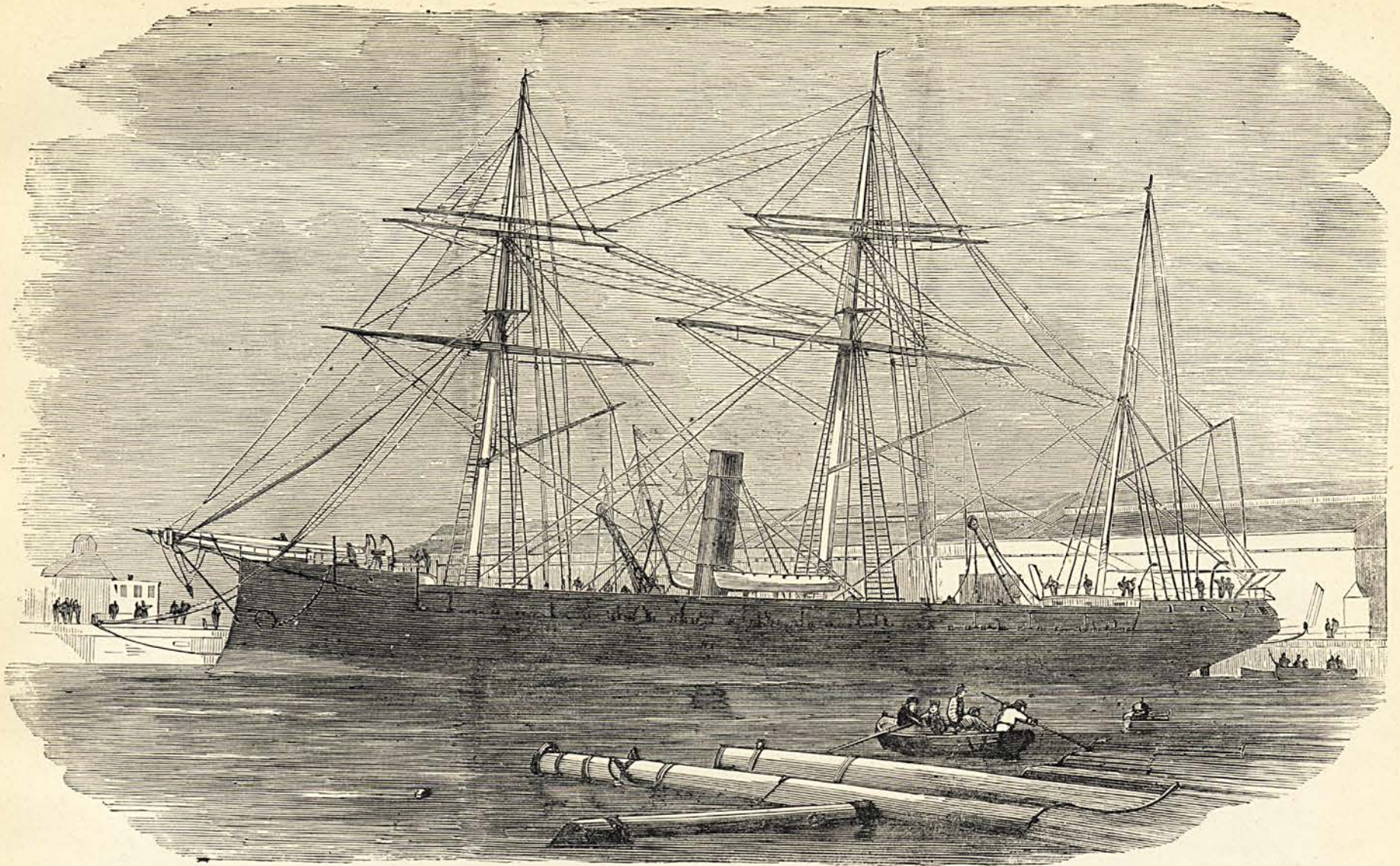




THE CONFEDERATE RAM "EL TOUSSON," CONSTRUCTED BY LAIRD.

The name of Laird, known in England as one of the greatest of English ship-builders, is best known in America as the builder of a number of piratical Confederate cruisers which scoured the seas for two years, enormously damaging the American merchant marine and resulting in the famous Geneva Award, by virtue of which Great Britain paid to this country \$15,000,000 damages, known as "Alabama claims." The destruction of American shipping was not the most important effect of this surreptitious supply of Confederate war vessels by English builders. Except for them the American navy need not have been half as large as it was forced to be. A few vessels would have sufficed to blockade the Southern ports and to capture the seaboard cities. There were no facilities in the South for building even one considerable sea-going war vessel. But, supplied as they were with cruisers, English-built, English-armed and equipped, and even British-manned, the Confederacy became sufficiently powerful at sea to force the United States to vastly increase its naval establishment. The Confederate cruisers were, little by little, blockaded in foreign ports, not daring to venture out to risk a sea fight, and the most celebrated of them all, the "Alabama," was sunk off Cherbourg in June, 1864, by the "Kearsarge," under Captain Winslow.



BATTLE OF GRAND COTEAU, LA., NOVEMBER 3, 1863.—FURIOUS ATTACK OF THE SIXTIETH INDIANA REGIMENT, COLONEL OWENS.
FROM A SKETCH BY C. E. H. BONWILL.