

Scientific American.

ESTABLISHED 1845.

MUNN & CO., Editors and Proprietors.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT

No. 361 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

O. D. MUNN.

A. E. BEACH.

TERMS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

One copy, one year, for the U. S., Canada or Mexico, \$3 00

The Scientific American Supplement is a distinct paper from the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1895.

Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Table listing various articles such as 'Air pump, bicycle, the Stevens', 'Atlantic cable repairing steamer', 'Belt shifter, Smith's', etc.

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For the Week Ending December 28, 1895.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers.

Table listing sections I through XII, including 'BIOGRAPHY', 'BIOLOGY', 'ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING', 'FINE ARTS', 'HORTICULTURE', 'METALLURGY', 'NAVAL ENGINEERING', 'PHOTOGRAPHY', 'POLITICAL ECONOMY', 'PHYSICS', 'RAILROAD ENGINEERING', 'TECHNOLOGY'.

THE CRISIS.

The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN occupies a unique position in the press of the United States. It is devoted to what may in the best sense be termed the arts of peace.

The blue and the gray are again united; the evil passions awakened by war have sunk to rest; but the financial effects are still felt and will be felt for years to come unless they are overwhelmed by the weight of new misfortunes which may be brought upon us by another war.

Out of the overgoverned nations have emerged two powers which represent the greatest freedom of government. These two nations are objects of jealousy and dislike to the rulers of almost despotic type which are over the older countries.

England in the past has been very aggressive. She has acquired great colonies by methods which her own historians and moralists condemn.

Some seventy years ago the Monroe doctrine was enunciated by the United States. This doctrine, opposing the increase of the territory of any European government on the western hemisphere, seems to have been justified at the time by the events in Europe.

But the Monroe doctrine never will or can lead us into a more fatal consequence than a war with England. Our every interest is so tied up with her that whatever our animus may be, the contest would have the aspect of a civil war.

The first week of the war would do incalculable millions of damage; the succeeding weeks would see republican and representative government made contemptible in the eyes of the world, while lives and property would be annihilated in battles of unimagined destructiveness.

The simple message of the President, which message seemed to threaten war; has already had far-reaching consequences. The fall in prices of securities and in produce represents an enormous aggregate.

The finances of the United States, under what seemed to be conservative treatment, were progressing satisfactorily. Difficulties had arisen and had been met by

the issue of bonds, and new issues were contemplated. All this went on smoothly because of the high credit of the country. Now, a week has changed it all.

THE NAVAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE—A COMPARISON.

Captain A. Mahan, of the United States navy, has pointed out in his celebrated work on the influence of sea power in history, that a preponderance of naval power has been the controlling element which has ultimately brought victory to the nation that possessed it.

In view of recent startling and ominous developments in the diplomatic relations of this country and Great Britain, it will be, we think, timely and interesting to inquire into the present status of the navies of the two countries, and also to inquire as to what are the battleship-building resources possessed by each.

Table comparing naval resources of the United States and Great Britain, categorized by class (First-class battleships, Second-class battleships, Third-class battleships, Coast defense battleships) and total displacement.

In estimating the relative strength of the two navies from the above table, it must be borne in mind that the basis for comparison should be the total displacement, rather than the total number of ships.

Table comparing naval resources of the United States and Great Britain, categorized by class (First-class armored and protected cruisers, Second and third class protected cruisers, Lookout cruisers, Gunboats) and total displacement.

Estimated, as before, on the basis of displacement, this table shows a preponderance for Great Britain in cruisers of 5 1/2 to 1.

Of merchant steamers which are built to meet the naval requirements for conversion into cruisers, the United States have 4 and Great Britain 26.

Table comparing torpedo boat destroyers built and building for the United States and Great Britain, showing number, displacement, and speed.

By displacement, the preponderance in torpedo boats is 40 to 1.