THE UNITED STATES MONITOR PURITAN.

The original plan was for a single-cylinder vessel of nearly five thousand tons displacement, with one huge turret for two 20-inch guns. The Navy Department compiled the adoption of two turrets and two guns, although Captain Ericsson opposed these changes. His idea was one powerfully armed turret, with all around for, and so determined was it in this idea that he letter to Captain A. V. Fox, Assist. Secretary of the Navy, he said: "The day is not far distant when two turrets on a vessel will be admitted to have the same advantages as two turrets on the hulks of the boy, or two guns in the same boat.”

The PURITAN was built at the Navy Yard, New York. It was completed in 1862. It was 214 feet long, 72 feet wide, and 36 feet deep, and had a tonnage of 5,000 tons displacement. The machinery was built by the Algoma Works, and it was equipped with a steam engine of 6,000 horsepower. It was armed with two 20-inch ordnance guns, and it had a speed of 10 knots. The ship was joined the Union fleet in 1863 and saw action in several battles, including the Battle of Mobile Bay. It was eventually decommissioned in 1865 and sold for scrap.