WATSON AND HIS FLEET

The Fighting Men and the Big Ships That Are to Menace the Spanish Coast.

COMMODORE WATSON.

CAPTAIN CHARLES E. CLARK.

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"PREPARE FOR ACTION!"
"All ready, sir."
"SLOW DOWN!"
"Slow one, sir."
"HAUL TO HARD ASTERN!"
"Hard astern it is, sir."

These above orders will ring in the ears of the Spanish people when the Spanish coast is visited by the Atlantic and Southern Pacific fleet, commanded by Commodore Watson. Comes a time when the Spanish coast is visited by the Spanish vessel in the interest of the dead.

Commodore John Crittenden Watson, No. 3 on the list of rear admirals, was born in Pittsburg, Pa., in 1837, and will be 60 years old on Aug. 31. He was appointed midshipman from his native state in 1856 and entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., on Sept. 16, graduated in June, 1859. He became a master, a grade now established, on Aug. 20, 1861, a lieutenant a year later, and was promoted to the lieutenant in September, 1866, a commander on Aug. 31, 1874, a captain on Aug. 6, 1885, and a rear admiral on Aug. 31, 1897. He will become rear admiral in the natural course of events on Dec. 16, 1898.

He was attached to the Naval Academy when the civil war broke out and was one of the select men in the navy. At Fort Fisher he was in charge of the great magazine, and was selected to be the bearer of dispatches from Admiral Porter to Gen. Ord, and was twice wounded, once by a ball from the Confederate steamer Wilmington, and once by a shell from the Confederate steamer Chickamauga. He was also in the battles of Mobile Bay, Aug. 5, 1864, and was twice wounded, once by a ball from the Confederate steamer Nashville, and the other time by a shell from the Confederate steamer Selma. To him and his hard working engineer, who fell the bent of bullets, fell the honor of having the honor conferred on the officers of the Hartford, who did not remember praise from the old admiral.

"Commodore Watson has been brought to your attention on several occasions," said Farragut in his official report. "He was on the gun attending to the signals and performed his duty in a cool, intelligent and gallant manner. He is a born warrior of the right stamp, he carries fire, and I commend him to your notice."

Commodore Watson was also in the battles of New Orleans, Vicksburg and Fort Hudson. Since the war he has held the usual routine duties of a naval officer, at sea and on shore, and was for a number of years president of the Naval board in Philadelphia. In 1873 he married Miss Elizabeth Thornton, daughter of Judge James Thornton of San Francisco. One son, John Edward Watson, is a lieutenant in the navy, and his daughter is married to Lieutenant Commander Chase, who is now on the Detroit, and Mrs. Watson and her children reside in Philadelphia.

From 1883 to 1887 he was attached to the Pacific station, the flagship of the European squadron. He was transferred to the Trenton when she became the flagship and later to the steam ship Chesapeake, returning to the Mediterranean till 1890, when he was relieved to Washington on special duty for a time. After being attached to the Alert for a time he was assigned to the Alliance, cruising off the coast of Venezuela from 1893 to 1895. Then he was ordered on ordnance duty in New York and from 1896 to 1898 was at the Mare Island navy yard. He commanded the Yosemite on the European station from 1887 to 1890 and was flag lieutenant from 1890 to 1893. After two years on special duty at San Francisco he was ordered to the Hartford in July, 1896. As the operations of Dewey, in May, 1898, he was ordered to the Naval board.

He is a man of fine stage appearance, well built, weather beaten face in the hale of a soldier upon man of the sea. Although he is a born sailor, he is a born soldier, and he is a born commander. He is usually rather quiet in his deportment. In battle he is cool and fearless, and those who know him well say he is cool he is at all moments when delivering hard blows at close quarters. From the time of the memorable of Sampson he was in command of the Hornet, Hartford, Yosemite, a post that naturally gave him little opportunity to become prominent in the public eye.

His family have would assume such a character as Admiral Sampson, Admiral Schley, Admiral Farragut, Admiral Dewey, Admiral Sigsbee, Admiral Kautz, Admiral Bunce, Admiral Kimberly, Admiral Bancroft Gherardi, Admiral Bancroft, Admiral Jouett