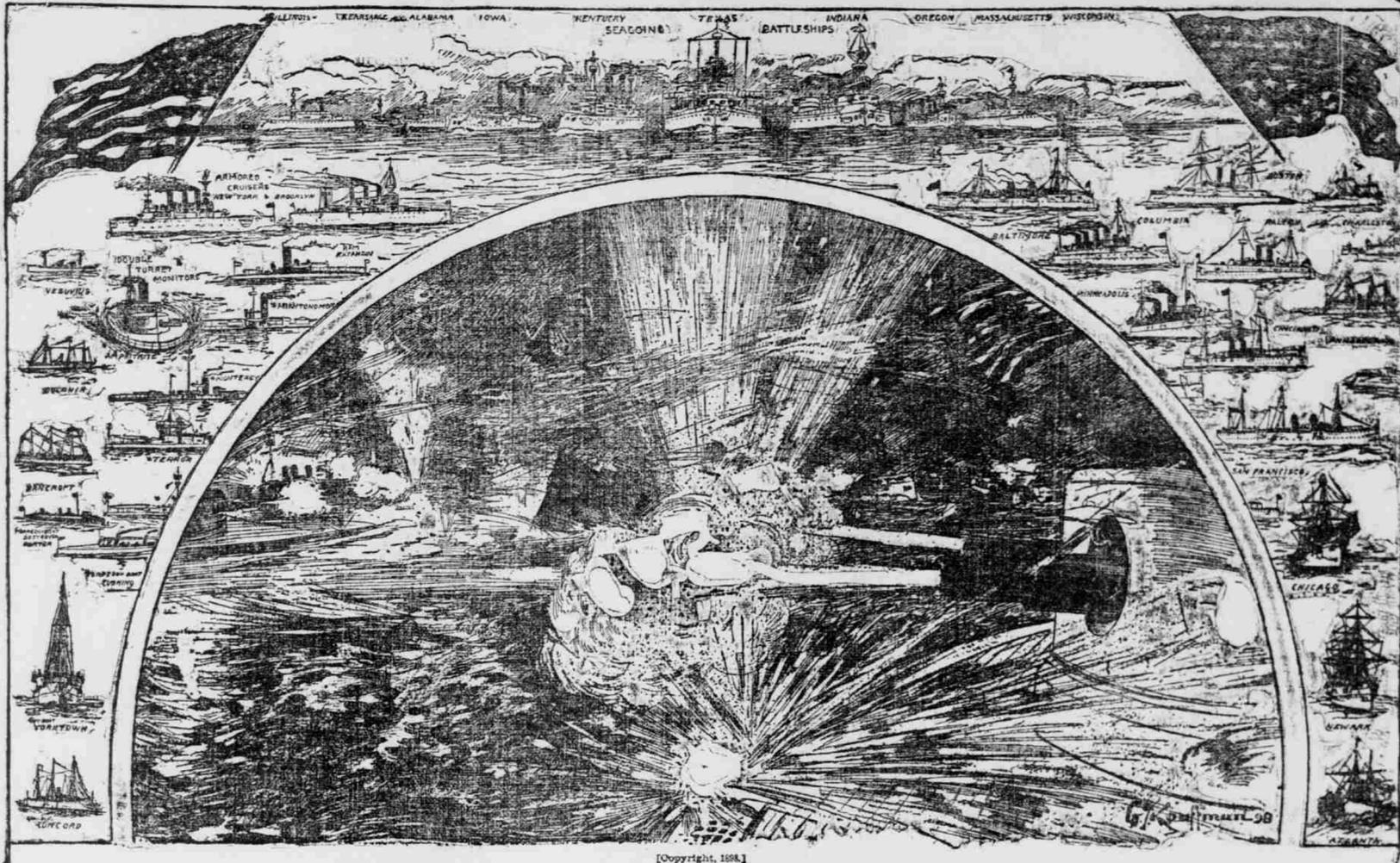
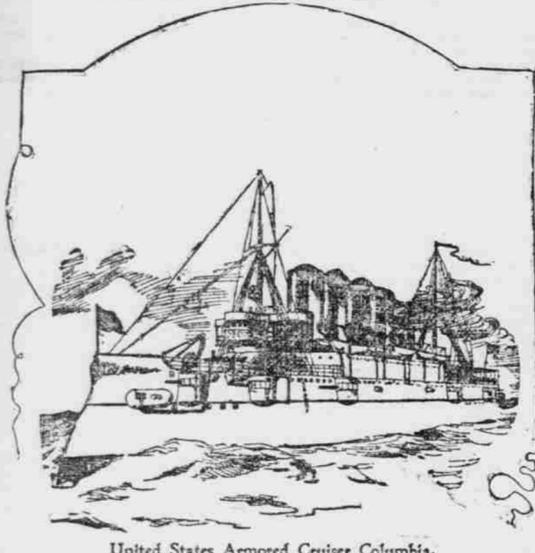


# A Modern Naval Battle at Its Height



[Copyright, 1898.]

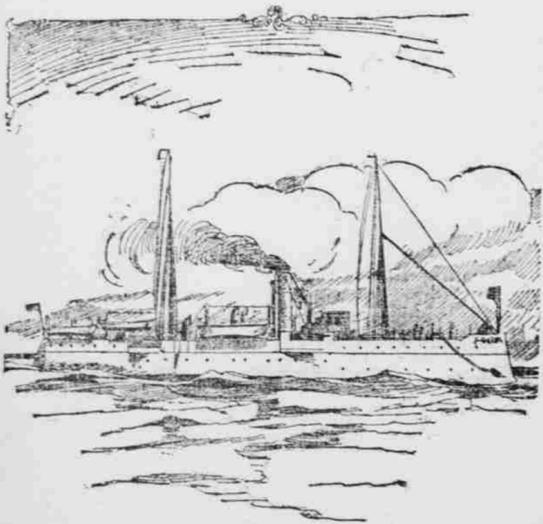


United States Armored Cruiser Columbia.

## Flying Squadron is Ready for Orders

Fort Monroe, Va., April 3.—Commodore W. S. Schley will tomorrow notify the authorities at Washington that with the arrival of the Texas he will be ready to move at an hour's notice. The most formidable squadron of fast fighters ever got together is complete, with the exception of the Texas. The cruiser Minneapolis began at noon today to change her coat and the painting will be finished by tomorrow afternoon. Her bunkers are filled with coal, and, like the other vessels of the fleet, she is fully armed.

Commodore Schley expects the battleship Texas within the next forty-eight hours. Despite the enforcement of the Sunday insurance law in Newport News, which has had the effect of stopping Sunday work on the battleships Keavage and Kenrick, the divers, three in number, continued work on the bottom of the battleship Massachusetts today, and made such progress that Captain Higginson believes they will be able to finish by night-fall tomorrow.



United States Cruiser Bancroft.

rapidly. The dynamo for the big electric searchlight was adopted last night and the light is now in operation. The emplacements for rapid-fire and disappearing guns will be finished this week, and this important point will then be in modern condition from a war-standing point.

**SPOILING FOR A FIGHT**  
**Spirit of the Men Who Man the Flying Squadron is High.**  
 (Correspondence of the Associated Press.)  
 Hampton Roads, April 3.—The practical completion of a flying squadron of the American navy by the assignment of Commodore W. S. Schley to take charge, and his acceptance, as marked by his active operation on Monday last, is an epoch-making event in the history of the present difficulty. No other action of this government since the Maine disaster so actively determines the fact that actual warfare has been expected. The North Atlantic squadron is always organized, and the appointment of Captain Sampson to its command is but the natural sequel of the retirement of Rear Admiral Sigbee from active duty. So, too, the assignment of ships of war to that squadron or to the Pacific squadron, are but

come. The small-calibre gun that fired the commodore's salute with blank cartridges sang out a high-pitched pean of welcome and peace. About the land-locked water of Hampton Roads, where thirty-five years ago the Monitor and Merrimack fought their terrible battle, sunshine touched the hills, assuming their emerald garb, and nature, awake after her hibernation, caressing the hills, spoke only of peace. But as the smoke blew by, in every eye was the kindling spark of vengeance for fellow-seaman hurled to death and the hope that the cannon's roar might be changed to the dreadful one of war.



COMMODORE SCHLEY.  
 Who Will Command Our Flying Squadron in Case of War.

looked ahead in civilian clothes impresses you as the firm, unyielding warrior. Just the man to take "partial" orders for a flying squadron and complete them himself with credit to his country. In the atmosphere which days surround him there is a spirit akin to that German song which says: "We have all had more than enough of love and now for a song of hatred," yet when the summons comes the song of those who cry loudly now may weaken enough to be overtopped by the commands of this intrepid leader of a fleet.

In the makeup of the flying squadron, speed and fighting qualities have been considered. A summary of the points, in comparison with those of the best force that Spain can offer in making up a similar squadron, follows:

Name	Tons	Power	Knots
Brooklyn	5,275	14,000	22
Columbia	5,275	12,000	21
Massachusetts	5,288	9,000	17
Minneapolis	1,375	31,000	24

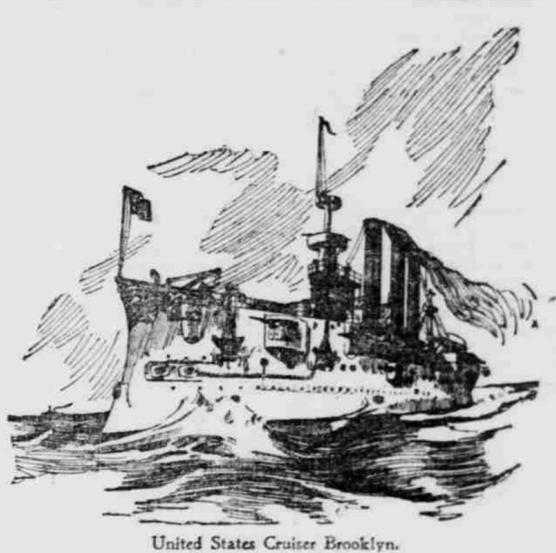
Spain has compared with the best of hers would be as follows:

Name	Tons	Power	Knots
Vizcaya	1,000	12,000	20
Infanta Maria	7,000	12,000	20

Pelaya ..... 5,500 8,000 16.  
 Oquendo ..... 7,000 12,000 20.  
 The total displacement tonnage of the United States flying squadron is 43,378, and of the Spanish only 20,774. The average horsepower of the United States vessels is 12,500, and that of the Spanish 11,750. The average rate of speed of the four United States ships is 21½ knots per hour, while the Spanish fleet has to content itself with 19 knots.

It is possible that the battleship Massachusetts, being somewhat slower than the rest of the fleet, will be supplanted in the squadron by the New York, and the average of speed and fighting capabilities of the squadron will be increased. It must be remembered that the Brooklyn and New York are two of the finest types of fighting machines in the world, having their main batteries supplied with rapid-fire guns, with which very few warships are equipped, except in a secondary battery.

The great point of vantage of the fleet, however, is in thickness of armor, caliber of guns and the fighting qualities of the men. There are five thirteen-inch guns on the proposed American flying squadron, while the whole Spanish navy has but not one, and only two twelve-inch guns.



United States Cruiser Brooklyn.

**Prayers for Spain's Success.**  
 Madrid, April 3.—From all the pulpits in Madrid today, the priests read a letter from the bishop of the diocese announcing that he considered it to be imminent and ordering prayers for the success of the Spanish arms.

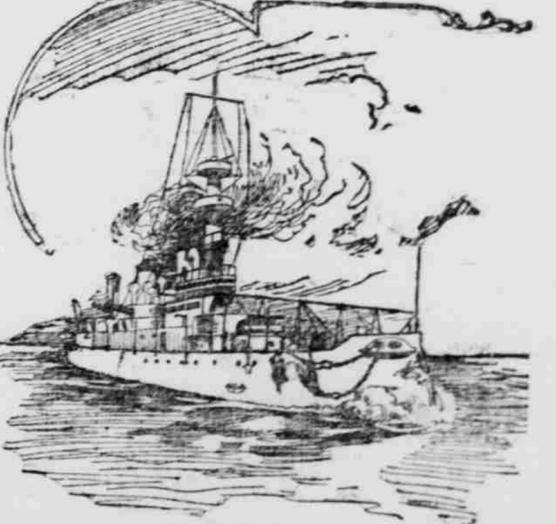
**More Spanish Financing.**  
 Madrid, April 3.—A decree has been gazetted creating 25,000,000 pesetas of new treasury notes on the guarantee of the receipts from the tobacco stamps and octroi duties.

**Fleet Preparing at Cadiz.**  
 Madrid, April 3.—A flotilla of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers is being prepared for active service at Cadiz.

**GOLD FROM AUSTRALIA**  
 Last Shipment Completes a Grand Total of \$18,500,000.  
 San Francisco, April 3.—The steamship Alameda, from Sidney, via Auckland and Honolulu, which is due here next Wednesday, carries £2,000,000 in English sovereigns in her strong box. This is the eighth shipment of gold received from the same source since last fall, bringing the total amount received up to the enormous sum of \$18,500,000. This money is in payment of the balance of trade in favor of the United States for wheat, flour, lumber, canned goods, raisins and other staples shipped abroad, in excess of our imports of merchandise.

**Dr. Hall is Convinced.**  
 New York, April 3.—Rev. Dr. John Hall, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, is convinced... In his past through any danger period that may have existed, and at his residence today it was said he contemplated participating in communion service next Sunday. Dr. Hall also caused it to be announced from the pulpit of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church that he would participate in some of the church meetings this week.

Berlin, April 3.—Ambassador White hopes to be soon so far removed from his indisposition as to be able to go to Washington.



United States Battleship Indiana.