

**RUSSELL WHEELER DAVENPORT  
(MASTER OF ARTS). FATHER OF  
ROWING AT YALE: MAKER OF  
GUNS AND ARMOR PLATE USED BY  
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

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Armor Plate Used by the United States Government by Charles Augustus Brinley

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**CHARLES AUGUSTUS BRINLEY**

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# Russell Wheeler Davenport

(Master of Arts)

Father of Rowing at Yale; Maker of Guns  
and Armor Plate Used by the United  
States Government

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Live unto the dignity of thy nature, and leave it not disputable at last,  
whether thou hast been a man.—SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

G. P. Putnam's Sons  
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1905

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The Knickerbocker Press, New York

THE larger part of what has been here collected concerning Russell W. Davenport has been taken from communications received from his family, friends, and associates in college and in business.

Mr. Davenport was not a public man, but as his accomplishments in certain directions enabled him to render eminent public service, this brief biographical sketch should be of general interest, although naturally of particular interest only to those who knew him or who know about his work.

In college Davenport's personal character exercised a distinct influence for good among his fellows. He was the foremost oarsman of his day. As a metallurgist he rendered conspicuous service in so advancing the art of steel-making in the United States that this country became able to manufacture without foreign aid cannon and armor plate not surpassed in quality by similar products made anywhere. He produced the forgings for the first six-inch all-steel built-up gun made in the

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Davenport



United States, having participated from the beginning in the studies which rendered this achievement possible. His metallurgical skill found concrete expression in the offensive and defensive equipment of the vessels of the United States Navy that fought in the Spanish War; and in the last year of his life he began the reorganization of the shipyard in which many if not most of those vessels were constructed.

The Editor regrets that the exactions of other duties left him but little consecutive time for his task — a task that should have been given to some one more competent and less occupied with other matters.

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