

The "Merrimac" of New York Harbor.

\$150,000 HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED CLEAR THE OBSTRUCTION WHICH WOULD HAVE KEPT SPAIN'S WARSHIPS OUT OF THE FAMOUS WATERS OF NEW YORK BAY.

When Admiral Sampson conceived the plan of running the Merrimac under the guns of Morro Castle and sinking her across the mouth of the harbor he realized full well that by the loss of the collier worth \$75,000 he would probably save a few millions of dollars for Uncle Sam to say nothing of thousands of lives. But to the man whose carelessness was responsible for the sinking of New York Harbor's Merrimac it probably never occurred that in the loss of his scow laden with pig iron—worth probably \$15,000—that in little more than a

the northwest winds drive the water out of the harbor. When these winds have lasted for a couple of days there is one foot less water over the "Merrimac" and Diamond Reef than is sufficient to float a heavy laden war vessel.

When the Montgomery was hauled off and towed back to the navy yard it was found that several of her propeller blades were broken. It took four days to repair the damage at a cost of \$35,000. Some months later the auxiliary cruiser Mayflower struck the "Merrimac" and also went ashore. This resulted in a lot of

The ship moved forward slowly, grating a little as she dragged herself over the hidden obstruction and then, free once more, she proceeded under forced draught to an anchorage off Tompkinsville.

As the Massachusetts began to clear from the obstruction she signaled to Governor's Island for help. From there word was telegraphed to Rear Admiral Buncce, commandant of the navy yard, that the Massachusetts had struck on Diamond Reef, and that three tugs were needed. This request was quickly changed, however, and one tug was asked for, as the battleship was churning the water in the race to reach Tompkinsville.

By the time the Massachusetts reached the anchorage at Tompkinsville she was listing so much to port and her bow was so low in the water, despite the fact that her pumps had been used vigorously after she had floated off the reef, that Captain Nicoll Ludlow thought best to go back to the yard. It then was believed that only two or three of the compartments forward on the port side were flooded, but the ship was listing so much and her nose was sticking so far down in the water that it was deemed prudent to get back into the shallow water in the yard.

The result of the third accident was

chusetts is of vital concern to the navy department, and in certain circumstances the embarrassment might be most serious.

WAX FIGURES.

The clerks were dressing two dummies in the show window of a Main street haberdasher's store and a group of men had gathered in front to watch them. The clothes were put on—it was like dressing corpses—the neckties arranged and the hair carefully brushed.

"Now, sonny," said Van Dyke to a junior clerk, "tell us how to fix the hands." He paused for an idea.

It is to be understood that the hands of a wax figure are as difficult to dispose of as are the hands of an awkward youth at a party. They are always too conspicuous. To put them in the pocket is too open an effort to hide them and to leave them off entirely would be ridiculous. The great thing is to make them look natural, graceful, poised. So Van Dyke looked at those hands, which he had already arranged in 10 different ways with bad effect, and wrinkled his eyebrows.

"Put them behind his back," suggested the junior clerk.

Van Dyke regarded him carefully. "These two wax fellows are meeting in the street. When men meet in the street do they put their hands behind their backs? What do they do?"

"They shake hands," said another clerk.

"Make 'em shake, Van," said the junior clerk.

Van Dyke stood the two very swell young wax gentlemen face to face about two feet apart and joined their hands at the height of the waist. "Now run out in front and see how it looks, sonny," he said.

The clerk came back shaking his head.

swear-off contract." The other fellow cried out: "How in the dickens did you find out I had been smoking?" "Never mind," said the other. "A little bird told me."—San Francisco Wave.

DATES OF GREAT INVENTIONS.

The airbrake was invented by Westinghouse, 1874; the torpedo by Bushnell, 1777; watch by Peter Hele, 1477; thermometer, by Drebel, 1699; telescope, by Lippersheim, 1608; printing by Gansfleisch, 1438; cotton gin, by Eli Whitney, 1793; microscope, by Jansen, 1590; lithography, by Senefelde, 1798; lightning rods, by Franklin, 1752; gunpowder, by Schwarz, 1320; balloon, by Montgolfier, 1783; barometer, by Torricelli, 1643.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

"I suppose," said Col. Stilwell's friend, "that you will make a New Year's resolution."

"Yes, sir," replied the Colonel. "My friends seemed to expect it of me, and in order not to disappoint them I have given that name to a very appetizing beverage which I invented myself."

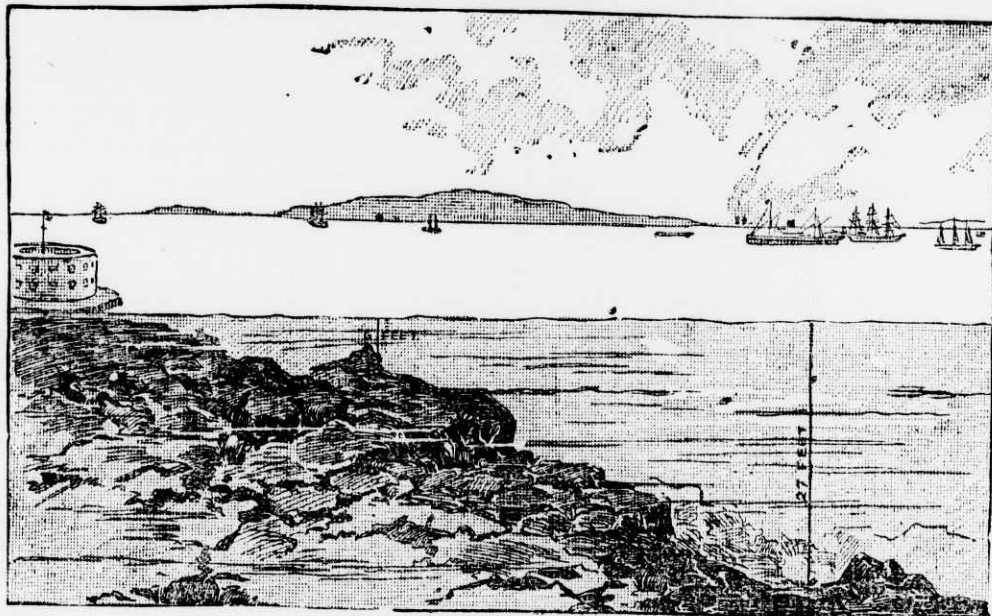
A NEW PHASE OF IT.

The Timid Young Writer rapped at the door of the Great Editor.

"Come in," said the Great Editor in a beaming voice.

Now, the Timid Young Writer was new at the business, but he put on a bold face and he walked into the den and said: "I have here a manuscript which I would like you to read and return to me in the envelope that I have provided." For he was minded to leave it.

"Sit down, and I will read it now," said the Great Editor, for he had dined well. The Timid Young Writer did as he was requested, and in the course of a few min-



DIAMOND REEF OFF THE BATTERY.

year he would put the government to a loss of \$150,000.

It is a fact, however, that such a loss has been entailed. And though local harbor authorities, and those interested in shipping, have endeavored to prove that this loss was occasioned by ships striking on the outer edge of a ledge of rocks near Governor's Island, known as Diamond Reef, most naval officers and the majority of the New York pilots know that this instead of being a ledge of rock is an old scow laden with pig iron. Indeed in naval circles there is a grim joke about the "floating rock" that lies in wait for warships. Since the Hobson exploit, however, they have usually alluded to this sunken barge as "New York Harbor's Merrimac."

Except to the people directly interested

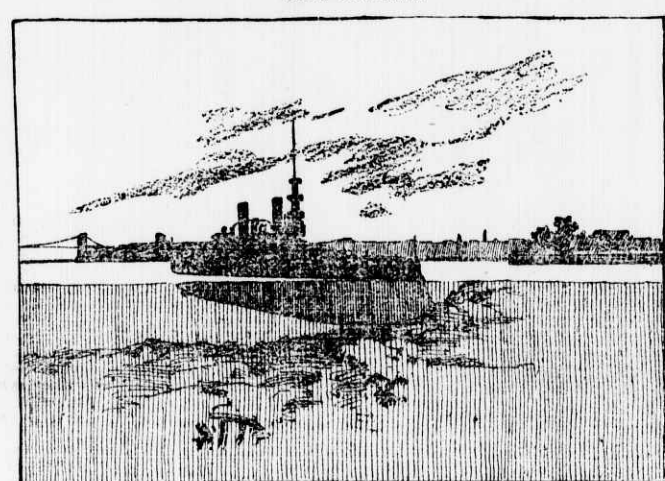
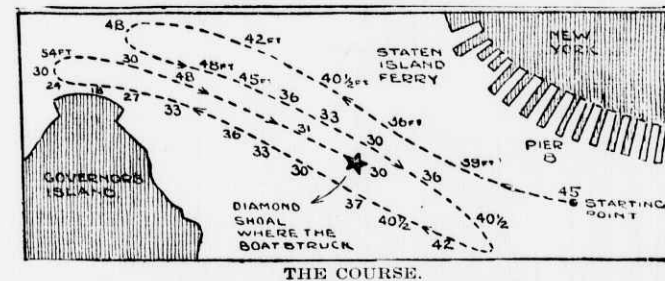
sprung plates, five days in the dry dock, and an expense of \$15,000. The naval officers coming in or going out of the Brooklyn Navy yard began to tell weird tales about the "floating rock" off Diamond Reef. And although it was treated in the light of a joke it began to be a very grim one for commanding officers.

No further attention was paid to the obstruction than to include it in the general plan for the improvement of New York Harbor when the next appropriation bill was asked for in the river and harbor bill. On the tenth of last December the necessity of immediate action in clearing away the "Merrimac" was pointed out very clearly by the battleship Massachusetts striking it on the afternoon of that day and doing a great deal of damage to her hull and bilge keels.

damage to the battleship's bilge keels, a great number of broken and sprung plates, three weeks in the dry dock, and an estimated loss of \$100,000. Thus within a year a \$15,000 cargo of pig iron cost the government of the United States \$150,000 in money to say nothing of the vessel's services and all the upsetting of the machinery of the navy's plans for the time being.

Since the Massachusetts hit the "Merrimac" the coast survey service has made a special survey of the waters in the immediate vicinity of Diamond Reef.

Their report shows that a ship of the Massachusetts' size on leaving the navy yard must pass along the Brooklyn shore and then cross over to the channel between Diamond Reef and the New York shore.



INJURY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS.

"It's rotten bad; that isn't the swell shake. Make 'em shake hands at the height of the chin."

The head clerk tried that, but the fingers were of wax and stiff, and he couldn't get the hands together.

A customer came in the store and Van Dyke said: "Now watch me wring this wax fellow's hand off." And to the amazement of the visitor the clerk severed the wax hand of the dummy free from the wrist.

"You see," he explained, "every wax figure is supplied with several extra pairs of hands to strike different attitudes or to serve him in case of an accident."

"Bring us the wire hand, sonny," said Van Dyke. "This hand was covered with pink cotton damask and was flexible, that it might be bent in any way and stay in position. Van Dyke secured it to the wrist of the right arm and raised it to the height of the chin. Then he shook hands critically with the junior clerk after the latest fashion, and proceeded to arrange the hands of the figures in the same way. The clerk went out in the street and looked in. Van Dyke tried to bend the wire hand around the wax hand and broke off one of the wax fingers.

The junior clerk began to dance about on the sidewalk, holding his finger in his mouth one minute and slinging it about the next like a man with a smashed thumb nail. He came into the store groaning, "Oh, Lord!" "Oh, Lord!"

Another hand was secured in place and the figures arranged in a satisfactory way.

"At last!" sighed Van Dyke. "But that was easy; dead easy."

The best wax figures in the world are made in New York by Gustave Schmidt, formerly chief sculptor for the Eden Musee. He is of German parentage, but was born in France and received his education there. His wax figures are not the tawdry things one usually sees in the shop windows, but are really works of art. One firm here has two to show in its store. Each of these figures cost \$200. They are made entirely of wax and are the exact counterparts of two famous New York models. The first figure was sculptured after a French girl. Almost the only difference between the little French model and the polite, dainty figure in wax is that the girl of flesh and blood has dark hair and the hair of the wax figure is yellow. The second figure is that of an American woman. Her figure and the soft pink flush of the skin seem almost perfect. The woman who stood for the model of this one was said to have the best American figure in New York.

DIPLOMATIC.

There were two men in this town who swore off smoking, the breaker of the contract to pay the other for a \$10 hat. Finally one of them weakened. While he meditated over the matter, however, he thought out a scheme to save himself on the hat. He went to the hatter's and bought a \$10 hat and had it charged to the other fellow. Then he met his friend at the club, and, pointing to the hat, said: "See that hat old boy? It is the one I have just had charged to you on that

utes the Great Editor made an end of reading and looked at the Timid Young Writer over his spectacles.

"You will never see this manuscript again," he said in his gruffest tones.

And the Timid Young Writer was panic-stricken. "Oh, sir, what will you do with it? I have labored long over it. Harm it not!"

Then the Great Editor answered: "I am going to accept it."

And they carried the Timid Young Writer out.

NOTICE TO CO-OWNER.

To Benjamin Armstrong, your heirs or assigns: You are hereby notified that we have expended during the year 1898 one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in labor and improvements upon each of the following quartz lode mining claims, situated in the Divide Creek Mining district, Silver Bow county, Montana, a more particular description of which is found in the location notices of the said lode claims as recorded. The Silver King, recorded in Book F, page 266; the Sage Hen, recorded in Book F, page 267; the Tacoma, recorded in Book J, page 70; the Goodwin, recorded in Book J, page 411; the Golden Bell, recorded in Book I, page 89, in the office of the county recorder of Silver Bow county, Montana; that the said labor was performed and the said improvements were made for the purpose of holding said claims under the provisions of Section 234, Revised Statutes of the United States, and the amendments thereto concerning annual labor on mining claims for the year 1898, when said labor and improvements were made. It is within ninety days after the last publication of this notice you fail or refuse to contribute your proportion, amounting to one hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$122.50), of said expenditures, as a co-owner, your interest in the said claims will become the property of the undersigned, your co-owners, who have made the above described expenditures according to the requirements of the said section.

PAT KIRBY,
JAMES KIRBY,
FRANK KIRBY.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE Second Judicial District of the State of Montana, County of Silver Bow.

In the matter of the estate of A. C. White deceased.

Notice of publication of time appointed for proving will, etc.

Pursuant to an order of said district court, made on the 7th day of January 1899, notice is hereby given that Saturday, the 4th day of February, 1899, at 2 o'clock p. m., of said day, at the Court Room of said County of Silver Bow, has been appointed as the time and place for proving the will of said A. C. White, deceased, and for hearing the application of Frank Britton for the issuance to him of letters testamentary, with will annexed, when and where any person interested may appear and contest the same.

Dated January 17th, 1899.

CLINTON C. CLARK,
Clerk.

By JAMES F. WILKINS,
Deputy Clerk.

Read the Inter Mountain

SHERIFF'S SALE.

American National Bank of Helena, plaintiff, vs. Eli D. Bannister et al., defendants.

To be sold at sheriff's sale, on the 26th day of January, A. D. 1899, at 2 o'clock p. m., at the front door of the court house in the city of Butte, county of Silver Bow, state of Montana, the following described real property, to-wit:

That certain mining claim or premises known as the "Valley Lode Mining Claim," designated by the surveyor general as lot number 216, embracing a portion of Section 24, in township three, north of range eight, west of the principal meridian in the Summit Valley Mining district, in the county of Silver Bow, state of Montana, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at Corner No. 1, a granite stone, 30x22x22 inches, marked 2 M. C. 171, 1-214 and 1-216, with a mound of earth, being also Corner No. 2 of Lot No. 171, the Tecumseh Lode claim and Corner No. 1 of Lot No. 214, the Despatch Lode claim, from which Corner No. 1 of Lot No. 171, the Star West Lode claim bears north 68 deg. 53 min. west seven feet distant; thence first course, magnetic variation 20 deg. east, south 1 deg. 45 min. west 68 feet to Corner No. 2; thence second course, magnetic variation 20 deg. 30 min. east, south 74 deg. 51 min. east 185 feet, to a point from which distance 300 feet distant; thence third and fifty feet intersect the north side line of Lot No. 171, the Pike's Peak Lode claim, at north 84 deg. 15 min. west, 691 feet, from Corner No. 2 of said claim, 371 feet, from the east end line of the said Lot No. 171 at south 1 deg. 15 min. east 103 feet to Corner No. 2 of said claim 1,412 feet to Corner No. 3; thence third course, magnetic variation 20 deg. 30 min. east, north 12 deg. 30 min. east 220 feet to the Corner No. 4; thence fourth course, magnetic variation, 20 deg. 30 min. east, north 1 deg. 45 min. east 221 feet, intersect the south side line of Lot No. 175, the Shoshone Lode claim at south 81 deg. 30 min. east 413 feet from Corner No. 1 of said claim 274 feet, intersect the south boundary line of Lot No. 103 B, a placer claim at north 39 deg. 45 min. east 430 feet from Corner No. 4 of said claim, 309 feet to Corner No. 5, a granite stone 16x8x5 inches, marked 5 M. C. 736, a mound of earth, alongside from which the north quarter corner of Section 24, in Township three, north of Range eight, west of the principal meridian, bears north 5 deg. 6 min. west 1,230 feet distant; thence fifth course, magnetic variation, 20 deg. 30 min. east, north 75 deg. 11 min. west 35 feet, intersect the west end line of said Lot No. 175, and the east end line of said Lot No. 171, at north 8 deg. 15 min. east 119 feet from Corners Nos. 1 of said claims 447 feet intersect the west boundary line of said Lot No. 103 B, at north 40 min. west 149 feet from Corner No. 4 of said claim 1,467 feet to Corner No. 1, the point of beginning. Expressly excepting and excluding all that portion of the ground heretofore described, embraced in said mining claims on Lots Nos. 103 B, 171, 175 and 176, and also all that portion of said Valley vein or lode and of all veins, lodes and ledges throughout their entire depth, (tops or apexes of which lie inside of said excluded ground, said Lot No. 216 extending 1,467 feet in length along said Valley vein or lode, containing 16 80-100 acres of land, more or less.

PATRICK H. HEGAN,
Sheriff Silver Bow County, Montana.

By JAS. M. REYNOLDS, Deputy Sheriff.
Dated January 5, A. D. 1899.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

Gans & Klein, plaintiffs, vs. Charles S. Warren, defendant.

To be sold at sheriff's sale, on the 26th day of January, A. D. 1899, at 2 o'clock p. m., at the front door of the court house, in the city of Butte, county of Silver Bow, state of Montana, the following described real property, to-wit:

An undivided interest in and to the Black Placer Mining claim, lot number one hundred and ten (100), in Silver Bow county, Montana. Also all interest in any and all lots in blocks numbered 54 and 57, of the Butte townsite, Silver Bow county, state of Montana, belonging to the above named defendant, Charles S. Warren.

PATRICK H. HEGAN,
Sheriff Silver Bow County, Montana.

By JAS. M. REYNOLDS, Deputy Sheriff.
Dated January 5, A. D. 1899.

ALIAS SUMMONS.

In the District Court of the Second Judicial District of the State of Montana, in and for the County of Silver Bow.

William Owsley and Charles Schatzlein Plaintiffs, vs. Montana Smelting & Mining Company, a corporation; E. L. Larsen, I. M. Jacobs, A. S. Binnard, Abraham Binnard and Sewel Davis, defendants.

The state of Montana sends greeting to the above named defendants:

You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action, which is filed in the office of the clerk of said court, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to file your answer and serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default, for the relief demanded in the complaint.

The said action is brought to obtain a judgment and decree of this court upon certain promissory note for the sum of \$7,000.00, alleged to have been made, executed and delivered by the defendant, the Montana Smelting & Mining Company, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the state of Montana, to the plaintiffs on October 19, 1897, and bearing interest at the rate of one per cent per month from date until paid, and which now remains due, owing and unpaid, and is held and owned by the plaintiffs; that a certain lien of mortgage, as evidenced by contracts in writing executed October 19, 1897, and alleged in the complaint to have been given as security for the payment of the said promissory note, be foreclosed upon the property set forth in said contracts, to-wit: Upon 24,088 3/4 shares of the capital stock of said Montana Smelting & Mining Company and upon certain mining leases upon the Longfellow, Cooper, Buckeye, Lighthouse and Caliente lode claims in Madison county, Montana, and that the same be sold; that the plaintiffs have judgment against the said Montana Smelting & Mining Company for the amount of said note; that the interests of the defendants, E. L. Larsen, I. M. Jacobs, A. S. Binnard, Abraham Binnard and Sewel Davis, be decreed to be subordinated and subject to the lien of the plaintiffs upon said property, and for an attorney's fee of \$500.00, to be taxed as part of the costs of said action; and for such other relief as may be equitable.

Witness my hand and the seal of said court this 30th day of November, A. D. 1898.

CLINTON C. CLARK,
Clerk.

By T. E. ROTH, Deputy Clerk.

William E. Carroll, Attorney for Plaintiffs.

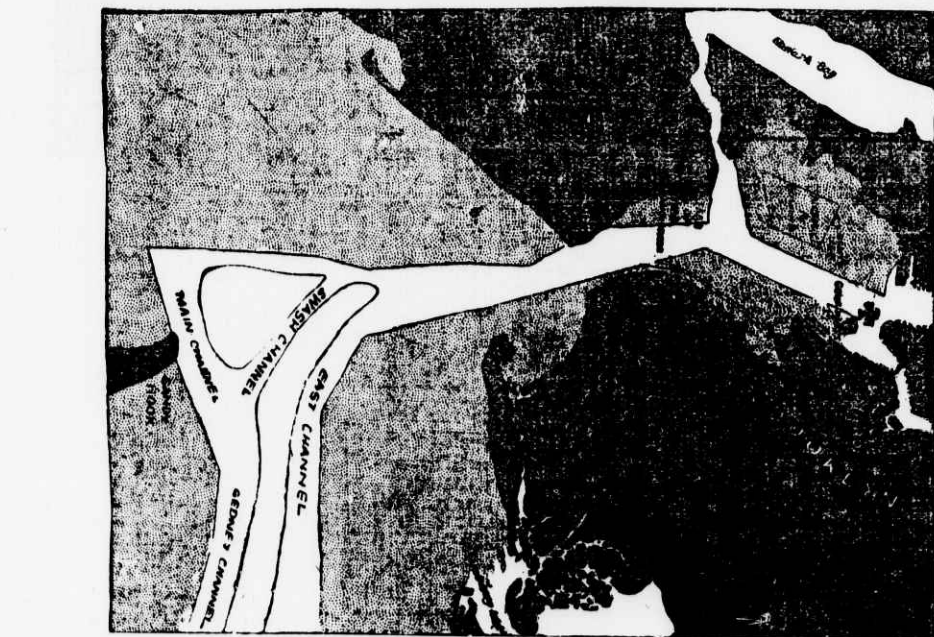
NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Estate of John P. Byrne, deceased.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, administrator of the estate of John P. Byrne, deceased, to the creditors of and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice to the said administrator at 6. Mantle Block, the same being the place for the transaction of the business of said estate, in the county of Silver Bow, state of Montana.

W. H. FLANEY,
Administrator of the Estate of John P. Byrne, deceased.

Dated at Butte City, this 30th day of December, 1898.



THE CROSS SHOWS THE POINT OF DANGER.

In the ownership of the craft or its cargo, the sinking of a barge in New York harbor is not a matter of very great interest. Six lines in a newspaper will tell the story of the loss and there, so far as the general public is concerned the matter rests. So there is absolutely nothing known now of when this "Merrimac" was sunk.

To the navy, however, the wreck began to attract attention to itself in the early part of 1897 when the cruiser Montgomery struck the "floating rock" and in endeavoring to sheer away from the obstruction ran ashore on Diamond Reef. This reef extends across from Governor's Island toward Liberty Island and has always been a source of anxiety to the pilots particularly in the winter season when

Coaled and provisioned for six months' absence the Massachusetts left the navy yard at 11 o'clock on the morning of that day. The sound of the salute from her guns and those on the Cob Dock had hardly died away, the echoes of the noisy acclaim from the river craft were hardly silent, and the big warship was grimly gliding along near Governor's Island when suddenly she seemed to stop and tremble.

The black smoke belching from her funnels became fleecy transparent, and the white steam poured out in volumes from her open safety valves.

The great battleship was aground. It was for an instant only, but that instant was enough. The engines which had been stopped began to work again.

The best water to be found in the best course she could pick on the day the Massachusetts touched was one foot and four inches less than the draft of the ship as inches less than the draft of the ship as

Of course, these conditions are not normal in the harbor, but they may occur on any low tide with the wind in a certain quarter, so the matter will be brought at once to the attention of congress with a view to securing the removal of the upper part of Diamond Reef and of the harbor's "Merrimac." It is expected that a considerable portion of the \$2,500,000 appropriated to New York harbor in the river and harbor bill will be devoted to this one obstruction.

While congress is preparing to aid the commerce of this port and of the country by a necessary widening and deepening of the channels leading through their own bay to the open sea, it will not do to neglect the demand for the removal of a considerable part of Diamond Reef, and the local "Merrimac," which lies but a short distance from the battery, and becomes more embarrassing as the length and draught of ocean-going vessels increase.

The justification for this is ample for unless the reef be reduced and the sunken barge be removed the usefulness of the Brooklyn navy yard will be greatly impaired as to our large warships, since they will not trust themselves to enter and depart from the East river save at high water.

It is plainly absurd to continue conditions which render the navy, in the leading port of the country, dependent upon either wind or tide for reaching the navy yard after entrance to the harbor. The cost of accidents like that to the Massa-

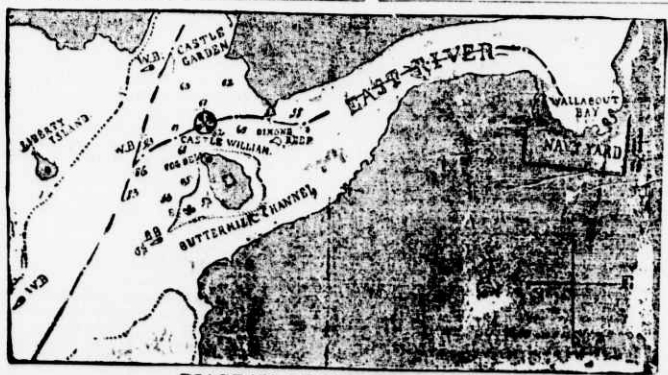


DIAGRAM OF THE CHANNEL.