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A CHARACTERISTIC GROUP AT THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD.

It is not often that the photographer is able to include within the field of his camera such a notable and representative group of our ships as is shown in the front page engraving of this issue. The view was taken at the Brooklyn Navy Yard at the time when the North Atlantic squadron was completing its last refit before setting out for southern waters. All the ships had just received their new coat of white paint, and it must be confessed that their peace-time color is infinitely more picturesque than the dull, leaden gray under which they are carrying out the grim duties of war.

It so happens that this group of ships contains representatives of the principal types of our warships—if we except the monitors and torpedo boats—and the vessels all belong to what might be called the second era of construction in our new navy, embodying as they do the experience which had been gathered from the behavior of the earlier vessels. Perhaps the most striking feature common to all these ships, and especially noticeable in the "New York" and the "Brooklyn," is their generous freeboard, the guns being carried well up above the waterline. It is realized pretty generally throughout the navies of the world that seaworthiness is a prime requisite in a warship, and if anyone will compare the present ships with those built fifteen or twenty years ago, he will notice that the guns, especially in the battleships, are now carried from one to two decks higher than



COMMODORE GEORGE DEWEY, THE HERO OF MANILA BAY.

they were. The forward 12-inch guns of the "Iowa," for instance, are 8 or 10 feet higher than those of the "Indiana," which was built a few years earlier, and they fire over a spar deck which extends aft for two-thirds of the ship's length. The same improvement is noticeable in the "New York" as compared with the "Atlanta" or the "Boston." Here the upper or main deck is flush throughout the length of the ship, the whole of the main battery of six 8-inch guns discharging over this deck. In the "Brooklyn" the tendency to lofty freeboard is carried still further, and a forecastle deck is added above the main deck, the forward pair of 8-inch guns firing above this deck at an elevation above the sea of not less than 32 feet.

Now the highest recorded waves in an Atlantic storm do not run much above 25 to 27 feet, and consequently the line of fire of the forward guns of the "Brooklyn" would be well above the tops of the waves in practically any weather. It can be readily seen that if a duel took place in a heavy sea between the "Indiana," whose 13-inch guns are only from 16 to 18 feet above the water, and the "Brooklyn," six guns of whose main battery are 26 feet and two of them 32 feet above the water, the high freeboard ship would have an advantage that would go far to offset her lighter armament. While it is true that there are more calm days than rough at sea, the advantage of having ships that are ready for anything that comes in the

(Continued on page 311.)



"New York."

"Cincinnati."

"Brooklyn."

"Newport."

"Iowa."

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