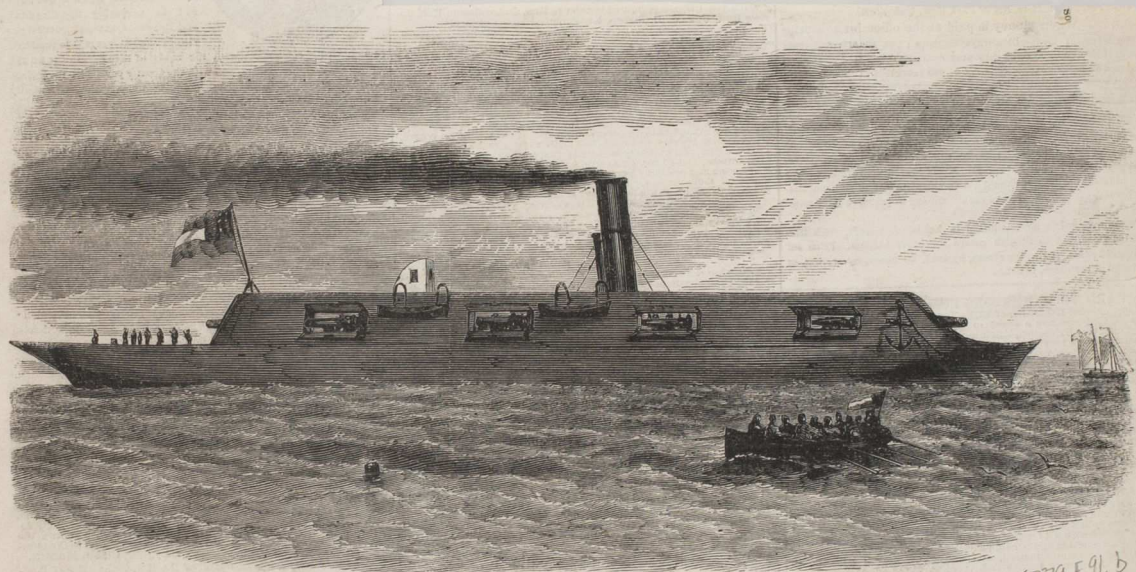


The Rebel Steamer "Merrimac."

On page 304 of our last volume we published an illustration of the iron-plated steamer *Merrimac* which made such sad havoc with several of our war vessels on Saturday night. We reproduce the engraving as being the most interesting subject of any thing with which we could fill our pages at the present time. The engraving was made from a sketch drawn by one of the mechanics who worked on the vessel when it was being iron plated.

It will be remembered that the *Merrimac* was one of



THE IRON-PLATED REBEL STEAMER "MERRIMAC."

our first class war vessels which was partially burned and then sunk at the time that the Gosport Navy Yard was destroyed to prevent it from falling into the hands of the rebels. She was a fine screw frigate, of 3,200 tons burthen, carrying 40 large guns. The rebels, after considerable effort, succeeded in raising her, and have plated her with railroad rails inclined at a sharp angle. This armor in the recent severe trial seems to have afforded very efficient protection against the heaviest artillery at very short range. The mechanic who made the sketch described her armament as consisting of 11-inch guns, and two 100-pounder Armstrong guns. In regard to the Armstrongs he was probably mistaken, as it is understood that all those weapons that have been made were made for the British government. He said that she had a sharp steel projection at the bow for the purpose of piercing the sides of vessels; and in this he was correct, as it was with this projection that the *Cumberland* was pierced and sunk.

In connection with this illustration we also give a correct picture of the *Monitor*, sketched by our own artist previous to her departure to Fortress Monroe. A thrilling account of the contest of the *Monitors* with the *Merrimac* may be found on another page.