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THE DESTRUCTION OF CERVERA'S FLEET.

Before the opening of the present war the world was asking whether the destructiveness of our weapons of naval warfare was as great as theoretically it could be proved to be.

It is remarkable that in both cases the beaten fleet was overwhelmed by the same element of a ship's offensive powers—the gun.

The war between China and Japan gave us an inkling of the importance of the gun in modern naval warfare. Manila and Santiago have established it as par excellence the deciding factor (always supposing, of course, that it is well handled) of the sea fight of the future.

Just why Cervera elected to run the gauntlet of our fleet is a matter of speculation. Either he foresaw the speedy fall of Santiago and feared to be caught between the guns of army and navy, or, as is reported, he acted under the instructions of General Blanco to make a dash for Havana Harbor.

Whatever the cause, the fact remains that, after taking on as full supplies as were obtainable, the fleet moved at full speed out of the harbor, and attempted to break through the blockading fleet by steaming along the coast to the westward.

They came out of the harbor with every gun shotted and opened a heavy fire as they steamed past, the attack being concentrated on the "Iowa," as being the most formidable ship of the fleet.

The plan, so far as the ships were concerned, was feasible. Had the conditions been reversed, and the Spanish fleet been in American hands and vice versa, it would undoubtedly have been successful.

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finied to foggy weather and dark nights. Yet we cannot but feel that with their great speed something might have been done, even on this bright Sunday morning.

We spoke last week of the undying value of the personal equation in modern warfare. Santiago adds its eloquent testimony to the truth that to-day, as of old, it is the "man behind the gun" that wins the fight.

OUR ARMY AT SANTIAGO.

The rank and file of the American army has again demonstrated its ability to fight its way to success through and in spite of difficulties that might well have dismayed a veteran army.

In view of the frightful cost in killed and wounded at which the heights were stormed and taken, much of it due to the shrapnel which was used with deadly effect by the Spanish artillery, it will be asked why the attack was not deferred until we had time to bring up an adequate number of guns to silence the enemy's batteries and properly cover the advance of our men.

But without entering into criticisms which must at best be based upon partial information, the country may feel a just pride in the splendid fighting qualities displayed alike by our regular and volunteer regiments.

It was a soldier's fight, in which the gallant leadership of the officers met a noble response from the men; and the heroism of those two days is witnessed by the endless stream of dead and wounded that moved slowly to the rear during the long hours of that memorable struggle.

THE LOSS OF THE "BOURGOGNE"

Our readers are already familiar with the harrowing details of the loss of the "Bourgogne," with 560 lives, in the North Atlantic.

The awful suddenness with which the ship went down as the result of the complete failure of her watertight compartments will shake the confidence of the public, already rudely strained, in the system of watertight bulkheads as a means of keeping an injured vessel afloat.

We wish to draw attention to one feature of the wreck which is very suggestive, and indicates that there is a faulty element in the arrangement of the bulkheads which may have been answerable for their failure to keep the vessel afloat.

It was the longitudinal bulkhead that caused the British battleship "Victoria" to capsize after she was accidentally rammed by the "Camperdown."