# LESSONS OF THE WAR

## *Our Naval Fighters Have Learned Much of the Value of Certain Types of Vessels During the Present Unpleasantness.*

### *The Torpedo Boat Has Woefully Failed to Demonstrate Its Supposedly Great Destructive Power.*

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Much has been written concerning the probable result of a battle between modern armored warships, with the heavy protective plates along their sides near the water line and over the decks covering the space in which the boilers and the delicate and powerful machinery are placed. Of the power of destruction of the guns both of short and long range mounted on these vessels much is known, for before being placed on the ships they are thoroughly tested as to strength and the distance they can throw shells with telling effect. With the ships it was different, for, while they were constructed on the most scientific plans, their ability to withstand shells thrown from the guns of an enemy was an unknown quantity.

It was not until the battle of Santiago between the Spanish fleet in command of Admiral Cervera, and the American ships under Commodore Sibley that the real worth and power to destroy an enemy and withstand the impact of heavy projectiles were clearly brought out. Most interest was taken in this sea fight from no one since the days of the Monitor and Merrimac. Both fleets were composed of the finest vessels of the respective navies and were constructed on the most scientific principles.

The battle of Santiago will go down in history as the greatest sea fight in modern times, and it will be many years before it will be equaled. Some naval experts say that time will never come. The barking of the guns and the roar of the shells as they left the muzzles of the guns and the explosions of the shells when they struck the ships of the opposing fleets, were heard for miles. The sea was literally covered with the wrecks of the Spanish ships, and the American ships were left in a condition which required months of work in the navy yards before they were ready for another battle.

Of the different types of vessels that took part in the battle the torpedo boat destroyer Terror, the battleship Oregon and the armored cruiser Brooklyn, both of which vessels have made good records in Cuban waters, were built on these plans.

The material that will be employed in the construction of warships will for the future be confined to Nickel steel and armor plates.

The battleships of today are so heavily armed and capable of hurling shells with such force as to make it a matter of much chance that any destroyer and yet live one will prevail. With the increased velocity given to shells which are constantly being improved in the direction and made capable of piercing the heaviest armor on the sides of fighting vessels, armor in the decks of sailing warships will be also necessary. The "deck" sided ships will be preferred for those of the Vesuvius class of vessels, which have been built by the French government, some of the "Bull Dog Destroyers" now being constructed for the United States government are of this pattern, while the Brooklyn, Oregon and