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Even among the men on board the syn- Notwithstanding that so many vessels

dicate's fleet there were signs of doubt had been sent to different parts of the

would not avail its purpose.

of the enemy. Anything less than this

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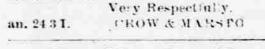
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apprehensions of evil. If had all coast, there was still in Portsmouth harbeen very well so far, but fighting one bor a large number of war vessels of vaof the vessel when it had been the Tallapoosa was known, and not a few of the men imagined that it must now be time craft, and if her evil genius had desired fresh disaster for her, it was certainly sending her into a good place to look

for it. But the syndicate neither doubted nor

lantic which in her old naval career nary power, whose business it was to

passed, but none of them carried the in New York. British flag. In the expectation of the vised to keep in the background until the they prepared for action, moving con- and the dreaded crab was drawing

As has been said before, the British west, and the sea high, the shining tops admiralty had adopted a new method of of the crabs frequently disappearing rific character which he had on board, it defense for the rudders and screw pro- under the waves. pellers of naval vessels against the at-

and attached to a man-of-war. The Llangaron was a recently built . ed into the water her speed would be much

the Adamant; and to her had been at- being the swiftest war ship of her class, tached the new stern defense. This was she had distanced all her conserts. It an immense steel cylinder, entirely was highly important that the effected closed, and rounded at the ends. It was begin the tight and engage the attention about ten feet in diameter, and strongly of as many crabs as possible while cerbraced inside. It was suspended by tain of the other ships attacked the rechains from two davits which projected ing this cylinder was hoisted up to the davits, but when the ship was prepared for action it was lowered until it lay,

In this position its ends projected about It was believed that this cylinder would

effectually prevent a crab from getting near enough to the propeller or the rudder to do any damage. It could not be torn away as the stern jacket had been, for the rounded and smooth sides and ends of the massive cylinder would offer no hold to the forceps of the crabs; and, approaching from any quarter, it would rudder or screw.

The syndicate's little fleet arrived in British waters late in the day; and carly the next morning it appeared about twenty miles to the south of the Isle of Wight, and headed to the northcast as if it were making for Portsmouth. The its descent.

ship at a time was a very different thing rious classes, all in commission and from steaming into the midst of a hun- ready for action. The greater part of dred ships. On board the repeller there these had received orders to cruise that was now an additional reason for fears day in the channel. Consequently it and misgivings. The unlucky character was still early in the morning when around the eastern end of the Isle of Wight there appeared a British fleet compeeed of fifteen of the finest ironclads, for some new disaster to this ill starred with several gunboats and cruisers, and a number of torpedo boats. It was a noble sight, for besides the war ships there was another fleet hang-

ing upon the outskirts of the first, and composed of craft, large and small, and hesitated, nor paid any attention to the from both sides of the channel, filled doubts and condemnations which they with those who were anxious to witness heard from every quarter. Four days from afar the sea fight which was to take after the news of the destruction of the place under such novel conditions. Many Craglevin had been telegraphed from of these observers were reporters and Canada to London, the syndicate's fleet special correspondents for great newsentered the English channel. Owing to papers. On some of the vessels which the power and speed of the crabs, Repel- came up from the French coast were ler No. 11 had made a passage of the At- men with marine glasses of extraordi- to do her best to put a few dynamite

would have been considered miraculous. send an early and accurate report of the Craft of various kinds were now affair to the office of the war syndicate arrival of the enemy, British merchant- sight, the four crabs cast off from Repel- not as great as that of a crab, and when men and fishing vessels had been ad- ler No. 11. Then with the other two the torpedo boat had given up the chase,

British navy had concluded its business siderably in advance of the repeller, swiftly near, the captain thought it time with the vessels of the American syndi- which now steamed forward very slowly. The wind was strong from the north-

The British fleat came stendily on, tacks of submerged craft. The work of hended by the great Llangaron. This constructing the new appliances had been vessel was very much in advance of the pushed forward as fast as possible, but others, for knowing that when she was so far only one of these had been finished really in action and the great cylinder | fight, he hauled down his flag in token which formed her stern guard was lower-

ironclad of the same size and class as retarded, she had put on all steam, and

nearly submerged, abaft of the rudder. out the cylinder chains, but as these in use when the crab was cruising, could fifteen feet on either side of the propeller to allow the top of the cylinder to hang ing depth and in a tossing sea.

that could be gained.

premored roofs, enormous engines and aim could not be made when the object be impossible for these forceps to reach | iron ball. In less than a minute-one of the aim was in rapid motion. davit supped like a pipe stem under the But whether or not one or more motor trenactions strain, and immediately bombs did strike the mark, or whether

afterward the windlass to which the or not one or more vessels were blown chain was attached was torn from its into fine particles, there were a dozen bolts and went crashing overboard, tear- ironclads in that fleet, each of whose ing away a portion of the stern rail in commanders and officers were deter-

the English government and naval au- Ind held, and in a moment the great enough to reach her.

51 CAERDAFF BEFORE THE BOMBARDMENT. If the torpedo boat shot to one side in order to get the crab out of line, the crab, Keeping near the cylinder, one at each its back sometimes hidden by the tossing end of it, the two moved slowly after the any further attention to the crabs, espewaves, sped also to the same side. When Llangaron, apparently discouraged. the toroedo boat could aim a gun at the crab and not at the gumboat, a deadly torpedo flew into the sea, but a tossing sea and a shifting target were unfavorable to the gummer's aim. It was not long, however, before the crab had run larger; they were rising in the water. the chase which might so readily have Their mafled roofs became visible from been fatal to it, and was so near the gunboat that no more torpedoes could be fired at it.

Of course the officers and crew of the gunboat had watched with most anxious their powerful air pumps working at interest the chase of the crab. The vessel . their greatest capacity, until their ponwas one which had been fitted out for derous pincers became visible above the service with dynamite guns, of which she carried some of very long range for cers of the Llangaron flashed the true this class of artillery, and she had been ordered to get astern of the repeller and bombs on board of her.

The dynamite gunboat, therefore, had kept ahead at full speed, determined to carry out her instructions if she should As soon as the British ships came in" be allowed to do so, but her speed was for bravery to give place to prudence. With the large amount of explosive material of the most tremendous and terwould be the insanity of courage for him,

to allow his comparatively small vessel to be racked, shaken and partially shiv-

peller with their rams. Although it was The communications of the crabs were likely to hit the Llangaron, their direcand It back again; and instantly the two made entirely by black smoke signals, crabs, each still grasping a chain of the and these the captain of the gunboat cylinder, began to sink. On board the could not understand. The heavy hatches Llangaron an order was should to let in the mailed roof, which could be put chains had only been made long enough not be opened when she was at her fight-

at, or a little below, the surface of the A means was seen devised of com-

its rounded ends; their forceps would slip from any portion of its smooth surface on which they should endeavor tc lay hold, and no such attempt was made.

It was, of course, impossible to en-

deavor to grasp that great cylinder with to tow their injured consorts into port.

In a short time, however, it was perceived by those on board the ship, that a change had taken place in the appearance of the crabs: the visible portion of their backs was growing larger and end to end, and the crowd of observers looking down from the ship were amazed to see what large vessels they were.

Higher and higher the crabs arose, water. Then into the minds of the offiobject of this uprising, which to the crew had seemed an intention on the part of the sea devils to clamber on board.

If the cylinder were left in its present position the crab might seize the chains by which it was suspended, while if it were raised it would cease to be a defense. Notwithstanding this latter contingeney, the order was quickly given to raise the cylinder, but before the hoisting engine had been set in motion Crab Q thrust forward her forceps over the top of the cylinder and held it down. Another thrust, and the iron jaws had grasped one of the two ponderous chains by which the cylinder was suspended. The other end of the cylinder began to

foot higher ou' of the sea; her pincers of water. flashed forward, and the other chain was grasped.

The two crabs were now placed in the most extraordinary position. The overhang of their roofs prevented an attack on their hulls by the Llangaron, but their unmailed hulls were so greatly exposed that a few shot from another ship could easily have destroyed them. But as any ship firing at them would be very tors felt safe on this point.

Three of the foremost ironclads, less than two miles away, were heading directly for them, and their rams might be used with but little danger to the Llangaron, but, on the other hand, three these ironclads.

It was impossible for Crabs Q and R to operate in the usual way. Their massive forceps, lying flat against the top of the cylinder, could not be twisted. The enormous chains they held could not be severed by the greatest pressure, and if probably do no more than tow the Llangaron stern foremost. There was, moreover, no time to waste in experiments, for other rams would be coming on, and there were not crabs enough to attend to them all.

No time was wasted. Q signaled to R tlevated some distance above the surface. Through this the director hailed mined to run into that repeller and crush the other vessel, and as the air pipe was course of these vessels greatly surprised Crab Q in tantly released the chain it her, if so be they held together long near the stern of the crab, and therefore

When this order had been given, the W R. HENRY, vice admiral immediately prepared to renew the fight, and this time his efforts were to be directed entirely against the repeller. It would be useless to devote

cient number of ironclads were detailed

cially in their present positions. But if the chief vessel of the syndicate's fleet, with its spring armor, and its terrible carthquake bombs, could be destroyed, it was quite possible that those sea parasites, the crabs, could also be disposed of. Every torpedo boat was now ordered to the front, and in a long line, almost abreast of each other, these swift vessels -the light infantry of the sea-advanced H. T. WATKINS,

upon the solitary and distant foe. If one torpedo could but reach her hull, the vice admiral, in spite of seven disabled

The line of torpedo boats, slightly curving inward, had advanced about a mile when Repeller No. 11 awoke from her

seeming sleep, and began to act. The two great guns at her bow were trained upward, so that a bomb discharged from them would fall into the sea a mile and a half ahead. Slowly turning her bow from side to side, so that the guns would cover a range of nearly half a circle, the instantaneous motor bombs of the repeller were discharged, one every half minute.

One of the most appalling characteristics of the motor bombs was the silence which accompanied their discharge and action. No noise was heard, except the flash of sound occasioned by the removal rise, but at this moment Crab R, appar- of the particles of the object aimed at, ently by a single effort, lifted herself a and the subsequent roar of wind or fall

As each motor bomb dropped into the channel, a dense cloud appeared high in the air, above a roaring, seething caldron, hollowed out of the waters and out of the very bottom of the channel. Into this chasm the cloud quickly came down, condensed into a vast body of water, which fell, with the roar of a cyclone, into the dreadful abyss from which it had been torn, before the hissing walls of the great hollow had half filled it with their sweeping surges. The piled up mass of the redundant water was still

sending its maddened billows tossing and writhing in every direction toward their normal level, when another bomb was discharged; another surging abyss apswift crabs were heading directly for peared, another roar of wind and water was heard, and another mountain of furious billows uplifted itself in a storm of spray and foam, raging that it had

found its place usurped. Slowly turning, the repeller discharged bomb after bomb, building up but of the very sea itself a barrier against its eneboth crabs backed at once they would mics. Under these thundering cataracts, born in an instant, and coming down all at once in a plunging storm; into these abysses, with walls of water and floors of cleft and phivered rocks; through this wide belt of raging turmoil, thrown into new frenzy after the discharge of every bomb-no vessel, no tor-

pedo, could pass. The air driven off in every direction sions came rushing back in shrieking gales, which tore up the waves into

[TO BE CONTINUED,]

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vice admiral, in spite of seven disabled ironclads and a captured gunboat, might yet gaze proudly at his floating flag, even if his own ship should be drifting broadside to the sea. Courts: Vance, Granville and Warren, and the Federal Court at Raleigh. Special attention given to negotiating loans, settlement of estates, and litigated cases.

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ered by the powerful jaws of the oncoming foe. As he could neither fly nor of surrender, the first instance of the kind which had occurred in this war. When the director of Crab Q. through his lookout glass, beheld this action on the part of the gunboat, he was a little perplexed as to what he should next do. To accept the surrender of the British vessel and to assume control of her, it was necessary to communicate with her.

water, a foot or two of length was all municating with the gunboat. A speaking tube was run up through one of the air The davits from which the cylinder pipes of the crab, which pipe was then hung were thick and strong, and the now generally believed that motor iron windheses to which the chains were bombs from a repeller might destroy a attached were large and ponderous, but man-of-war, it was also considered probthese were not strong enough to with- able that the accurate calculations which stand the weight of two grabs with steel appeared to be necessary to precision of

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blades.

11 and her attendant crabs. Particularly was this the case in Bristol channel, where a large number of ironclads were the destination of the Llangaron if the Dental coming long enough to allow her to get around there. That this little fleet should surgeon, have sailed straight for England's great HENGERSON, N. C

prices. Offic over Parker & Closs' store. the object of the syndicate to measure is goa and there was great work for the her stern. feb 4-a. its strength with the greatest strength crabs.

thorities. It was expected that an at- cylinder hung almost perpendicularly The commanders of the torpedo boats tion of the turtle back roof, his voice From \$2 to \$5 per day can be casity tack would probably be made upon some from one chain. But only for a mo- had orders to direct their swift messen- neemed to come out of the depths of the made by active agents. Boys 12 years comparatively unprotected spot on the ment. The nippers of Crab R still firmly gers of destruction first against the crabs, ocean. old make good agents. Outfit casts y u British scaboard, and therefore on the held the chain, and the tremendous lev- for these vessels were far in advance of west coast of Ireland and in St. George's crage exerted by the falling of one end of the repeller, and coming on with a rachannel preparations of the most for- the cylinder wrenched it from the rigidly pidity which showed that they were demidable character had been made to de- held end of its chain; and is a flash, the termined upon mischief. If a torpedo, When this order had been given the crab teb 28. fend British ports against Repeller No. enormous stern guard of the Llangeron shot from a torpedo boat, and speeding sunk, end foremed; to the bottom of the swiftly by its own powers beneath the waves, should strike the submerged hull channel.

> In ten minutes afterward the Llanga- of a crab, there would be one crab the stationed, and which was to have been ron, rudderless, and with the blades of less in the English channel. har propellers shivered and crushed, was As has been said, the Llangaron came syndicate's vessels had delayed their slowly turning her starboard to the wizd rushing on, distancing everything, even transit. and the sea and beginning to roll like a the torpedo boats. If, before she was ebliged to lower her cylinder, she could Besides the Liengaron three ironclade get near enough to the almost stationary log of U.690 tons.

naval stronghold was something that the British admiralty could not understand. But there was no time to succor distilled is the would then be content to slacken sel was informed, through the speaking naval stronghold was something that the British admiralty could not understand. The fact was not appreciated that it was the object of the syndicate to measure

Two of the latest constructed and

at a distance from the only visible por-

The surrender was accepted, and the captain of the gunboat was ordered to stophis engines and prepare to be towed. moved round to the bow of the gunboat, and grasping the cutwater with its forceps, reversed its engines and began to back rapidly toward the British fleet, taking with it the captured vessel as a protection against torpedoes while in

The crab slowed up not far from one of the foremost of the British ships, and leaped into their boats and deserted her. coming round to the quarter of the gun-By rare good fortune their boats were keep out of this fight, he would be

rection the sea swelled and upheaved sums of \$500 and upward, at 8 per cent interest and moderate charges. Apply into great peaked waves, the repeller WM. H. S. BURGWYN, rising upon these almost high enough to At the Bank of Henderson, Jook down into the awful chasms which WM. H. S. BURG WYN, her bombs were making. A torpedo int, mught in one of the returning ATTORNEY AT LAW. gales, was hurled forward almost on her beam ends until she was under the edge HENDERSON, N. C. Persons desiring to consult me profes-sionally, will find medaily at my office in of one of the vast masses of descending water. The flood which, from even the The Bank of Henderson Building outer limits of this falling sea, poured upon and into the unlucky vessel nearly W. COGHILL, swamped her, and when she was swept A. back by the rushing waves into less CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER, stormy waters, her officers and crew

HENDERSON, N. C.

[feb. 9-1 c.]