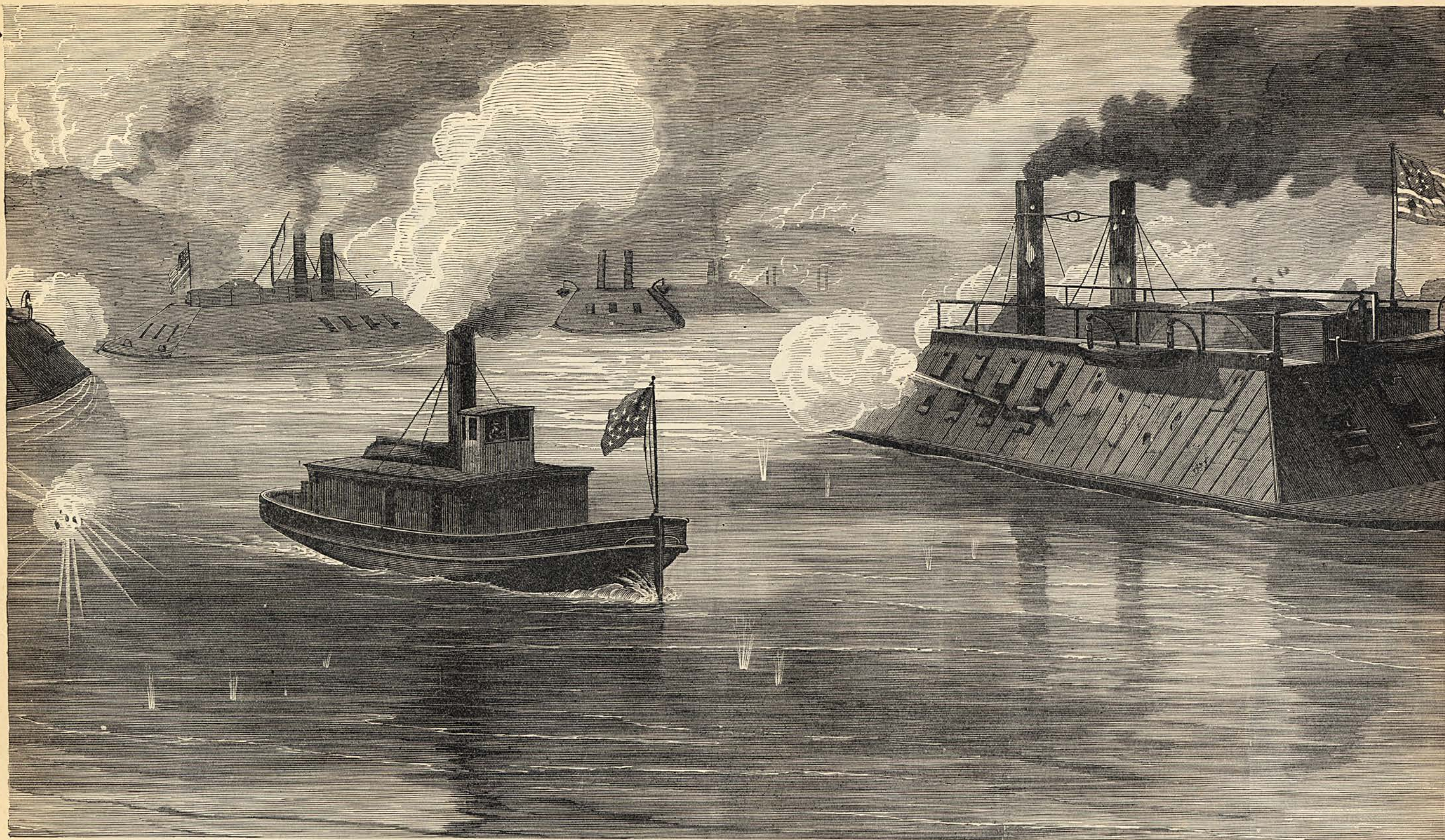




FEDERAL GUNBOATS AND IRONCLADS, UNDER ADMIRAL PORTER, SILENCING THE CONFEDERATE WORKS AT GRAND GULF, MISS., APRIL, 29, 1863.—FROM A SKETCH BY F. B. SCHELL.

The recovery of the Mississippi—the opening of that great stream from St. Louis to the Gulf—was one of the great achievements of the conflict. It tended powerfully to restore the national authority. It gave promise of the extinction of resistance by land and water everywhere. Further and further, from both north and south, the Federal ironclads and gunboats made their way, up stream or down stream, demolishing what works soever the Confederates had planted on the banks. The bombardment represented on this page took place on April 29, 1863. The action here represented was a major incident of the Vicksburg campaign. After gaining possession of Grand Gulf, the Union army might sweep around to the rear of Vicksburg, and, unless defeated from the one side or the other in open battle, invest that stronghold and cut it off from the hope of relief. This was actually done. The capture of Grand Gulf added greatly to the renown of Admiral Porter, and demonstrated the ability of the Federal ironclads to grapple with anything that the Confederates might oppose thereto.