeman leaning against the lamp post.

"Dobbin."

"No man of that name living along here."

"No, I reckon not," said the dusty traveler, looking in a perplexed way at a memorandum in his hand and then at the row of stateily dwellings in front of him, "but he used to live in a one-story cottage right where that big stone-front stands."

"Was he a short, heavy man, with a bald head and one leg a little shorter than the other?"

"Yes, that's the man. Where is he now?"

"Always walked with his hands behind him and wore chin whiskers."

"That describes him exactly."

"Why, he got a street-paving contract three or four years ago and he's worth \$100,000."

"Good for Dobbin! What's become of him? Is he in Europe?"

"No," answered the policeman, pointing at the big stone front. "He lives right there, and his name's D'Aubigne."—Chicago Daily Tribune.

As an Ad.

"What in the world possesses a well-educated young woman to leave a good home and elope with a coachman? It is the want of the world to know that her family was able to afford a coachman."—Indianapolis Journal.

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2,000 yards Fine Dimity, in short lengths; the regular 25c. quality, at 12 1/2c.

200 dozen Ladies' Percale and Calico Shirt Waists, 37 1/2c. apiece.
50 pieces Cheney Bros' fine quality figured China Silks. Reduced from \$1.25 to 75c.
Blue and green all-wool Hopsacking, 40 inches wide, only 48c.
50 pieces fine Madras Gingham in lace stripes, beautiful goods, and every yard worth 35c; your choice for 12 1/2c.

200 Rolls of Superior Jointless Matting, dark grounds in high colors; never sold for less than 50c. a yard; your choice 25c. a yard.
5,000 yards figured Dress Lawns, 3 1/2c. a yard.
50 pieces elegant Floor Oil Cloth, 25c. a yard.
500 handsome Feather Fans, assorted colors, 25c. apiece.
250 First-Class City-Made Trunks at strictly wholesale prices.
100 Baby Carriages, the very best makes, all nicely upholstered in silk, satin and plush, at 20 per cent. less than the regular price.

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