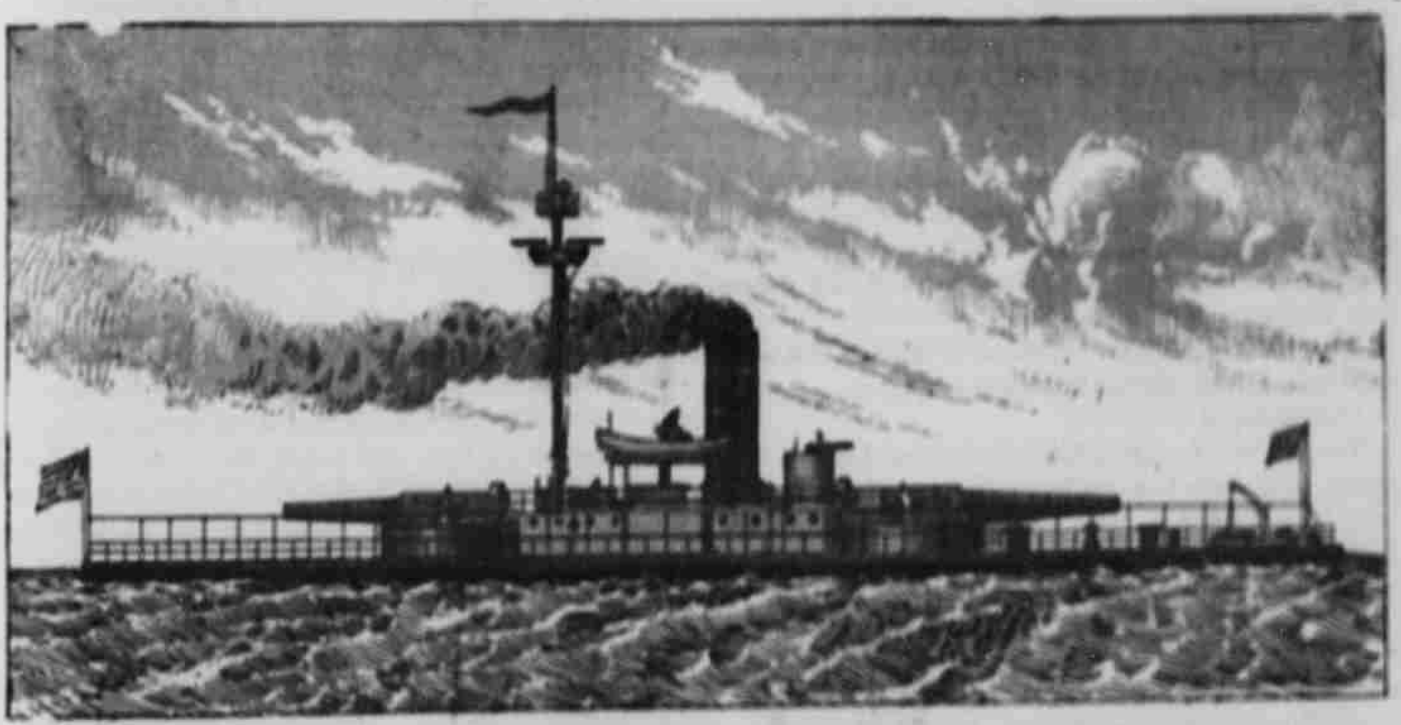
THE "MONTEREY."

THE *Monterey*, now in process of construction at the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, is the first of her class to be built in this country. She is called a coast defense vessel, and might be termed a cross between our monitors and the *Hydra*, the *Hecate* and other vessels of a similar class in the British navy. The frame of the *Monterey*, as it reposes on the stocks, is about half completed, and but little idea of the completed vessel can be gained from viewing it. By examining the plans and specifications as approved by the secretary of the navy, I succeeded, however, in getting all the necessary data for a description of what will prove, when completed, one of the most formidable vessels for harbor defense afloat. Her length between perpendiculars will be 250 feet; her extreme breadth, fifty-nine feet; mean draft, fourteen and one-half feet; displacement, 4,000 tons, and her engines will be capable of working up to 5,400 horse power. The bow is ram-shaped and will be protected for ramming. The vessel will be constructed on the bracket system, having a double bottom nearly the entire length, extending up to the armor itself. The inner bottom and the interior of the hull is divided into numerous water-tight compartments. There is a light superstructure above the main deck, extending from barbette to barbette. The protection of the hull is by a belt of steel armor extending the entire length of the vessel. Over the vital parts of the ship this armor is sixteen inches thick, and at the ends eight and one-half inches in thickness. The armored deck over the magazines, engines and machinery for working the big guns is to be three inches thick, and at the ends two inches. Her boilers are to be placed in two independent fire rooms. She is to have twin screws, each of ten and one-half feet in diameter, which, with her great horse power, will enable her to achieve a much higher rate of speed than is usual in vessels of her class. The battery is to be very formidable. She will have one 100-pound, six-inch, breech-loading rifle in the after barbette and a fifteen-inch, pneumatic, dynamite gun in the forward one. These barbettes were intended, as their name implies, to be open at the top. So much objection was raised by naval men, however, to this plan, which would admit of a shot or shell from the enemy being dropped upon the gun from above, that within a few days it has been decided to put a glacial turret over them—in other words, a sloping, steel roof, which will afford ample protection to the guns and the men working them. This can be seen in the accompanying cut. In addition the vessel will have fifteen rapid-fire guns, as follows: Six thirty-three-pounders, three nine-pounders, two six-pounders, and four three-pounders. There will be an armored covering placed abaft the forward barbette to protect the steering gear, telegraph and speaking tubes, etc. The commander and pilot will also be stationed herein when the vessel is in action. She is to have a military mast in which will be two tops. In one of these will be placed two machine guns, and in the other will be a powerful, electric, search light. She will carry five boats, and will have accommodations for a captain, sixteen officers and 150 men. It is expected that one, and possibly two, of the new iron clads for which bids have been called for, will be constructed on the Pacific coast, whose establishments will play an important part in building the new navy and the coast defenses soon to be provided for by the government.

E. T. Y. Sweet.



UNITED STATES COAST DEFENSE VESSEL "MONTEREY."