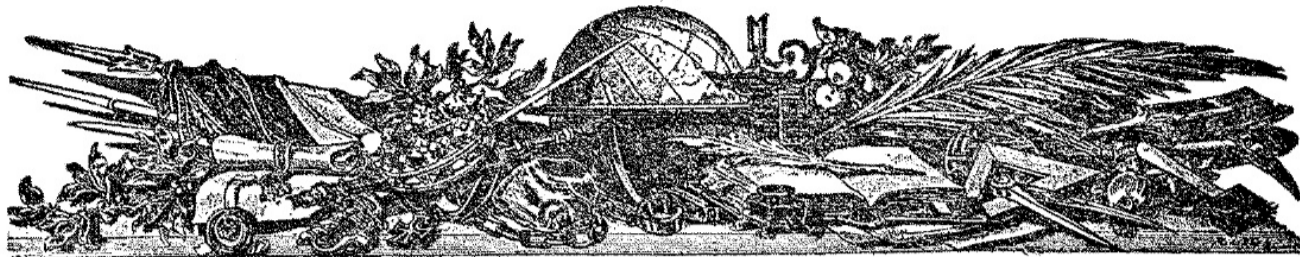


The World's Famous Events

1913



DESTRUCTION OF THE "ALABAMA"

(The Most Noted of Confederate Privateers Defeated by the "Kearsarge")

WHILE the Confederacy was thus reduced to almost hopeless straits by the great Union victories of 1863,* the North was also feeling the exhaustion of the war. Not only was the country losing hundreds of thousands of its men, the best and bravest of its citizens; it was also losing uncountable wealth both in money and in resources. The navy of the North blocked the seaports of the South and shut off all Southern products from their market. The South retorted with almost equal destruction by fitting out privateering vessels which preyed upon the commerce of the North and reduced at least this one source of prosperity to utter ruin.

These Southern privateers were fitted out in British ports; and not only England but most of the other European Powers sympathized with the South and aided her semi-pirate ships. Most renowned of these was the "Alabama." After a long course of capturing and destroying Northern merchant ships, the "Alabama" was caught in a French harbor by the United States frigate "Kearsarge." The "Kearsarge" defied the "Alabama" to battle; and the Confederate ship, accepting the challenge, steamed confidently forth amid salvos of applause from the French and English spectators. The "Kearsarge" completely outfought her, and sank her.

The "Alabama" and similar ships drove the commerce of America from the ocean; and even to-day our transatlantic trade is handled by European ships with European officers and crews.

*[ALABAMA was forced below the waves in 1864, not 1863.]

