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To secure which some folks steal?
You can obtain it honestly, too,
If you advertise in THE APPEAL.

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\$2.40 PER YEAR.

JACK TAR CAN SHOOT.
SUPERIOR SKILL OF AMERICAN
GUNNERS DUE TO PRACTICE.

The Recent Victories of Our Navy Demonstrate to the World the Superiority of Our Gunners Brought About by System and Practice.

Our two naval victories, the silencing of the batteries at Matanzas, by Sampson, and the bombardment of Manila, by Dewey, have covered a fair field of fame to permeate the breast of every true American citizen. The thing that has impressed us most is the superior seamanship of our gallant defenders of the Stars and Stripes. The Spaniards have apparently been unable to do any serious work with their guns, while every shot fired from the American ship seems to have had a telling effect.

The natural query is: "Why is it?" How, asks the average citizen who is not conversant with naval affairs, can our ships do so well in the recent battles? And the unthinking ones set it down as an evidence of the luck of war. It is in no such thing, asserts the New York Herald, and a beautifully disciplined navy. There are too many calamity howlers in America. It would be better should we blow our horns a little more. There is too great a tendency to apologize for our deficiencies. Does Matanzas warrant it? Let us rest on our laurels, and let our sailor boys can more than take care of themselves?

It is no inoperative thing, this drilling of gunners. It is a luxury which Spain cannot afford. Hence her poor showing in the recent encounters which she had had with our ships. This fact may be fully understood when you realize that during the bombardment of Matanzas Uncle Sam paid \$200,000 every time the Puritan discharged one of her big guns.

Of course, in practice, this would be extremely expensive. But the navy had adopted other means of ensuring proficiency on the part of her gunners. Our ships are obliged to have target practice with big guns at least once every three months, when the number of shots fired is prescribed by regulations, which are the men grow in proficiency. The great expense attached to this necessarily reduces the number of shots fired from each gun.

Might, left, up and down goes the piece of tin, according to the direction shouted out by the marksman. When he thinks the bullet is in the center of the target, directly at the center of the target, and the ball would go through the hole in the disk, he shouts "stop!"

Then the gunner-mate takes a pencil, and holding the disk in position, makes a mark through the center upon the paper target. This operation is repeated three times, and then the next man has his trial. The idea of the three shots is to get as possible—that is, the three pencil marks forming the smallest triangle constitute the best marksmanship. To determine the center of the triangle formed by the three pencil marks is a simple mathematical calculation, and thereon hinges the result of accuracy.

Pistol practice among officers is also largely indulged in. The poop deck is usually the scene of this, and the target is an ordinary iron one, with paint pot and brush close at hand. Somebody will suggest a trial at skill, with a round of lead to see again the score of the poorest marksman. But it is all good practice.

Whenever possible our navy is perfecting itself in marksmanship. Practice with rifles and revolvers takes place both afloat and ashore at very frequent intervals. And that is why our navy has been so successful in recent encounters. It is one thing not to flinch under fire through pure bravery, and it is another thing to realize that bravery is backed up by the consciousness of superior skill. And that is what our gallant tars have won such universal praise.

FIRING 8-INCH GUNS.
What This Really Means—Effect Upon Body and Mind.

Not one man in ten thousand has a clear idea of just what happens when a big cannon is fired. The physical man-

ifestations are numerous. Even professors of chemistry and physics are stumped when they want to differentiate all the gases set loose and the peculiar effects they induce. The part of whitish smoke, the flash of fire, the dim image of the flying projectile, the roar and the recoil are all familiar, but back of all these is a complex mass of phenomena most bewildering to the mind of any but an artillery expert.

First, the cubes, disks, hexagons or irregular lumps of powder are chemically transformed into a powerful, expanding gas, the instant firing takes place, says the New York World. Then there are innumerable by-products that even chemists do not understand.

BLOCKADE RUNNERS.
REMINISCENCES APROPOS OF
THE CUBAN SITUATION.

Adventures of Those Who Supply the beleaguered—The Attempt to Break In at Hampton Roads Brought on the Most Dramatic Conflict of the Civil War.

Doubtless the greatest and most memorable blockade in the annals of warfare was that of the ports of the Southern states by the Federal government, beginning in April, 1861. It involved the closing and patrolling of 3,500 miles of coast, much of it with an inland sea and double line of shores.

At this time the fact that at the beginning of the war the United States navy existed almost in name only, and we can readily understand why the blockade running became so popular. In the beginning, it is recalled by the Philadelphia Times, old, inland, and even condemned vessels were freely used for this purpose, as their capture involved no serious loss, and the chances of their getting into port were fair.

At 3 o'clock in the morning we sighted the Cape Fear light, but as it would take us nearly until daylight to reach the blockading fleet, and then, if we failed to run through, we should be surrounded and captured, we once more put to sea. All the next day we were chased and ran away from everything that attempted to run us down; as the shades of night were descending we put in again for the shore.

The captain, knowing that he had not enough coal to steam back to Nassau if he failed to run, determined to attempt it at all hazards and to land his crew and passengers even if he had to beach his vessel and blow it up. All the boats were lowered from the davits and all on board were told off in crews to every boat, so that in case it became necessary to run in on the beach and destroy the vessel there should be no confusion.

Regular reports are made to the admiral of the fleet, and the successful gunners are then indeed happy. Money prizes are given to the best marksmanship. Even the midshipmen of the navy are given a printed circular, showing the relative standing of each ship in the service as to target practice.

This list contains the names of all the best marksmen of each ship, arranged in order of merit. This in itself fosters a spirit of emulation among the men, and a keen rivalry between the ships, and even among the gun divisions of the same ship. The honor thus gained is by far more highly appreciated by Jack than the mere money prize.

PRIVATEERING.
BRAVE MEN ENGAGE IN THE
TRADE AND SECURE PRIZES.

It May Be Very Disreputable, But It is an Occupation Followed by Many During a War Between Nations With Considerable Zeal.

Chamber's Journal. The first mention of privateering—possibly in this sense privateering in connection with Liverpool, is in the year 1668, when John Mordaunt, Sir Thomas Stanley, son of the earl of Derby, brought a prize into the Mersey amid great rejoicings. It was in the reign of George II., however, that privateering was taken up as a business enterprise by the Liverpool merchants.

The breaking out of the seven years' war, in 1756, came as a blow to Liverpool, whose trade in "black ivory" had been making prodigious strides since the French privateers found their way into the Irish sea and at one time actually captured the Liverpool privateers. In 1774 Liverpool possessed four privateers, which, during the French and Spanish war, captured about a dozen ships at small profit, "hounded" to the round hundred sailing to and taken from Liverpool by the enemy.

As a result of all these forces the atmosphere of the country was disturbed. Although no privateer, the gunner, who must stand by, it will be seen that the air is full of missiles in the form of invisible and snappy contractions, which bombard, as it were, every part of the gunner's body at the same time.

An examination and analysis of the effect produced upon the human system and the mind by the firing of a cannon is most engrossing. Men generally accounted courageous and intrepid in their knees; others feel nauseated; some have severe headaches; a few have had their eardrums split or the action of their heart affected.

When the knees tremble it is due to the nervous shock produced in the cerebellum. All the nerves and muscles are thrown in atonic contractions and relaxations and the knees appear to give way.

Nausea is also caused by the physiological change that takes place in the brain. There is a pressure of blood there, and the stomach, responding, tries to empty itself.

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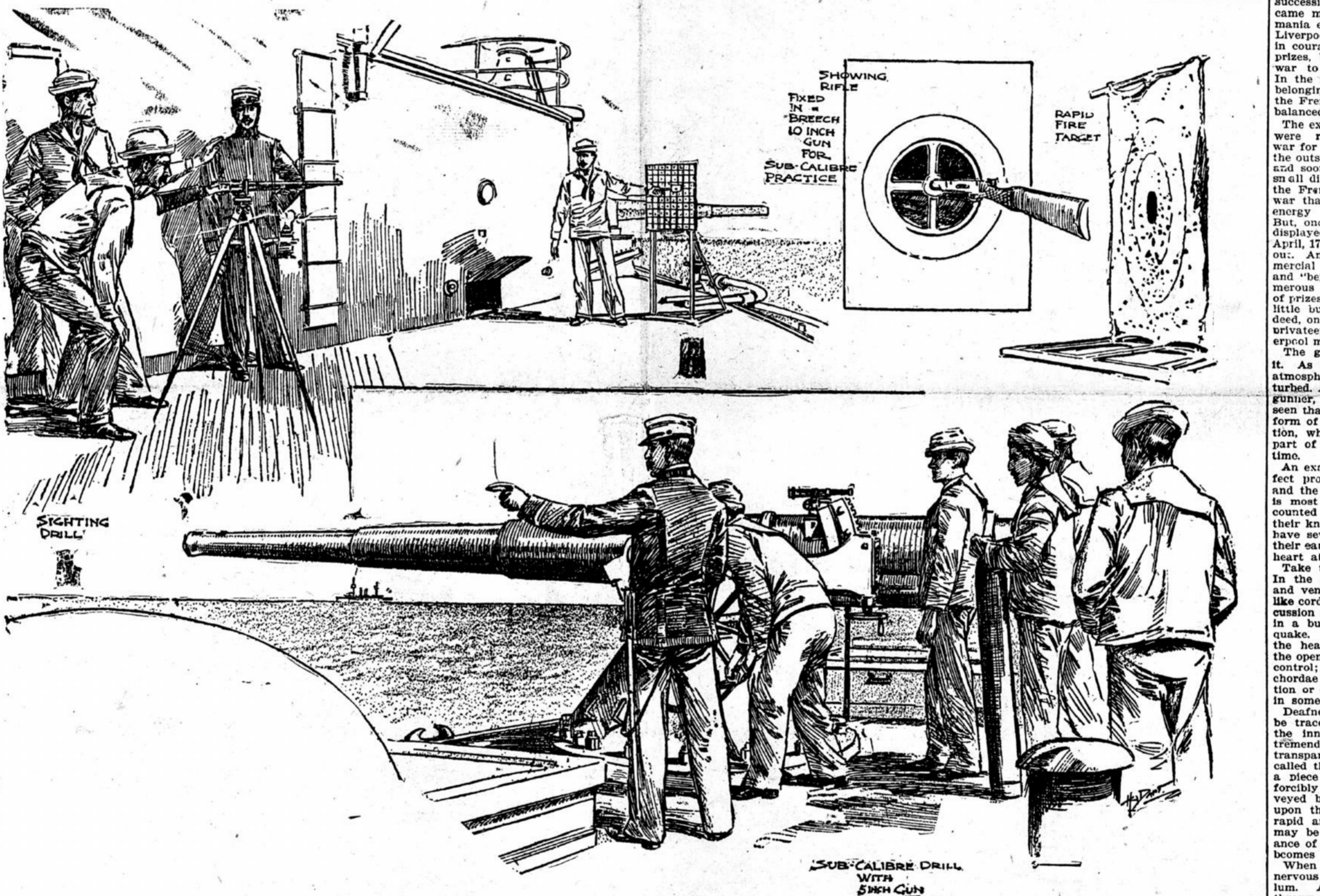
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"WHAT HAS IMPRESSED US MOST IS THE SUPERIOR MARKSMANSHIP OF OUR TARS." There is no luck about it—it is all the result of hard work. Sub-caliber practice is the foundation of it, and these sketches tell you all about it.

or sparks also radiates outward from the barrel of the gun. These lines of force are influenced, besides, by the recoil of the gun which tends to make the lines curve outward and intensifies the shock. These are in turn more or less compensated by the forces of the air opposing them as it rushes into the muzzle of the cannon when the projectile leaves the barrel.

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The whole nervous system, which resembles a mass of fibrous roots running all over the body, is affected when a cannon as large as an 8-inch gun is fired in close proximity. The nervous tissue of the body is divided into two different structures, the cerebral and the spinal, which is grayish and the fibrous, which is white. In the former nervous impressions are impulsively originate, by the latter they are conducted. The gray matter forms the essential constituent of all ganglionic centers. A third structure—chiefly in the sympathetic system—is called gelatinous nervous tissue.