

The Atlanta nee Fingal.

It would appear that the desertion of the rebel, iron clad from Savannah was not unexpected, and Admiral Dupont took the necessary precaution to secure the rebel when she should make her appearance, and at once dispatched the Monitor batteries Weehawken and Montauk to perform the service.

The object of the raid was undoubtedly to capture Fort Sumner, located on Ogeechee Island, and garrisoned by the 47th New York State Volunteers, and in the event of doing so, should she be closely pursued by the Union iron-clad, she could seek shelter above Fort Mifflin until an opportunity presented itself for her to again get out and return to Savannah.

The Atlanta was formerly the Clyde-built steamer Fingal, and was employed in the West Highland trade, and was purchased in Glasgow, for a blockade runner, in 1861.—She left that port bound for a rebel port, having on board two hundred pieces of artillery, eight thousand five hundred Enfield rifles, twenty thousand army pistols, fifteen thousand sabres, one hundred thousand blankets, sixty-five thousand army shoes, two million percussion caps, two tons of gunpowder, a lot of quinine and other articles much needed by the rebels. She arrived safely at Savannah in the spring of 1862, and finding that she could not get to sea again without great risk of being captured, it was decided to convert her into a vessel-of-war.

Many months were occupied in cutting her down and putting her into a shape not unlike the Merrimac, and in covering her with what was believed to be an impregnable armor, and, providing her with a huge beak or ram, which the rebels said would sink any vessel she came in contact with. On the 31st of July, 1862, she made her debut, and came within the range of the glasses of Fort Pulaski, but did not allow herself to be put under the test of the guns in the fort. A few days later she returned to Savannah, and it was understood that she was a failure, being top-heavy, drawing too much water, and leaking very badly. Whether there was any truth in these reports or not, she never was seen afterwards in the vicinity of the fort.

The next we heard of her was in the latter part of last winter, when she was reported to be ready to aid the Nashville in getting out to sea from the Ogeechee River. Nothing, however, but her smoke-stack was ever seen, although the Montauk and Passaic were on the lookout for her for over two months.

She is an iron steamer, and those who had seen her at different times say that she is a formidable craft.

By this capture the rebels have lost one of the three iron-clads attached to the defenses of Savannah—the remaining ones being the Georgia (aground and immovable) and another in process of construction and not yet named.