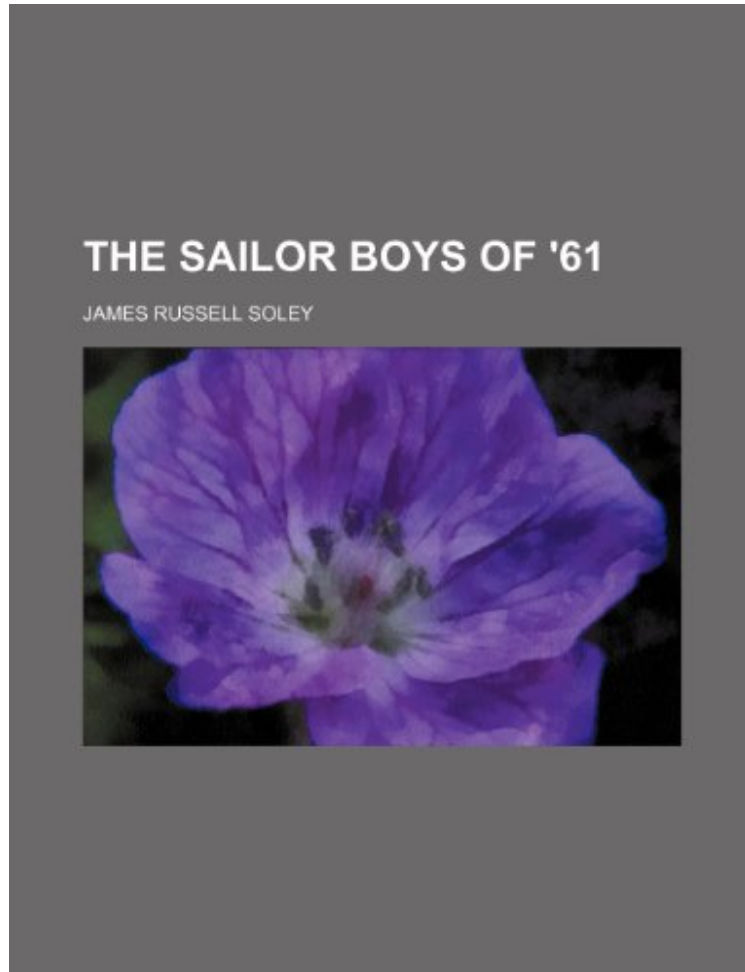


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The sailor boys of '61

James Russell Soley

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1888 Excerpt: ...and "Oneida," and the ninety-day gunboats which had passed through the fire of the forts at New Orleans. All these vessels now lay directly in the path of the "Arkansas." Brown saw them, but he resolved to run the gantlet of all of them. His audacity was his best protection. No one imagined that he was coming down, and the whole fleet was caught asleep. But one solitary vessel had steam up. This was the ram " General Bragg," but her captain lost his opportunity, for he waited for the Admiral to give him an order. The "Arkansas" moved down with the current, for by this time her engines were of little

use, and entered the lane between the two lines of vessels. Each fired at her as she passed, and she replied with every gun she could bring to bear. So bold was her onset, and so unexpected, that there was really nothing to withstand her, and of the innumerable shots that were fired at her, few did her an injury. The ram "Lancaster" of Ellet's fleet lay almost in her path, and Brown drove her back with a shot in her steam-drum. In almost as short a time as it takes to tell it, the "Arkansas" had passed through the lines, and was safely out of reach. In a few moments more she had gained the shelter of the Vicksburg batteries, and had made fast at one of the city piers. Flag-officer Ear-ragiiL-was so mortified by this occurrence that he would not sleep until he had made an attempt to destroy the "Arkansas," and that very afternoon he prepared to pass down by Vicksburg with his fleet. But as it was dark when he reached the town, the ram, by shifting her position, escaped observation, and under the hot fire of the batteries the fleet could not stop to find her. A few days later the "Essex,qu...