CHAMPION CREW OF THE ALABAMA AFTER TRUST.

In the course, wearing a cap, stands Lieutenant Wilson, who trained the gunners. On his left is a crack gun pointer named Allen. Behind is a turret mounted on the ship. The gun was pointed by a named spectator.

HOW OUR NAVAL GUNNERS BREAK RECORDS.
Their Marvellous Accuracy Only Attained by Constant Practice with Most Ingenious Mechanical Aids.

Almost simultaneously with the publication of a statement by a British general that the practice of English naval gunners was so bad that he offered to take guns out of school who could do as well, the United States battleship Texas sailed into this port with the boast that her gunners had broken the world record. With an 8-inch gun the Indianan a specimen Texas had hit a bull's-eye four times consecutively. The mark was four feet square and at a distance of 4,000 yards. The rear shore record of breaking time of 2 minutes and 16 seconds. Had the target practice occurred in Philadelphia, the counsel might have stood at Forty-second-street, and the target could have been represented by an ancient brick near the Philadelphia Building.

Many gunners who are stationed in this country have been instructed to learn the secret of American marksmanship and to report to their home governments, and to the attachments that have been accorded every opportunity to carry out these missions. But they have learned so much. They found no new mechanism, no novel combination of levers and wheels, nor anything new to the naval experts of Europe. All was as old as the American eagle.

It is the American gunner, not the American rifle. The American marksman, without the gunner, can't miss. The European gunner too often practices until he is too tired. 

Although the United States Government does not spend so much for new battleships as England or Germany, it makes more use of the official gunner, or gunsmith, than any other country in the world. More time and between gunners on the American Navy in proportion to its service than any country in the American branch, and the gunner, in the normal way, is the only man who can and does. He still further to encourage expert marksmanship, the Navy Department, in the recommendation of Promotion, has provided that gunners who qualify in the most efficient manner shall obtain $10 more a month, second class gunners are to get an additional $5. This order went into effect on the first of this month.

Although crew and officers' practice are important in training the gunner, nevertheless, these are not the chief contributors to his skill. When aunteer boarded a warship, and chances to ask the"two men who has this shot," what has done most to train his eye, he

Ft. Louis bower, "That sounds something like bottle popping." "The man of practice with the 13-inch guns," was the reply. They are the largest men have to work on, and an increasing number do not hesitate to do so. The Populist and the bottle as if they had bought a gold brick. They saw they must have blundered, but wondered why.

"Just come this way and I'll show you," said the officer.

On the barrel of a huge gun which, with its gun-prism, projects out of the after turret, cut a sailor astir. He was so far back from the muzzle as he could get, and was so intent on housing a small rifle that he did not notice he was being watched. The rifle was supported by two steel uprights, bound fast to the cannon. It looked like some shooting gallery rifles of 24-calibre, except that a小姐 wire hung from its trigger. The wire ran into the street.

Just above the gun's muzzle hung a miniature target, on which front of which were nine black squares at regular distances one from another. At first glance they looked like a tiny chicken board. Each black square was 1 inch by 1 inch in size.

"You see those black spots up there," said the officer. "Well, each one of them is a target. We put up nine all at once, so we don't have to step after each shot and put up a new mark. Now, you notice that the selection of targets is by no means stationary. It hangs from the end of a boom, which one set of ropes makes run up and down to make the roll of a ship, and which another pulley swings sideways in place of the longitudinal motion of the ship as it soils on its course."

At one time there was a pull of smoke from the boy rifle. It was the same sort of pug they had heard before. At the same instant the sailor astir the cannon opened an empty shell and thrust a fresh cartridge into its place.

The Populist, who had just finished studying the targets through some heavy spectacles, exclaimed:

"Boy, but I don't see where the bullet ever hit!"

"It went through one of the black spots," was the officer's answer. "That boy rifle, which is pointed for the marksman, is a Morris rifle. Its barrel is exactly parallel with that of the 13-inch guns, except that an electric wire hangs away from the target, which is so small that to our easier to hit with this 24-calibre guns than to hit a twenty-foot target 1,500 yards away."

But how does the gunner aim so accurately? Interrupted the Chicago scribe. "The gunner has three hooks on the top of the turret," replied the navy man. "The gun is exactly parallel with the three hooks, and whenever a sight is placed, and aims it, and keeps his eye on his mark. He has a telescope on each hook in which the marksmen looks out through his back and on his own work."

THE MEN WHO BEAT THE WORLD'S RECORD WITH EIGHT-INAH GUNS.

A. H. Trajan, who stood in the right pronged the cannon which made four bull's-eyes with four shots in two minutes and fifteen seconds. H. E. Hacket trained the gun. Each man belongs to the Herold. (Photograph by Charles Claridge.)