DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN NAVY.

Monitor: 1861

Katahdin: 1896

Wonderful Growth of Naval Architecture in the United States from the Advent of Columbus’ Historic Fleet to the Great Wars of the Present Day—First Ship of the Line to Be Built in This Country a Crude Affair.

Pennsylvania: 1855 Minnesota:

Modern Type of War Vessels Begun With Introduction of the Original Water-De
dered By John Ericsson, Which Revelolurized Marine Architecture of World.

SHIP OF THE LINE

1690

Talquin:

The Constitution

1797

The First Ship

1859

From the time of Columbus until the first naval vessel was built in this coun-
try there elapsed a period of two cen-
turies. During this interval the first dis-
covery of the New World was made, the
transatlantic trade developed, and
Europe and America grew stronger and
richer. The so-called "grand voy-
ages" were made on small vessels, as
is shown in the illustration across the
page. These were not more than 40 feet in length, and the crew was a still smaller
number.

The first vessel to be built in the
United States for purposes of naval
architecture was the Constitution. She
was built in 1797 at the Navy Yard, Phil-
adelphia, by William Blaxton, who was
the first official marine architect of the
United States. She was 171 feet long,
11 feet wide, and had a displacement of
150 tons. The Constitution was the
first of the "Class of 1797," which con-
tained five other ships of similar de-
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