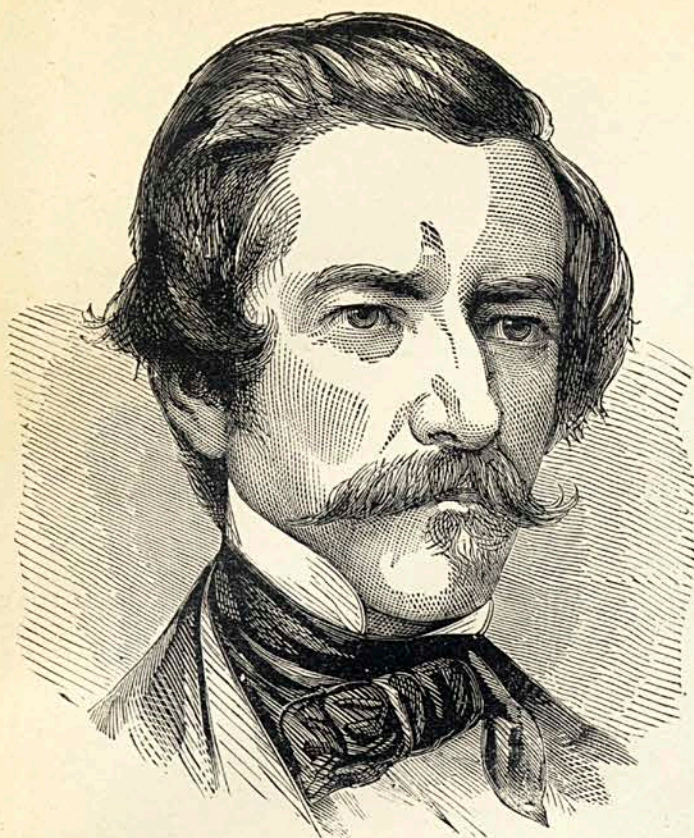




RAPHAEL SEMMES.

RAPHAEL SEMMES.

Raphael Semmes was born in Charles County, Md., September 27, 1809. He was appointed a midshipman in the United States navy in 1826, but did not enter upon active service till several years later, the intervening time being devoted to the study of law. In 1834 he was admitted to the bar, but deciding to remain a seaman he was commissioned lieutenant in 1837, and commander in 1855. During the Mexican war he served as a flag lieutenant in the squadron in the Gulf, and he was in charge of one of the naval batteries during the siege of Vera Cruz. In 1858 he became secretary of the Lighthouse Board in Washington, but when the Civil War began he resigned this office and reported to Jefferson Davis, by whom he was sent north again to procure mechanics skilled in the manufacture and use of

ordnance, and to purchase war material. Upon his return to the South he was placed in command of the Confederate steam privateer "Sumter," with which he captured 18 merchantmen. After the blockade of that ship at Tangiers by two United States men-of-war, he sold his vessel and returned to England. There he took command of the steamer "Alabama," which was built for him at Birkenhead, and set out on a new career of privateering, in which he captured 62 merchantmen, burning most of them at sea. On June 19, 1864, the "Alabama" was sunk in an engagement with the United States steamer "Kearsarge," off the harbor of Cherbourg, France, and Semmes was taken up by an English yacht and carried to England, where he was presented with a sword to replace the one cast into the sea from the deck of his sinking vessel.

Upon his return to the United States he was appointed rear-admiral of the James River squadron, and guarded the water approaches to Richmond until the evacuation of that city. In December, 1865, he was arrested and taken to Washington, but was imprisoned only four months. He died at Point Clear, Ala., August 30, 1877.

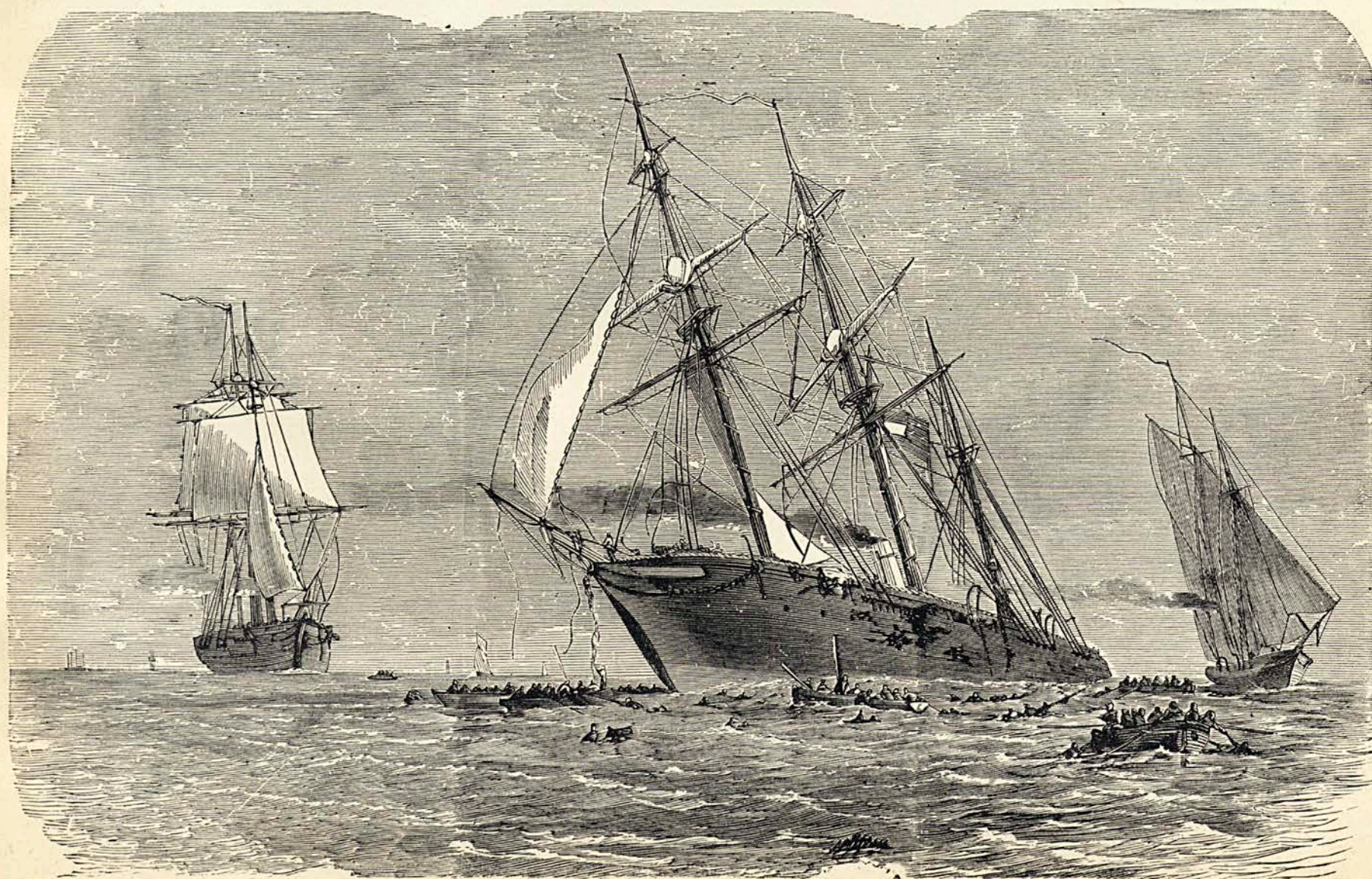
JOHN A. WINSLOW.

John Ancrum Winslow was born in Wilmington, N. C., November 19, 1811. In 1827 he entered the navy as a midshipman; in 1839 was promoted to lieutenant and served in the Mexican war. He was placed in command of the schooner "Union," which was lost on a reef off Vera Cruz in 1846. In 1855 he was commissioned commander, and in 1861 joined the Mississippi flotilla.



JOHN A. WINSLOW.

He was promoted to captain in 1862, and the following year was placed in command of the steamer "Kearsarge," sent in pursuit of the "Alabama," commanded by Captain Semmes. Captain Winslow found the "Alabama" in the harbor of Cherbourg, France, June 14, 1864. On Sunday, June 19, the "Alabama" steamed out to engage with the "Kearsarge," and in a sharp action lasting over an hour the sides of the "Alabama" were pierced by shells and she was found to be sinking. A white flag was then shown and Winslow stopped firing. The captain and officers of the "Alabama" were picked up by the English yacht "Deerhound" and carried to England. Captain Winslow received a vote of thanks from Congress, and was promoted to commodore. In March, 1870, he was promoted to rear-admiral. He died in Boston, Mass., September 29, 1873.



SINKING OF THE "ALABAMA" ("290") CAPTAIN SEMMES, AFTER AN HOUR'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE "KEARSARGE," CAPTAIN WINSLOW, OFF CHERBOURG, JUNE 19, 1864.