

# KING'S WEEKLY.

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## JOTTINGS.

A Pennsylvanian, who had spoken disrespectfully of Virginia women was decently and deservedly cowhided by the ladies of Alexandria, Va. When the law cannot take hold, it is right that justice be done.

Walker, the Kansas negro appointed by President Harrison consul in Madagascar, has been sentenced to twenty years imprisonment by a French court martial. And thus the mighty are fallen.

In Kansas it is principally the foreign and negro women who have registered preparatory to voting. That's the kind of blessing female suffrage would bring.

Uncle Sam now has two or three war scares on hand. Perhaps there will yet be a chance for those Pops who are so anxious to shoulder their shot guns.

The funds of the whiskey trust have been found \$1,924,120 short. To make up the shortage the whiskey and not the stock, will undergo the watering process.

The cashier of the Continental Clothing company of Boston has been arrested for embezzling about \$30,000. Embezzle is evidently the Bontonese of steal.

South Carolina is to be afflicted with another new political party that is being organized. South Carolina has much to bear.

Gov McKinley is down in Georgia for his health and a Presidential boom. His health is much governed by his prospects.

Virginia saw North Carolina's Douglasism, and has gone it one better in the Teamoh case. Virginia always wants to lead.

Madam Lease has a prospect of a mayoralty in a Kansas town. Her plans are generally prospective.

## DUEL OF IRONCLADS

### ONE WHO SAW THE FAMOUS BATTLE DESCRIBES IT.

THE VICTORIES OF THE MERRIMAC STRUCK TERROR TO THE LINCOLN CABINET—A GRAPHIC STORY OF THE HISTORIC FIGHT.

Thirty-three years ago I was one of a crowd that stood upon the wharf at Norfolk and cheered the confederate iron clad Virginia, better known as the "Merrimac," as she passed down the Elizabeth river to begin the series of engagements that made her the terror of the federal navy and forced the world to recognize its fleets. When the federal forces evacuated the Norfolk navy yard in 1861 they attempted to destroy what they could not carry away and set on fire and scuttled the steam-frigate Merrimac.

Her upper works were burned, but her hull was intact, and the confederates raised her and converted her into an iron-clad. She was covered midships with a roof 170 feet long, built at an angle of 45 degrees and constructed of twenty-inch heart pine, covered by four-inch oak. Upon this wood packing there were two layers of iron plates two inches thick and eight inches wide, one laid horizontally and the other vertically, bolted through the wood and clinched on the inside. This roof or shield extended from the water line to a height of seven feet over the gun deck, and its two ends were rounded so as to allow the manipulation of two pivot guns to be used as bow and stern chasers. Over the gun deck was a light grating, making a promenade about twenty feet wide. A pilot house was placed forward of the smokestack, built of the same material as the shield. Her bow was armed below water with a cast iron prow four feet long, to be used as a ram. Her weakest element was her motive power, her old engines and boilers, which had been condemned before she was sunk, but there was neither time nor facility to build new ones. Her ordinance consisted of ten guns, two seven-inch seel-banded brooke rifles, mounted as pivot guns at the bow and stern, two six-inch rifles of the same pattern and six nine-inch smooth-bore broad side guns. Her commander was Commodore Franklin Buchanan, one of the ablest and bravest officers of the old service, from which he had resigned to enter the confederate navy.

Her second in command was Lieutenant Catesby Ap R. Jones, distinguished for his professional ability and personal courage.

She had a full complement of subordinate officers selected for their special fitness and a crew of 300 men, most of whom had volunteered from the army for the occasion. The emergency of the service allowed no time for testing her energies or drilling the crew. Officers and men were strangers to each other, and when she started down the river she was an experiment, the success of which no man could foretell.

Whether she would prove an impregnable fortress or an iron-bound coffin experience alone could determine.

### THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

Leaving the navy yard at 11 o'clock on Saturday morning, March 8, 1862, the Merrimac made her way down the Elizabeth about eight miles to its mouth, where the Confederates had erected land batteries on its east bank. Here the Elizabeth enters Hampton Roads, a broad body of water formed by the Elisabeth and James rivers, which empties into Chesapeake bay about four miles below Sewell's Point through a channel about a mile wide, on the north side of which is Fortress Monroe at Old Point, and on the south the Rip Raps, an artificial island, on which was a federal battery. In this channel, off Fortress Monroe and under its guns, lay the greater part of the federal fleet, while further up the Roads, at the mouth of James river, and about four miles above Sewell's Point on the other side of the Roads, the Cumberland and Congress were anchored off New Port News Point, blockading James river.

### THE FIRST DAY'S FIGHT.

When the Merrimac reached the mouth of the Elizabeth river, she had the choice of going down the roads and attacking the fleet off Fortress Monroe, or going up and across the roads to encounter the Congress and the Cumberland off Newport News. Commodore Buchanan wisely chose the latter, and taking the south channels to avoid a shoal in the middle of the roads, known as "the middle ground," he made directly for the two federal ships. It was a beautiful balmy day, more like May than March. The sailors aboard the Congress and the Cumberland had been washing their clothes for Sunday, and the rigging of the two ships were full of garments hung out to dry, while the crew lounged about the decks basking in the sunshine.

The appearance of the Merrimac wrought an instantaneous transformation of the scene. The drums beat to quarters and the men took their places at their guns. All knew that the mysterious stranger that approached, moving across the roads like an animate housetop, was their long expected foe, and the crisis of their fate was upon them. Meanwhile the Merrimac held her way grimly and silently across the roads, accompanied by two little gunboats, the Beaufort, Lieutenant Parker, and the Raleigh, Lieutenant Alexander, each mounting one gun. As she approached the Congress she opened on her with her bowgun, and when within three hundred yards delivered a broadside and received one in return. Passing the Congress, the Merrimac made for the Cumberland. The ship received her with a full broadside from her heavy guns that would have sunk a wooden vessel, but against her iron roof the solid shot rebounded as rubber balls from a brick wall. Driven through the water, under a full head of steam, the Merrimac struck the Cumberland under her starboard fore channel with her iron prow, then the

Merrimac, reversing her engine, backed clear of the Cumberland, but at the expense of her prow, which was broken off and left in the bowels of the Cumberland. Freed from her wounded adversary, the iron clad passed her, and as she did so the guns of the two vessels, nearly touching each other, fired simultaneous broadsides. The decks of the Cumberland were covered with the dead and wounded, but the Merrimac was not unscathed. Two shots from the Cumberland had entered her ports while opened for firing, breaking off two of her guns at the muzzle, killing two men and wounding several. Her boats, anchors and flagstaff were shot away, and her smokestack riddled. Besides this, the loss of her prow caused her to spring a leak. The Merrimac kept on up James river far enough to turn, then came down to finish her work.

The fate of the Cumberland was sealed and she was fast sinking, but she kept up the hopeless fight with a gallantry beyond all praise. Her commander was Lieutenant George U. Morris, who proved himself a hero that day, and he was nobly seconded by his brave officers and crew. When called on to surrender by the Confederate commander, he replied, "I'll sink, but I'll never surrender."

### To Be Continued.

### FROM ROAN TO ROANOKE.

Wilkes County has an Enoch Arden case in John Hobson, who after a twenty years absence, returned a short time ago, and found his wife had been married to Wm Hayes fifteen years.

Governor Carr has ordered a special term of Davidson Superior Court, commencing July 1st, and the trial of Shemwell for killing Dr Payne will be the first case.

A Watauga man slipped down a mountain during the snow, and landed in a neighbor's wood pile half a mile away.

The Tee Pamunky Indians of Virginia having a scarcity of squaws want Cherokee wives from North Carolina, and negotiations are in progress.

A negro woman sixty-five years old convicted of murdering her husband has been sent to the penitentiary for life from Hertford county.

H T Gregory, of Greenboro, a postal clerk, has been promoted to postoffice inspector at a salary of \$2000.

Josiah Turner has been paid \$4,030.52 as balance due him for public printing done years ago.

Whiskey has cost a man in Charlotte \$2,312.50 fines for drunks and downs, in the last few years.

Four Granville County populists have issued a card announcing their withdrawal from that party.

W C Thorne a well-known lawyer of Halifax county, died at his home in Enfield on the 23rd.

Gen Wade Hampton was the orator at the unveiling of the Bentonville monument.

Charlotte is to have a new Court House to cost \$50,000.