

THE GREAT NAVAL VICTORY AT MANILA.

Another brilliant victory has been added to the list which has already rendered illustrious the annals of the United States navy, and one more name is placed upon its roll of honor. On the page of history Dewey and Manila will become as inseparable as Farragut and Mobile or Nelson and Trafalgar. Concise as are the tidings which have reached the outside world, and coming largely through a hostile channel, they have served to establish the fact that our new navy has emerged from its first baptism of fire and blood in just the very way that we knew it would—with colors flying and fresh laurels added to its record. The skill and daring with which the attack was planned and carried out have received world-wide recognition, and the estimate of Vice-Admiral Colomb, the leading expert on naval strategy in the British navy, is representative of professional opinion on the other side of the water:

"The boldness of the American commander is beyond question. Henceforth he must be placed in the Valhalla of great naval commanders. Nothing can detract from the dash and vigor of the American exploit or dim the glory which Dewey has shed upon the American navy."

The fleet which sailed from Hong Kong when the declaration of England's neutrality necessitated its departure consisted of nine vessels, two of which were unarmored and acting respectively as a transport and a collier. Of the other seven, one, the "McCulloch," is one of the revenue cutters which have been armed and added to the navy as part of its auxiliary fleet, two are gunboats and the other four are protected cruisers. Our illustration shows this fleet proceeding under easy steam to carry out its instructions, which were to sail for the Philippine Islands, destroy the Spanish fleet and take the capital city, Manila. The distance from Hong Kong to Manila is about 600 miles, or about 60 hours' steaming at economical speed, and on the afternoon of Saturday, April 30, the American squadron was off the coast to the north of Manila.

A study of the fortifications of Manila Bay and the tables given below of the two opposing fleets enables us to judge of the difficult and hazardous nature of the feat performed by Commodore Dewey. The composition of the American fleet is accurately known, and the table of the Spanish ships is probably complete, the only doubt being as to the number of small gunboats that were engaged in the action.

From the comparison it is evident that the Spanish fleet under Admiral Montijo was superior in numbers, while our fleet excelled in the size, speed and fighting qualities of its individual ships. The flagship of the American squadron was the "Olympia," one of the finest vessels in the navy. She was built by the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, and on her trial exceeded the contract speed by 1.7 knots, maintaining an average of 21.7 knots for four hours. Her main battery consists of four 8-inch rifles disposed in two Harvey steel turrets and ten 5-inch rapid-fire guns. Protection is assured by a steel deck $\frac{3}{4}$ inches on the slopes assisted by a belt of cocoa-fiber and another belt of coal. The "Baltimore" and "Boston" carried between them six of the formidable 8-inch rifles (this by the way is one of the most popular weapons in the navy) and twelve 6-inch slow-firers. Another 6-inch slow-firer was carried on the fore-castle of the "Raleigh," and ten

others were divided between the two gunboats. The "Raleigh" also carried a powerful battery of ten 5-inch rapid-fire guns, and on the "McCulloch" were four 4-inch guns. The total armament of the fleet consisted of ten 8-inch rifles capable of piercing 20 inches of iron at the muzzle; twenty-three 6-inch rifles good for a muzzle penetration of 14 inches; twenty 5-inch rapid-fire guns capable, in the skilled hands of our gunners, of discharging 140 carefully aimed shells each minute, each of which can penetrate 13 inches of iron.

The flagship of the Spanish fleet was the "Reina Christina," a steel vessel of $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots speed armed with six 6.2-inch rifles. These guns are of the Hontoria pattern and are credited with a muzzle penetration of 14.3 inches of iron. In the hands of competent marksmen they should have been capable of penetrating the thickest armor carried by our ships; but unless the shooting was better than that exhibited against Admiral Sampson's vessels at Matanzas, it is not likely that our boats suffered serious injury from them. The next most effective gun was the 5.9-inch Krupp rifle, of which seven were carried by the "Castilla" and "Velasco." It can put a shell through $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches of iron. In addition to these the fleet mustered sixteen 4.7-inch Hontoria guns, good for a penetration of $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches of iron at the muzzle. The total armament of the fleet in the larger rifles was six 6.2-inch guns, seven 5.9-inch and sixteen of 4.7-inch caliber, all of them slow-firers.

We have taken no account in either table of the secondary batteries of 6-pounders, 1-pounders and ma-

according to this gentleman, was a formidable battery of 10 and 12-inch Krupp rifles.

At the present we are largely dependent upon Spanish sources for information regarding the brilliant operations of the 1st of May. It appears that Commodore Dewey forced his way past the batteries at the harbor entrance during the night, and when the eventful day dawned the Spanish on the fortifications and the ships were confronted by the spectacle of the American squadron standing down the bay. The Spanish fleet had taken up a position under the protection of the Cavité guns, which opened fire on our fleet. Commodore Dewey at once closed in, and opened up with all his guns for a space of half an hour. He then drew off and rained in shells from his larger guns, presumably the 8-inch, for about a quarter of an hour. The Spanish fire had weakened under the deadly precision and rapidity of the fire from our fleet, and after another cannonade at shorter range what remained of the Spanish fleet was practically wiped out and the forts were silenced.

The Spanish flagship caught fire early in the engagement and Admiral Montijo transferred his flag to the "Isla de Cuba." The "Don Juan de Austria" was blown up, and according to Spanish accounts several of the other vessels were scuttled to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. During the engagement Commodore Dewey kept his ships under way in a methodical formation, and after the destruction of the fleet was accomplished he withdrew to the opposite side of the bay to land his wounded. When this

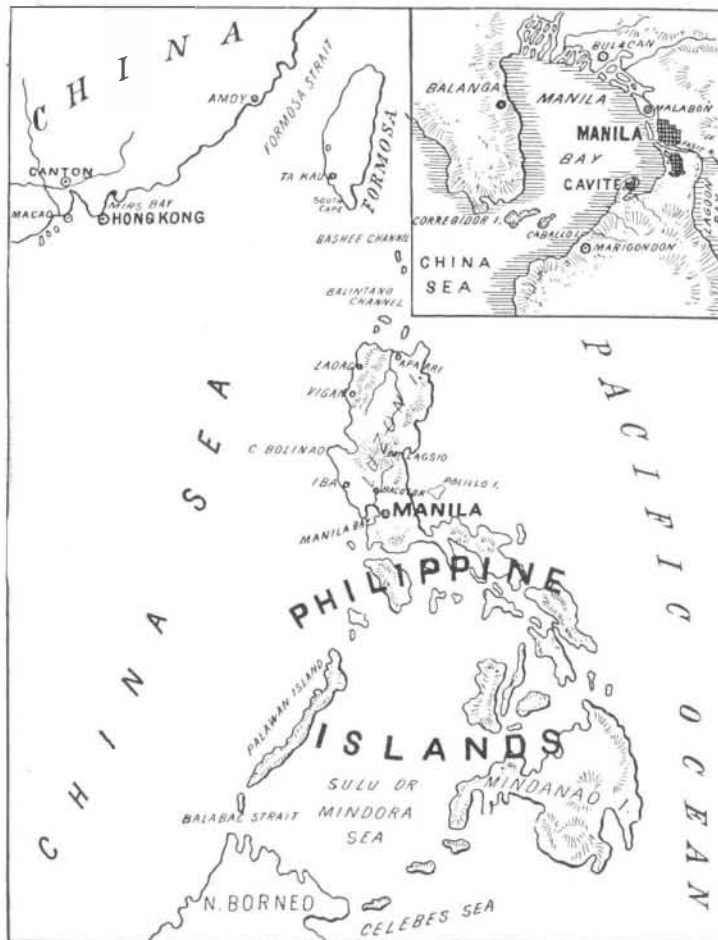
was done he returned to Cavité, which again opened fire, upon which our fleet poured in a crushing fire which effectually silenced the forts. The gallant commodore then turned his attention to Manila and demanded its surrender, sending in a twenty-four hour ultimatum which apparently was rejected. As we go to press a dispatch from Commodore Dewey, the first to be received since the battle, gives in a few telling words the official account of this glorious victory. We cannot do better than give it verbatim: "Manila, May 1.—The squadron arrived at Manila at daybreak this morning; immediately engaged the enemy and destroyed the following vessels: "Reina Christina," "Castilla," "Don Antonio de Ulloa," "Isla de Luzon," "Isla de Cuba," "General Lezo," "Marques de Ducro," "El Cano," "Velasco," transport "Isla del Mindizao" and one other vessel and water battery at Cavité. Squadron is uninjured. Only few men were slightly wounded. DEWEY."

We cannot do better than close with a short sketch of the man whose name is just now foremost in the minds and hearts of his countrymen. Commodore George Dewey was born in Vermont just sixty-one years ago. He was appointed to the Naval Academy when he was seventeen years old, and graduated in 1858. On April 19, 1861, one week after the opening of the civil war, he was commissioned as a lieutenant and assigned to the side-wheeler "Mississippi," which formed part of the squadron that forced the passage of the Mississippi River. Young Dewey was on this ship in the terrific fight which ended in her being blown up. This occurred in the attempt to run by the powerful batteries of Port Hudson. The "Mississippi" grounded right under the guns of the

main battery and was struck 250 times in the space of half an hour. The crew escaped in boats to the opposite side of the river. In 1863 the future admiral was serving on the gunboats below Donaldsonville, and the following year he was assigned to the gunboat "Agawam," in which he took part in the bombardment of Fort Fisher. Promotion came in 1865, when he was commissioned a lieutenant-commander.

His subsequent service included a term in the Pacific survey, 1872-75, and seven years in the lighthouse service as Inspector and Secretary. In 1882 he commanded the "Juniata" on the Asiatic squadron, and in 1884 he was given the "Dolphin," one of the first of the vessels of the new navy. From 1885 to 1888 he commanded the "Pensacola," flagship of the European squadron, and in the latter year he was made chief of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting, with the rank of commodore. In February, 1896, he was placed at the head of the Board of Inspection and Survey, and on January 1, 1898, he was transferred to the command of the squadron which has just added imperishable laurels to the American navy.

THE services of dynamite have had to be requisitioned to separate parts of the cable machinery in the power house of the Capital Traction Company, Washington, D. C., which was destroyed by fire some months ago. Attempts to separate the hubs of some of the large wheels from their shafts proved fruitless, and as a last resort they were blown off. Notwithstanding the fact that precautions were taken to prevent accident, portions of the wheel were blown a considerable distance, but fortunately no one was injured.



PLAN OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS AND MANILA BAY.

chine guns, as it is not probable that these played any important part, owing to the long range at which the fight appears to have been carried on.

Now, if we regard the battle of Manila as a conflict between fleets, it is evident that Commodore Dewey's ships had an overwhelming superiority; but when we bear in mind that the little group of vessels was engaging not merely the Spanish fleet but the Spanish forts, beneath which it had run for shelter, the conflict takes on an altogether different aspect, and the odds look to be strongly against our invading squadron.

Manila Bay, as will be seen from the accompanying map, is a capacious landlocked harbor, in the entrance to which are two islands known as Corregidor and Caballo. The entrance is about twelve miles wide, but the presence of the islands narrows the waterways to such an extent that they are controlled by a battery of Krupp guns, which is mounted on Corregidor. From the harbor entrance to Manila is a distance of twenty-eight miles, and the approach to the city is covered by the powerful Cavité fortifications, which have been erected along the peninsula of that name. Another fortification has recently been erected on the waterfront in the southern part of the city. From information recently furnished to the press by Mr. J. M. Elliott, former United States consul at Manila, it appears that these fortifications are by no means the antiquated structures which has been popularly supposed. In addition to the 8-inch guns on Corregidor Island, a powerful battery of 8 and 12-inch Krupp guns appears to have been mounted on the northern shore at the entrance to the bay. The Cavité fortifications mounted 8-inch Krupps, and behind the modern earthworks at Manila,

SPANISH SQUADRON.

| Name. | Material. | Type. | Displacement. | Speed. | Main Armament. |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|--------|-----------------|
| "Reina Christina" | Steel | Cruiser | 3,520 | 17.5 | Six 6.2-inch |
| "Velasco" | Iron | " | 1,152 | 17.5 | Three 5.9-inch. |
| "Don Antonio de Ulloa" | " | " | 1,130 | 14.0 | Four 4.7-inch. |
| "Don Juan de Austria" | " | " | 1,130 | 14.0 | " " |
| "Isla de Cuba" | Steel | Protected cruiser | 1,030 | 16.0 | " " |
| "Isla de Luzon" | " | " | 1,030 | 16.0 | " " |
| "Castilla" | Wood | Cruiser | 3,342 | 14.0 | Four 5.9-inch. |
| "Quiros" | Steel | Gunboat | 315 | 11.5 | Two 6-pounders. |

In addition to the above there are supposed to have been a large number of gunboats of the type of the "Quiros" and several second-class gunboats of from 103 to 255 tons.

UNITED STATES SQUADRON.

| Name. | Material. | Type. | Displacement. | Speed. | Main Armament. |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| "Olympia" | Steel | Protected cruiser. | 5870 | 21.7 | Four 8-inch, ten 5-inch rapid-fire |
| "Raleigh" | " | " | 3213 | 19.0 | One 6-inch, ten 5-inch rapid-fire |
| "Baltimore" | " | " | 4413 | 20.1 | Four 8-inch, six 6-inch. |
| "Boston" | " | " | 3000 | 15.6 | Two 8-inch, six 6-inch. |
| "Concord" | " | Gunboat. | 1710 | 16.8 | Six 6-inch. |
| "Petrel" | " | " | 892 | 11.8 | Four 6-inch. |
| "McCulloch" | " | Revenue cutter. | 1500 | 14.0 | Four 4-inch. |

Also a collier and a transport.