

**INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF AN OFFICER  
OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY:  
JOURNALS AND  
LETTERS OF COMMODORE HOLLAND  
NEWTON STEVENSON: TOGETHER WITH  
A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE**

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Incidents in the Life of an Officer of the United States Navy: Journals and Letters of  
Commodore Holland Newton Stevenson: Together with a Sketch of His Life by Holland  
Newton Stevenson

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**HOLLAND NEWTON STEVENSON**

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# Journals and Letters *of*

COMMODORE HOLLAND NEWTON STEVENSON,  
United States Navy, *Retired*,

Together With a Sketch  
of His Life.

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EPHRAIM HOLLAND NEWTON D.D.  
1787 — 1864



HOLLAND NEWTON  
STEVENSON M.D.  
1886 —



HOLLAND NEWTON STEVENSON C.E.  
COMMODORE U.S. NAVY  
1844 — 1911



HOLLAND NEWTON  
STEVENSON  
1911







**VALPARAISO—View of the Tops of the Hills**

The hills in the rear of the city rise to the height of three and four thousand feet, and to reach their summits you must go up in zig-zags.



**VALPARAISO—General View of Water Front of the Whole City**

## Sketch

This sketch of Commodore Holland Newton Stevenson is printed to give to his friends a more intimate knowledge of the interesting events of a life spent in an earnest endeavor to be of use to his country and value to his fellowmen.

Commodore Stevenson died in San Francisco, October 3rd, 1911. He was born at Cambridge, Washington county, New York, September 3rd, 1844, the oldest son of Scraph Huldah Newton and John McAllister Stevenson.

Commodore Stevenson entered Rensselaer Polytechnic institute at Troy, N. Y., in the fall of 1863, from which he was graduated in the class of 1866, being given the degree of Civil Engineer. He was appointed to the United States Naval Academy in the newly formed class of Engineer students on October 10th, 1866, and was graduated and given a diploma from that institution June 2nd, 1868.

At the close of the Civil War the government felt the need of increasing its force of Engineers in the Navy and offered appointments to graduates of engineering and scientific institutions to enter the service. Under the new arrangement Commodore Stevenson entered the first class appointed by the Navy department.

His first cruise was on the "Dacotah", South Pacific Station. When the ship was at Callao, Peru, in March, 1869, he was detailed by Admiral Turner to accompany an expedition sent out by the Peruvian government to explore the head waters of the Amazon River. The expedition was gone about three months, crossing the Andes on mules over what is now practically the route of the Meigs railroad. They reached the head waters of the Amazon River, but were compelled to retreat on account of the hostile action of the native Indians. He wrote a full account of what he learned and saw on that trip, which is now on file with the department in Washington. He also kept a copy of this report which is printed in part in the following pages, together with a journal of his first cruise.



VALPARAISO AS SEEN FROM "CERRO CONCEPCION" THEATRE



VALPARAISO FROM THE "PANTEON" OR CEMETERY