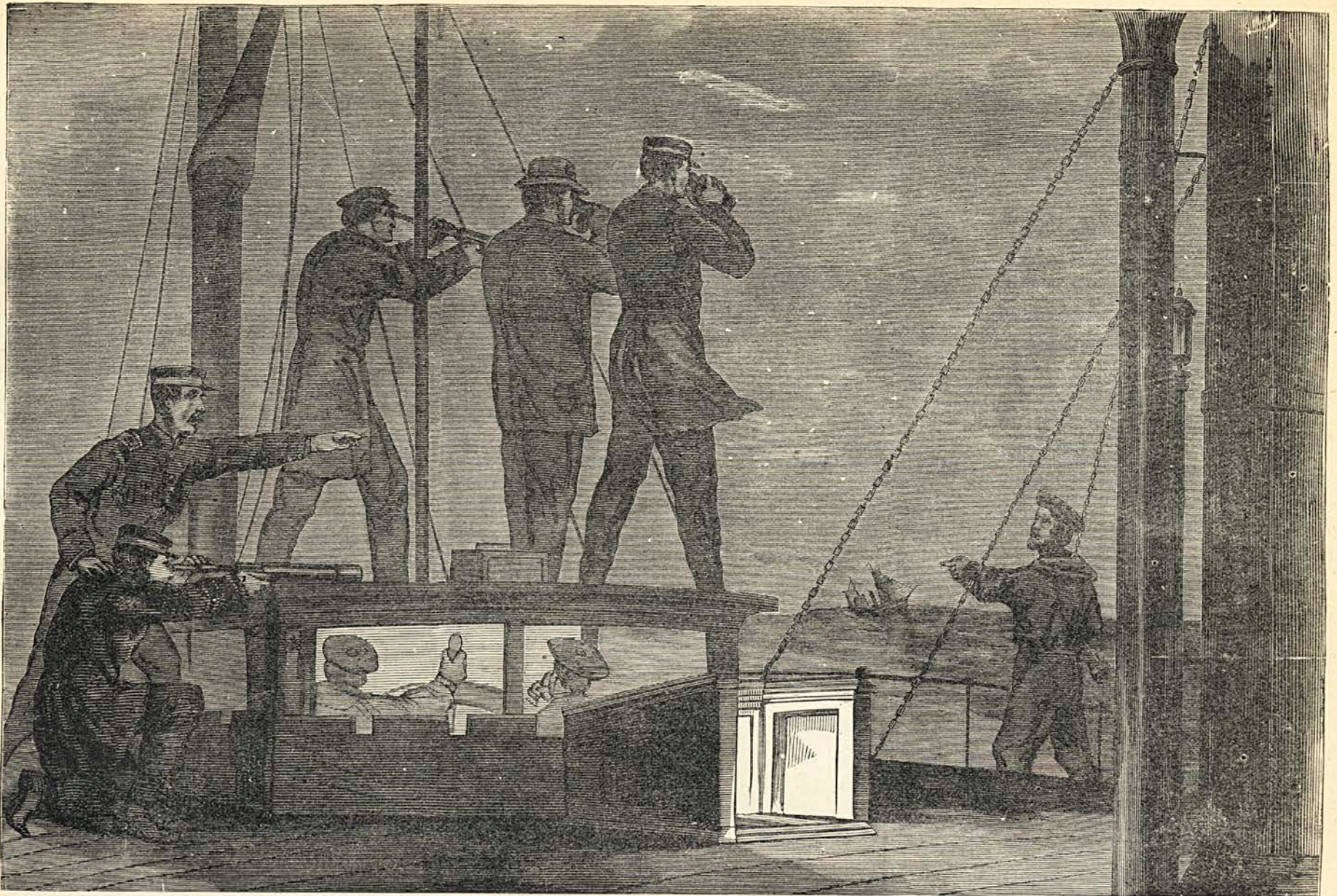




CHASING A BLOCKADE RUNNER.

MOBILE was the only Gulf port left open to the Confederates in the summer of 1864, and Farragut undertook to capture it. Blockade runners had kept the Confederacy going with European supplies, and the closing of every avenue to this traffic was an imperative condition of an early termination of the war. The city of Mobile lay some miles up from the Gulf, at the head of Mobile Bay, which was guarded by strong forts on either side of a narrow passage at its entrance, and by a fleet of gunboats and iron-clads. Against these Farragut advanced on August 5, with seven wooden vessels and four monitors. The ships and gunboats were lashed together, two and two, with the monitors in a line to the right of them toward the heaviest of the batteries, those of Fort Morgan. In the first pair of the fleet was the "Brooklyn," so placed because she had an apparatus for picking up torpedoes; the flag-ship "Hartford," with Farragut lashed to the rigging to overlook the smoke, following next. The monitor "Tecumseh," pushing ahead to engage the rebel iron-clads, was sunk by a torpedo; whereupon the "Brooklyn" slowed up and began to back off. But Farragut had not sailed at the age of twelve in the bloody cruises of old David Porter's "Essex," to mind a little thing like that; and saying "Damn the torpedoes!" he pushed the "Hartford" to the front and led the way, ordering the fleet to follow; while Captain Jouett's monitor "Metacomet," followed by the gunboats, scattered the rebel gunboats. But the rebel ram, "Tennessee," impervious to shot, continued the fight, though pluckily attacked by the wooden vessels, and did not yield until her mechanical apparatus was knocked all to pieces with the continuous ramming and heavy broadsides of the Federal fleet.

