That is to say, the lives of “the thousand human beings” were imperilled, and the Christian nation at home filled with a savage African joy over the account of the destruction of property and lives, and embroilment. In order to enable the two captains to achieve “dread and honor,” and make with success “the crowning effort of serious and arduous professional lives.”

What interests us most in this article, however, was the cause of the war which was to create “these hellish of destruction and death.” On turning to this, we were more than ever satisfied of the truth of Mr. Labouchere’s maxim, that “Saturated with blood, a man’s soul is his copy of the very best quality for all the newspapers in the country.”

Harper’s Monthly, we are sorry to say, which used to be, as well as the Weekly,” a journal of civilization,” has handed over its pages to one of these descriptions of imaginary sea fights by Lieut. Staunton of the navy, who tells us all about it under the heading of “A BattleShip in Action.” The article is profitably illustrated. There is the “challenge” to the enemy; a scene “in the depths of the ship”; “in the turret,” in the “secondary battery,” in the “coolpit”; there is an account of the enemy’s sails, and a “military top”; until finally the cunning, seeing the ram coming, strikes its colors. There are, too, the usual number of wounded and dead men lying about the decks, and all the other well-known horrors. Here is what happened at the height of the action.

“Sweeping on with majesty and power, the two battle-ships came abreast at 800 yards, and as the broadsides were fired, the ram crashed. The enemy’s sails, covering the decks, were cut into shreds, the masts were broken, and the ship was in great confusion. At 12,000 yards the two ships were abreast, and at 10,000 yards the enemy’s sails were broken. At 2,000 yards the enemy’s men were cut down, and the ship was in total confusion. At 1,000 yards the ram rammed the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 800 yards the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 500 yards the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 300 yards the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 100 yards the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 50 yards the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 25 yards the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 12 yards the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 6 yards the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 3 yards the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 1 yard the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together. At 0 yards the ram was in the enemy’s ship, and the two ships were together.”

This is all a very old story, very familiar to the world eighty years ago. The reason for reviving it now is that Lieut. Staunton unconsciously lets slip in the following paragraph.

“Yet each vessel ignored the other’s pres- ence, and at the moment when the enemy was felled was the moment which made the difference. The ram had effect of some serous and arduous professional lives, that legal long sought and long gone for which meant fame and honor, while failure meant reproach and bitter scorn; if not a broken and ruined career,”

There is a diplomatic correspondence about him. Did he carry his case before the courts of the country? Did the secretary of state show that our custom-house officers in such cases could handle foreign ships and crews in our ports? Not a bit of it.

“The captain of a United States cruiser sent an armed force on board the steamer, took two of the hands of the custom-house officers, and escorted her to sea before the harbor authority could realize what was happening. The vessel was taken and an engagement took place between the public vessels in which men were killed and wounded on both sides.”

Lieut. Staunton, the author of this contribution to the law of nations, has just gone to Honolulu as lieut. lieutenant to Admiral Walker. The magazine in which he publishes is as something very glorious for the education of the boys of the country, is one of the leading lights of periodical literature. The sort of which he is described as a legitimate cause of respectable war is simply a bit of buccaneering which would disgrace King Leobengula, if he practiced it on King Kama. Offering to follow it up with a “hell of destruction and death” would not improve it. It makes it worse. A man who presides his country to the world in such a rôle may be many good things, but he is certainly not a “good American.” A “good American” is not a man who allows people out of the water on small or no provocation; he is a man who is just and fears not.

LIBELLIOUS INTERVIEWING.

The committee of the Bar Association has reported against any change in the law of libel; but this is going too far. Some changes are necessary, but they are in the direction of greater stringency. For instance, nobody has proposed to take any action for the defamations of the reigns of bogus interviews. The interview has, during the past thirty years, become an important and useful feature of journalism. It enables in many cases the only man who really knows anything about some matter of public interest to tell about it in his own way; and the reporter, in putting questions to him, directs his attention to the points in which the public feels the most interest and on which it most needs information. Moreover, many a man will submit to an interview who will not write a letter. There is something a little flattering to one’s self-love in being sought after instead of volunteering. Even in writing a letter to the newswoman, the men are capable of forgetting their dignity to the point of saying truly: “I have seen such and such things in your paper.” The usual formula is, “My attention has been called to such and such things,” etc. That is, he, consciousness or unconsciously, likes to have it supposed that he does not see the paper, or only glances at it, owing to the