

FLEET TACTICS UNDER STEAM

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Fleet Tactics Under Steam by Foxhall A. Parker

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FOXHALL A. PARKER

**FLEET TACTICS
UNDER STEAM**

FLEET TACTICS

UNDER

STEAM.

BY

FOXHALL A. PARKER,

CAPTAIN U. S. NAVY.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

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PREFACE.

U. S. NAVY YARD,
BOSTON, Sept. 22d, 1869.

IN his preface to "Squadron Tactics under Steam," published early in 1864, the author remarked: "The 'Naval Warfare' of Sir Howard Douglas, and the 'Tactique Navale' of the French, are, at present, the only works on *steam* tactics deserving consideration." To these must now be added, "Nouvelles Bases de Tactique Navale," by Rear-Admiral Grégoire Boutakov, of the Russian Navy, a book of far greater scientific merit than anything that has preceded it. Believing, however, that a plain, practical work on this subject is still needed, the author has been encouraged to publish this volume, which is simply an adaptation of military to naval tactics, *as put to the practical test during*

the two years that he commanded the Potomac flotilla.

"The factician," says Ramatuelle, "is one who is gifted with quickness of apprehension and clearness of thought, and such correctness of judgment as shall enable him to make choice of the movements best suited to the time and situation." In other words, *great* commanders, by sea as well as on land, are "born, not made;" yet an excellent "recipe for a *good* admiral" is that given by Rear-Admiral Charles Elkins, "in the person who combines theory with practice, is blessed with a clear head, and has *his heart in the right place.*"

"In case signals cannot be seen or clearly understood, no captain can do very wrong if he places his ship alongside that of an enemy."—NELSON.

FLEET TACTICS UNDER STEAM.

AN assembly of twelve or more vessels takes the name of fleet, and is separated into three divisions, of one, two, or three squadrons each; each squadron comprising not less than four vessels. Thus, a fleet of twelve vessels would be composed of three divisions of one squadron each, and the commanding officers of squadrons would also be the commanding officers of divisions; and so with a fleet of any number of vessels up to twenty-four. In a fleet of this or larger size, the divisions would consist of two or more squadrons each, with the commands thus distributed.

Commander-in-Chief	The Fleet.
2d in command	Van Division.
3d " "	Rear "
4th " "	Centre "
5th " "	Van Squadron.
6th " "	Rear "