Quote Sources and Citations for

Unlike Anything that Ever Floated: The Monitor and Virginia and the Battle of Hampton Roads, March 8-9, 1862
By Dwight Sturtevant Hughes

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**Quote Citations**

**Chapter 1: Prepare for Serious Work**

Page 1

“4 o’clock P.M. We have just parted. . . .”


“all the thousand & one things . . . .”

Keeler to Anna, February 9, 1862, in Daly, ed., *Aboard the USS Monitor*, 7.

Page 2

“Your better half will be in no more danger. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, February 13, 1862, in Daly, ed., *Aboard the USS Monitor*, 11.

Page 3

“Not a whistle sounded to cheer us. . . .”


Page 4

“It is difficult to give an adequate impression. . . .”


“People. . .said she looked like ‘a wash-tub on a raft,’ . . . .”

“Here was an unknown, untried vessel, with . . . .”


“and in all respects prepare . . . . “not to go under fire. . . .”


“Doubts were entertained. . . .”


“The moon is shining bright. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 27.

Page 5

“Not a sea has yet passed. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 27.

“will not hesitate. . . . “noble kindness of heart. . . .” “was nearly worshiped by us all.”

Keeler to Anna, February 9, 13, March 26, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 8, 13, 53.

“I think I lived ten good years.”

Dana Greene to parents, March 14, 1862, in “Voyage to Destiny,” Naval History Magazine vol. 21 (April 2007), Number 2, 2.

“black hair & eyes that look through a person.”

Keeler to Anna, February 9, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 9.

“Her roll was very easy and slow. . . .”

S. D. Greene to Gideon Welles, March 27, 1862, ORN series 1, vol. 7, 170.

“Now the top of every sea that breaks. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 28.

Page 6

“Our decks are constantly covered with. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 28.

“like a waterfall” “in perfect floods” . . . .


“wet & very disagreeable below” . . . .

Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 27-28.

Page 7

“The accumulative weight [of water] . . . .”
Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 27-28.

Page 8
“the fires burned with a sickly blaze. . . .” . . . “very limber in the legs” . . . “I managed to reach [the top] . . . .”

Page 9
“Our Engineers behaved like heroes. . . .”
Greene to parents, March 14, 1862.
“It was a sorry looking company. . . .”
Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 30.
“Then times looked rather blue. . . .”
Greene to parents, March 14, 1862
“We might have to ‘give up the ship.’”
Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 30.
“My mechanical genius came in play. . . .”
Ibid.
“We commenced to think then the Monitor would never see day light.”
Greene to parents, March 14, 1862.
“It seemed singular to sit in my room. . . .”
Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 30.

Page 10
“Nothing but the subsidence of the wind. . . .”
“I consider the form and strength. . . .” . . . “it is only the man who has studied. . . .”
Stimers to Smith, March 9, 1862, ORN, series 1, vol. 7, 27.
“We imagined we heard heavy guns. . . .”
Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 30.
“We did not credit it, at first. But. . . .”
Greene to parents, March 14, 1862.

Page 11
“As the darkness increased, the flashes. . . .” . . . “how slow we seemed to move. . . .” . . . “As we neared the harbor. . . .”
Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 31.
“all its mysteries of moat. . . .” . . . “As we steamed up through. . . .”

Page 13
“We were, therefore, in daily expectation. . . .” . . . “I saw the dim outline. . . .” . . . “The ironclad Ericsson battery . . . .”
Page 14

“An atmosphere of gloom. . . .”


Page 15

“Oh! you cannot imagine. . . .” . . . “against enormous odds” . . . “At 4:15 a.m. we all lay down. . . .”

C. S. Cotton to Parents, March 10, 1862, in Papers of the Charles S. Cotton Family, Archives Branch, Naval History and Heritage Command, Washington, D.C.

“Certainly a grander sight was never seen. . . .”

Greene to parents, March 14, 1862; Greene, “In the ‘Monitor’ Turret,” 722.

Chapter 2: Sink Before Surrender

Page 17

“calm and peaceful as a May day” . . .


Page 18

“I could not see where she commenced. . . .”

Captain William Harwar Parker, Naval Officer: My Services in the U. S. and Confederate Navies 1841-1865 (Big Byte Books, 2014), loc. 3712 of 5575, Kindle.

“the black mouthed guns peeping from the ports. . . .”


“bore some resemblance to. . . .”


Page 19

“In fact she was designed from the first. . . .”


“many vexatious delays. . . .”


“was put up in the roughest way. . . .” . . . “in every respect ill-proportioned. . . .” . . . “and she never should have been found. . . .”


“The crew, 320 in number, were obtained. . . .”


“There was a sprinkling of old man-of-war’s men. . . .” . . . “whose value at the time could. . . .” . . . “had never even seen a great gun. . . .”

**Page 20**

“Buchanan was a typical product of. . . .”

Eggleston, “Captain Eggleston’s Narrative, 168.

“The Virginia is a novelty in naval construction. . . .”


**Page 21**

“Like the bayonet charge of infantry. . . .”

Mallory to Buchanan, *ORN*, series 1, vol. 6, 776-777.

**Page 22**

“ought to have been defended by all the means. . . .” . . . “It was the key to all. . . .”


Mallory to Buchanan, February 24, 1862, *ORN*, series 1, vol. 6, 776-777.

“Could you pass Old Point [Comfort] and. . . .” . . . “Can the Virginia steam to. . . .”


**Page 23**

“Such an event would eclipse all the glories. . . .”

Mallory to Buchanan, March 7, 1862, *ORN*, series 1, vol. 6, 780-781.

“My plan is to destroy the Frigates first. . . .”


“Patrick Henry,” recalled an officer, “was not at all fitted. . . .”

Parker, *Naval Officer*, 3098 of 5575, Kindle.

**Page 25**

“It is too late to co-operate with my army. . . .”

Magruder to Buchanan, March 3, 1862, *OR*, vol. 9, 50.

“We do not believe that you [Magruder] are in the slightest danger. . . .”

Benjamin to Magruder, March 4, 1862, *OR*, vol. 9, 53.

“would incur a risk of disaster. . . .”

Magruder to Cooper, March 6, February 24, 1862, *OR*, vol. 9, 44, 57.

“It would have been glorious. . . .” . . . “Any dependence upon me. . . .”

Magruder to Buchanan, March 3, 1862, *OR*, vol. 9, 51.

**Page 28**

“huge, unwieldy make-shift” . . . “officered with the very cream. . . .” . . . “freighted down to the very guards. . . .” . . .
“Every man and officer well understood. . . .”

“The weather was fair, the wind light. . . .” . . . “A great stillness came. . . .” . . . “but no voice broke the silence. . . .” . . .
Parker, Naval Officer, 3762 to 3776 of 5575, Kindle.

Page 29
“iron-plated coffin” . . . .
Parker, Naval Officer, 3762 to 3776 of 5575, Kindle.

Chapter 3: “It Strikes Me There’s Something in It”

Page 31
“Much attention has been given. . . .” . . .

“Yet it was evident that. . . .”
“From the report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 1, 1862,” Report. . .Armored Vessels, 8.

“proper and competent board”
“From the report of the Secretary of the Navy, July 4, 1861,” Report. . .Armored Vessels, 1.

Page 32
“coolness and placidity of temper.”


“We need a more effective blockade. . . .”
Ibid., 256-57.

Page 33
“Suppose England, in her love for cotton. . . .”
Ibid.

“Steam-propelling power, the rifle cannon. . . .”

Page 35
“If we intend to have a national naval force. . . .”

“would be a floating fortress. . . .” . . . “She could entertain herself. . . .”

Page 36
“iron or steel-plated steamships. . . .”

“We approach the subject with diffidence. . . .”


“Opinions differ amongst naval. . . .”

Ibid.

“We consider iron-clad vessels. . . .”

Ibid.

Page 37

“A difficulty might arise. . . .” . . . “We are of opinion that. . . .”

Ibid., 4-5.

Page 39

“a full electric battery himself”


“Mr. Ericsson is in some respects a peculiar man. . . .”


“a floating battery absolutely impregnable. . . .”


“a device familiar to all well-informed naval artillerists.”


Page 40

“I had found a battery which. . . .”


“extraordinary and valuable features” . . . “a revolution in naval warfare.”


“was at once greatly pleased. . . .” . . . “All [board members] were surprised. . . .” . . . “All I have to say is. . . .”


Page 41

“The air had been thick with. . . .” . . . “take the little thing home. . . .” . . .

Ibid.

“would upset and place her crew. . . .”

Ibid.

“well-informed and experienced. . . .”


“Gentlemen, after what I have said. . . .”
Chapter 4: Not the Slightest Intention of Sinking

Page 43

“Iron Clad Shot-Proof Steam Battery”


“Excuse me for being so troublesome. . . .”


“In case of failure in any of. . . .”


Page 44

“If the structure cannot stand this test. . . .”


Page 47

“was highly satisfactory.”

Stimers telegram to Smith, December 31, 1861, NARA, RG 45, entry 502, AD, box 49, folder 2, in Anna Gibson Holloway, Our Little Monitor: The Greatest Invention of the Civil War (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2018), 44.

Page 48

“Our quarters for eating & sleeping are. . . .”


“just so long that when my head touches. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, March 5, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 25.

Page 49

“other places not quite as reputable,” . . . “as if they were seated by my elbow.”

Keeler to Anna, March 5, 26, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 26, 56.

“I have for my desk a water pail. . . .” . . . “I am on the Hammocks. . . .”


“The impregnable and aggressive character. . . .” . . . “startled and admonished” . . . “On these and many similar grounds. . . .”

“After a hasty examination of [Monitor]. . . .”


“devote whatever of capacity. . . .”

Ibid.

“The assemblage cheered rapturously. . . .”


“notwithstanding the prognostication. . . .”


“It was very evident to the dullest. . . .”


“I congratulate you and trust. . . .”

Fox telegram to Ericsson, January 30, 1862, ORN series 1, vol. 6, 538.

“The impression prevails here. . . .” . . . “have so long disgraced. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, February 9, 13, 1862, in Daly, ed., *Aboard the USS Monitor*, 7, 13.

“A better [crew] no naval commander. . . .”


“You fellows certainly have. . . .”


“You can imagine your polished. . . .” . . . “are a sure passport to. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, February 22, 1862, in Daly, ed., *Aboard the USS Monitor*, 15.

“Everything was hurry & confusion. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, February 28, 1862, in Daly, ed., *Aboard the USS Monitor*, 18.
Page 55
“However everything passed off. . . .”
Keeler to Anna, March 4, 1862, in Daly, ed., *Aboard the USS Monitor*, 2:22.

“Norman McPherson & John Atkins deserted. . . .”

“We are finally all ready. . . .”
Keeler to Anna, March 4, 1862, in Daly, ed., *Aboard the USS Monitor*, 21.

Chapter 5: A Matter of the First Necessity

Page 57
“great professional skill” . . . “Indeed, the utility of the armor-plating. . . .”

Page 58
“I regard the possession of an iron-armored ship. . . .”

“Such a vessel at this time. . . .”
Ibid.

“But inequality of numbers may be. . . .”
Ibid.

Page 60
“The first idea presenting itself. . . .”

“flat-bottomed light-draught propeller. . . .”
Ibid.

“I proposed having the ends prolonged. . . .”

“the peculiar and distinctive feature. . . .”

“is our only chance to. . . .”

“We all thought the draught. . . .”

Page 61
“Lieutenant Brooke was constantly proposing. . . .”

“very materially” . . . .


Page 62

“At a distance of about 300 yards. . . .”


“The outer plates were shattered. . . .”

Ibid.

Page 63

“We could have rolled them in Norfolk. . . .”


“Rifled cannon are unknown. . . .”


Page 66

“They are certainly a very different. . . .”


Page 67

“This course proved eminently judicious. . . .”


“Great credit is due [to Williamson]. . . .”


“radically defective.”


“The want of interest and energy. . . .”


Page 68

“I received but little encouragement. . . .” . . . “You have no idea what. . . .” . . . “I must say I was astonished. . . .”


“There were no invitations to governors. . . .”

Wm. R. Cline, “The Ironclad Ram Virginia - Confederate States Navy, Story of Her Launching and Accomplishments and Her Memorable Engagements of March 8 And 9, 1862,” in *Southern Historical Society Papers*, 52 vols., vol. 32 (January-December 1904), 243-44.

Page 69

“She is not sufficiently protected. . . .” . . . “We are least protected. . . .”
Jones to Brooke in “The Virginia, Or Merrimac: Her Real Projector,” 31.

“This is a bad piece of work. . . .”

*Mobile Register*, February 14, 1862.

“I have great hopes in our success. . . .”

Robert Dabney Minor Papers, Minor Family Papers Collection, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA.

**Chapter 6: She Went Down with Colors Flying**

**Page 72**

“Bright-colored signal flags were run up. . . .”


**Page 73**

“[Virginia] will, in all probability, prove. . . .”


“I trust you will not hold me responsible. . . .”


“In fact, rumors of [Virginia’s] expected. . . .”


**Page 74**

“One watch slept at the guns. . . .”

Ibid.

“Her tall sides, pierced for forty-four guns. . . .”


“I thought I might get a position. . . .”

Ibid.

“fitting up the old *Merrimac*. . . .”

Ibid., 548-549.

“We were always ready. . . .” . . . “We. . .were laughed at. . . .”

Ibid.

“with their very formal and dignified manners. . . .”

Ibid.

“put at her” . . . “and everything else”

Goldsborough to Secretary of the Navy, October 17, 1861, *ORN*, series 1, vol. 6, 334.

**Page 75**

“Nothing, I think, but very close work. . . .”
Ibid.

“anxiously expecting the. . . .” . . . “We are all ready, and. . . .” . . . “I sincerely wish she would. . . .”

Van Brunt to Goldsborough, February 23, 1862, ORN series 1, vol. 6, 663; Van Brunt to Goldsborough, February 28, 1862, ORN series 1, vol. 6, 672.


“Our gallant tars jumped cheerily. . . .”

C. S. Cotton to Parents, March 10, 1862, in Papers of the Charles S. Cotton Family, Archives Branch, Naval History and Heritage Command, Washington, D.C.

“Rebel shot and shell whistled. . . .”

Ibid.

Page 76

“Nothing indicated that we were expected.”


“Many a poor fellow. . . .”


“But the Congress looked. . . .”

Ibid.

“The drum and fife are sounding. . . .” . . . “We go quietly to our stations. . . .”

Ibid.

“Every eye on the vessel. . . .”


Page 77

“what looked like the roof. . . .”


“was a splendid type of. . . .” . . . “stood at their guns. . . .” . . . “for what was known. . . .”


Page 78

“a splendid seaman. . . .” . . . “an introduction to. . . .”

Ibid.

“The action soon became general. . . .”

Buchanan to Mallory, March 27, 1862, ORN, series 1, vol. 7, 44.

Page 79

“It was done with alacrity. . . .”
Mansfield to Wool, March 10, 1862, ORN, series 1, vol. 7, 35.

“For a time only the wide waters. . . .”


“Suddenly there leaped from her sides. . . .”

Ibid.

“sweeping the men about it. . . .”


“There was an ominous pause. . . .”


“Scarcely had the smoke. . . .”

Eggleston, “Captain Eggleston's Narrative,” 171

Page 80

“The noise of the crashing timbers. . . .”


“it would have fallen on the Merrimac’s deck. . . .”

Selfridge, “The Merrimac and the Cumberland,” 182.

“We’ve sunk the Cumberland.”


“The blow was hardly perceptible. . . .”


“[The Yankee’s] fire appeared. . . .”

Jones, “Services of the Virginia,” 68.

Page 81

“two mad bullocks with their horns locked.” . . . “I have often thought. . . .”

Eggleston, “Captain Eggleston's Narrative,” 172.

“There was a terrible crash in the boiler room. . . .”


“I could hardly believe my senses. . . .”


“The cannonade was visibly raging. . . .” . . . “We could see every flash. . . .”

Ibid.

“Events followed too fast. . . .” . . .

Selfridge, “The Merrimac and the Cumberland,” 182.

Page 82

“No one flinched. . . .” . . . “firing them as fast. . . .”

Ibid.
“You could hear them cheer. . . .” . . . “but it was no go. . . .”

Ibid.

“Heart-rending cries could be heard. . . .”
Selfridge, “The Merrimac and the Cumberland,” 182.

Page 83

“Don’t mind me boys. . . .”

“Master-mate Harrington had his head. . . .”

“The after pivot-gun broke. . . .”

“I picked myself up as quick. . . .”
O’Conner, “Muzzle to Muzzle with the Merrimack,” 67.

“In this moment of dire confusion. . . .”

Page 84

“After one or two lurches. . . .”

Page 85

“No officer or man brought anything. . . .”

“This action demonstrated. . . .”

“she went down with a roar. . . .”
Ibid., 698.

“thinking of the poor nameless thing. . . .” . . . “Then, was I homesick. . . .”
Martha Derby Perry, ed., Letters from a Surgeon of the Civil War (Boston, 1906), 5-7.

“fit monument—grave and monument. . . .”

Chapter 7: Don’t Tell Me Ever Again About Fireworks
Page 87

“Having sunk the Cumberland. . . .” . . . “We were some time. . . .”

“They were soon sadly undeceived.”

Ibid.

“We silenced several of the batteries. . . .” . . . “The loss of life on shore. . . .”

Ibid.

“And now the hush. . . .”


Page 88

“The flash from [Patrick Henry’s] guns. . . .”

Ibid.

“Poor fellow, he was . . . .”

Ibid.

“contributed much to the success of the day.”

Buchanan to Mallory, March 27, 1862, ORN series I, vol. 7, 48.

“However, we kept loading. . . .”


Page 89

“Cries of the wounded. . . .”

Ibid.

“We immediately backed our engine. . . .”

C. S. Cotton to Parents, March 10, 1862, in Papers of the Charles S. Cotton Family, Archives Branch, Naval History and Heritage Command, Washington, D.C.

“The lofty frigate, towering. . . .”


“Our two stern guns were. . . .”


“The men were swept away from them. . . .”

Ibid.

“It was a pretty busy time. . . .”


“The order was then passed. . . .”

Ibid.

Page 90

“Her gallant commander. . . .”

“His wounds were fatal. . . .” . . . “His injuries were fatal. . . .”


“was very much excited. . . .”

Ibid.

“The coxswain of one. . . .”

Ibid.

“Blood was running from. . . .”


“Projectiles hurled at the Merrimac . . .”


Page 91

“He was smoking a cigar and. . . .”


“With us of the navy it was. . . .”


Page 92

“Some of the rebels acted. . . .”


“We here had them at about 800 yards. . . .”

Mansfield to Wool, March 10, 1862, *ORN* series 1, vol. 7, 35.

“It became so hot. . . .”


Page 93

“During this delay. . . .”

Buchanan to Mallory, March 27, 1862, *ORN* series I, vol. 7, 45.

“Had she been retaken. . . .”


“That ship must be burned. . . .”

Buchanan to Mallory, March 27, 1862, *ORN* series I, vol. 7, 45.

“This movement of the Patrick Henry. . . .” . . . “No wooden vessel could. . . .”


Page 94

“Half in prayer and. . . .”

Ibid.

“At the moment no one knew. . . .”
Ibid.

“They were under a galling fire. . . .”

Buchanan to Mallory, March 27, 1862, ORN series I, vol. 7, 44.


“Buchanan, in a ringing voice. . . .”


Page 95

“They were rolled into the flames. . . .”


“a distant and unsatisfactory fire” . . . “which had become annoying.”


“with orders to fight her. . . .”

Buchanan to Mallory, March 27, 1862, ORN series I, vol. 7, 45.

Page 96

“A pretty good day’s work. . . .”


“Ten minutes before 4 o’clock. . . .”

Marston to Welles, March 9, 1862, ORN, series 1, vol. 7, 8.

“Just at that moment the scene. . . .”

Colston, “Watching The ‘Merrimac,’” 713.

“The entire horizon was lighted. . . .”

Ibid.

“The Minnesota was now. . . .” . . . “Her destruction or surrender. . . .”

Ibid.

“It was now 5 o’clock. . . .” . . . “She was aground. . . .”


Page 97

“The latter frigate fired. . . .”


“My brother, Paymaster Buchanan. . . .”


“There was not much more sleep. . . .” . . . “we did not see what. . . .”


“And now followed one of the grandest episodes. . . .”

“every mast, spar, and rope. . . .” . . . “each port-hole seemed. . . .”
Ibid.

“a monstrous sheaf of flame. . . .”
Ibid.

“A deep report announced” . . . “It continued to burn. . . .”
Ibid.

Page 98
_The slaughter must have been awful. . . .”_


“The column of flame seemed. . . .”
Ibid.

Page 99

“The burning hulk burst asunder. . . .”

“Don’t tell me ever again about fireworks.”
George M. Newton to his family, March 11, 1862, in George M. Newton Letters (MS0673/01), The Mariners’ Museum Library, Newport News, Va., 4.

“although our best efforts were made. . . .”
Mansfield to Wool, March 10, 1862, _ORN_, series 1, vol. 7, 35-36.

“Our loss is 2 killed and 19 wounded. . . .”
Buchanan to Mallory, March 27, 1862, _ORN_, series 1, vol. 7, 46.

“The bearing of the men was all. . . .”
Ibid.

Page 100

“nothing outside escaped.”

“After making preparations for. . . .”
Ibid.

“when there passed a strange looking craft. . . .”

Page 100

“It is thought the _Merrimack_, _Jamestown_, and _Yorktown_. . . .”
Wool to Stanton, March 8, 1862, _ORN_, series 1, vol. 7, 4-5.

Chapter 8: The Most Frightened Man

Page 103

“The house is as full of shadows. . . .”

“almost a breaking-down with grief” . . . “really there will have been. . . .”

Ibid.

“The President is vehemently. . . .”

Ibid.

“The *Merrimack* is being towed down. . . .”


“For a while the news looked. . . .”


Page 104

“Some of our best ships. . . .” . . . “Have similar sea-monsters. . . .”


“The hours go by. . . .”

Ibid.

“was as gloomy as any. . . .”


“Nothing was too wild to be believed. . . .”


“discussing the intelligence in much alarm.”


Page 105

“probably, while we were in council”

Ibid.

“perhaps the most excited. . . .”


“That day and its incidents were. . . .”


“the President always gave me. . . .”

Ibid., 15397 of 18532, Kindle.

“The most frightened man on. . . .” . . . “He was at times almost frantic. . . .”

Ibid., 15411-15413 of 18532, Kindle.

Page 106

“panic under which he labored. . . .”

“come up the Potomac and disperse congress. . . .”

Ibid.

“Foreign intervention would surely follow. . . .” . . . “Stanton, unable to control. . . .”


“Lincoln was, as usual in. . . .”

Ibid.

“Most of Stanton’s complaints. . . .” . . . “I had little to impart. . . .”


**Page 107**

“mingled look of incredulity and contempt.”


“so cut down and. . . .” . . . “ascend the river and. . . .”


“It would better become us. . . .”

Ibid.

“promptly rally and catch at hope.”

Ibid.

“which seemed to increase the panic.” . . . “and deferred to him more. . . .”


**Page 108**

“and in full sympathy with. . . .” . . . “but neither of them was endowed. . . .”

Ibid., 15397-15406, 15433-15434 of 18532, Kindle.

“The Congress sunk!” . . . “Then Joe is dead.”


“You don’t know Joe. . . .” . . . “And he did not. . . .”

Ibid.

“A little time and reflection. . . .” . . . “spoke out with some fierceness. . . .”

Ibid.

“The commandants of the harbor defenses. . . .”


“was a man of resources and great energy.”


“would be more valuable. . . .”

Ibid.

**Page 109**

“The President, though feeling as uncomfortable. . . .”

“he had no news….” “It was evident, from the general excitement. . . .”  
Chittenden, _Recollections of President Lincoln_, 224.

“The ironclad Ericsson battery. . . .”  

Chapter 9: With Mutual Fierceness

Page 111

“The warm sun shone over. . . .” “Everything was bustle. . . .”  

“Everything seemed in confusion.”  

“The report every little while. . . .”  
Ibid., 32.

“with two jiggers of whiskey. . . .”  

Page 112

“If I cannot lighten my ship. . . .” “I will stand by you. . . .” “No sir, you cannot help me. . . .”  
Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., _Aboard the USS Monitor_, 33.

“Our fastenings were cast off. . . .”  

“[Minnesota’s] wooden sides shewed. . . .” “The idea of assistance or protection. . . .” “curt & crispy” “As the Merrimac approached. . . .”  
Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., _Aboard the USS Monitor_, 33.

Page 113

“To tell the truth, we did not. . . .”  

“There was the little Monitor. . . .”  

“Her first shot struck. . . .”  
Ibid.

Page 114

“Send them that with my complements. . . .”  
Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., _Aboard the USS Monitor_, 34.
“A few straggling rays of light....”

Ibid.

“We were enclosed in what we supposed....”

Ibid.

“Everything seemed so still....”


“Now mark the condition our men....”


Page 115

“As for myself....”

Ibid.

“The contrast was that of a pigmy....”


“The infernal howl....”

Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 34.

“The situation was novel....” “difficult and uncertain.”


“They performed their work with zeal....”

Ibid.

Page 116

“Tell Mr. Greene not to fire....”

Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 34.

“At this time....I was approaching....” “Commence firing!”


“And thus commenced the great battle....”

Greene to parents, March 14, 1862, in “Voyage to Destiny,” in Naval History Magazine.

“O, what a relief it was....” “her iron scales rattle....” “which rattled on our iron deck....”

Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 34-35.

“The d...d fools are firing canister....”


Page 117

“Did the shot come through....”
“Then we would be wholly disabled.”


“a perfect mold” . . . “If anything could test the turret. . . .”

Ibid.

Page 118

“It might open a seam. . . .”

Ibid.

“The hull was uninjured, except. . . .”

Ibid.

“The Merrimac could not sink us. . . .” . . . “The men cheered; the knowledge put. . . .”

Ibid.

“A look of confidence passed over. . . .”

Greene, “In the ‘Monitor’ Turret” in Battles and Leaders vol. 1, 723.

“It don’t make much difference who fires at us.”


“Ironclad against ironclad. . . .”

Stimers to Ericsson, March 9, 1862, in ORN, series 1, vol. 7, 26.

“covered with powder & smoke. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 35.

“We. . . were often within a ship’s length. . . .”


Page 119

“Once while passing we fired a broadside at her only a few yards distant. She and her. . . .”

Ibid.

“Five times during the engagement. . . .”

Greene to parents, March 14, 1862, in “Voyage to Destiny,” in Naval History Magazine.

“I dropped like a dead man. . . .”


“I immediately jumped up again. . . .”

Stimers, “An Engineer Aboard the Monitor,” 35.

“The effect upon one shut up. . . .”

Greene, “In the ‘Monitor’ Turret,” in Battles and Leaders vol. 1, 724-726.

Page 120


Ibid.
“A careless or impatient hand. . . .” . . . “For this and other reasons. . . .”
   Ibid.
“not altogether satisfactory.”
   Ibid.

Page 121
“an active, muscular man. . . .” . . . “The conditions were very different. . . .”
   Ibid.
“I give a niger a half a dollar. . . .”
   Sam McKee to Church McKee, March 10, 1862, in Hugh McKee, ed., The McKee Letters, 1859–1880: Correspondence of a Georgia Farm Family during the Civil War and Reconstruction, 2nd ed. (Milledgeville, GA, 2001), 63–64.
“The Virginia is discouragingly cumbrous. . . .” . . . “than if we had thrown marbles. . . .” . . . “The Monitor is whirling around. . . .”
“of midnight hue, which, like a thing of darkness. . . .”

Chapter 10: Nearly Every Shot Struck

Page 123
“she could not possibly have made her appearance. . . .” . . . “She appeared but a pigmy. . . .”
“When her turret revolved we could see. . . .”
“The Virginia, however, was a large target. . . .”

Page 124
“The only damage [Monitor] did was to the armor. . . .”
   Ibid., 72-73.
“Generally the shot were much scattered. . . .”
   Ibid.
“want of homogeneity” . . . “to go almost anywhere except. . . .”
“Not a single shot struck [Virginia]. . . .”

Page 125

“shoot the first man that you see. . . .”


Ibid.


“The noise of the cracking, roaring fires. . . .”

Ibid.

“More than two hours had passed. . . .”


“a broadside,” he reported, “which would have blown. . . .”

Van Brunt to Welles, March 10, 1862, in ORN, series 1, vol. 7, 11-12.

Page 126

“demoralizing the after powder division. . . .”

C. S. Cotton to Parents, March 10, 1862, Papers of the Charles S. Cotton Family, Archives Branch, Naval History and Heritage Command, Washington, D.C.

“Just then I met my fate. . . .”


“The air was so full of burning powder. . . .”

Ibid.

Page 127

“The roar of the battle continued, but. . . .”

Ibid.

“Negroes fought energetically and bravely. . . .”

Steven J. Ramold, Slaves, Sailors, Citizens: African Americans in the Union Navy (DeKalb, IL, 2002), 122.

“an incessant fire” . . . “At least fifty solid shot struck. . . .”

Van Brunt to Welles, March 10, 1862, in ORN, series 1, vol. 7, 12.

“an accident occurred that threatened. . . .”


“but that which was actually vulnerable, had she known it.”

Ibid.

“These exposed portions rendered us. . . .” . . . “heel of Achilles.”

Ibid.
“We lashed down the safety valves. . . .”

Ibid.

Page 128

“It seemed impossible that the boilers. . . .”

Ibid.

“We set [Minnesota] on fire and. . . .”


“We have knocked a hole into [Minnesota]. . . .”


Page 129

“For nearly an hour we manoeuvred for a position. . . .”


“I did not feel the slightest shock. . . .”


“It gave us a shock, pushed us around. . . .”


“a tremendous thump” . . . “She will not try that again.”

Stimers to Ericsson, March 9, 1862, in *ORN*, series 1, vol. 7, 26.

“With the two large Worthington pumps, besides. . . .”


“a particle more by the blow”


“the shot rebounded without. . . .”

Greene, “In the ‘Monitor’ Turret” in *Battles and Leaders*, vol. 1, 725.

“Those shots must have been effective. . . .”


“Our ship [Virginia] was working worse. . . .” . . . “and always have us in range. . . .”


“Why, our powder is very precious. . . .”

Ibid., 702.

“Again [Monitor] came up on our quarter. . . .” . . . “All the crews of the after guns were. . . .”

Ibid., 703.

“boarders away, and Rebels scrambled. . . .”

Page 131

“Both...could have been easily disabled. . . .”

Ibid.

“The pilot-house...is a foursquare mass. . . .”


“[The explosion] was unusually heavy. . . .” . . . “Gentlemen I leave it with you. . . .”


Page 132

“[The captain] was a ghastly sight. . . .”


“I then felt to the fullest extent my condition.”

Van Brunt to Welles, March 10, 1862, ORN, series 1, vol. 7, 12.

“But even then, in this extreme. . . .”

Ibid.

“To us the Monitor appeared unharmed.”


Page 133

“and then renew the engagement with every chance of victory.”

Ramsay, The Merrimac and the Monitor; loc. 354-357 of 568, Kindle.

“I determined to lighten the ship. . . .”

Van Brunt to Welles, March 10, 1862, ORN, series 1, vol. 7, 12.

“[She] would undoubtedly have been ablaze. . . .” . . . “the United States Frigate Cumberland saved. . . .”


“Rushing on deck, I found. . . .” . . . “feeling as though a wet blanket. . . .”


“As the Merrimac passed up the river. . . .”

Ibid.

“We knew that she could not sink us. . . .”


Page 134

“Our iron hatches were slid back. . . .”

Keeler to Anna, March 6, 1862, in Daly, ed., Aboard the USS Monitor, 38-39.

“our foe gave us a shell as a parting fire. . . .” . . . “Paymaster there’s some more pieces.”

Ibid.

“I confess I looked rather anxiously. . . .” . . . “with the respects of the officers. . . .”
“all eager to learn the extent of our injuries. . . .”

Ibid.

“As we ran along side,” wrote Lieutenant Greene. . . .”

Greene to parents, March 14, 1862, in “Voyage to Destiny,” in Naval History Magazine.

“Blind and suffering as he was, Worden’s. . . .”


“We soon learned that she was in a sinking. . . .”


“All my underclothes were perfectly black. . . .”

Greene to parents, March 14, 1862.