

**Memorial Day, 1898. “One decoration will do for both this year.” [Chicago] *Inter Ocean* [May 1898]**

republished in *Cartoons of the War of 1898 with Spain from Leading Foreign and American Papers* (Chicago: Belford, Middlebrook & Co., 1898)

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## THE TWELVE-INCH GUN

by JAMES BARNES. In James Barnes, ed., *Ships and Sailors: Being a collection of songs of the sea as sung by the men who sail it: with numerous illustrations in colour and black-and-white by Rufus F. Zogbaum*. Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1898

I'M the arbiter of national dispute,  
I'm a keeper of the peace when I am mute,  
Even tho' my voice be still  
The rulers feel my will —  
'T is a case of "No one moves, or I shall shoot!"  
I'm a pet whose flank is stroked by loving hands,  
I'm a traveller who has looked o'er many lands,  
I may call forth seas of tears,  
I may live a thousand years,  
I may sink and lie in peace down on the sands.

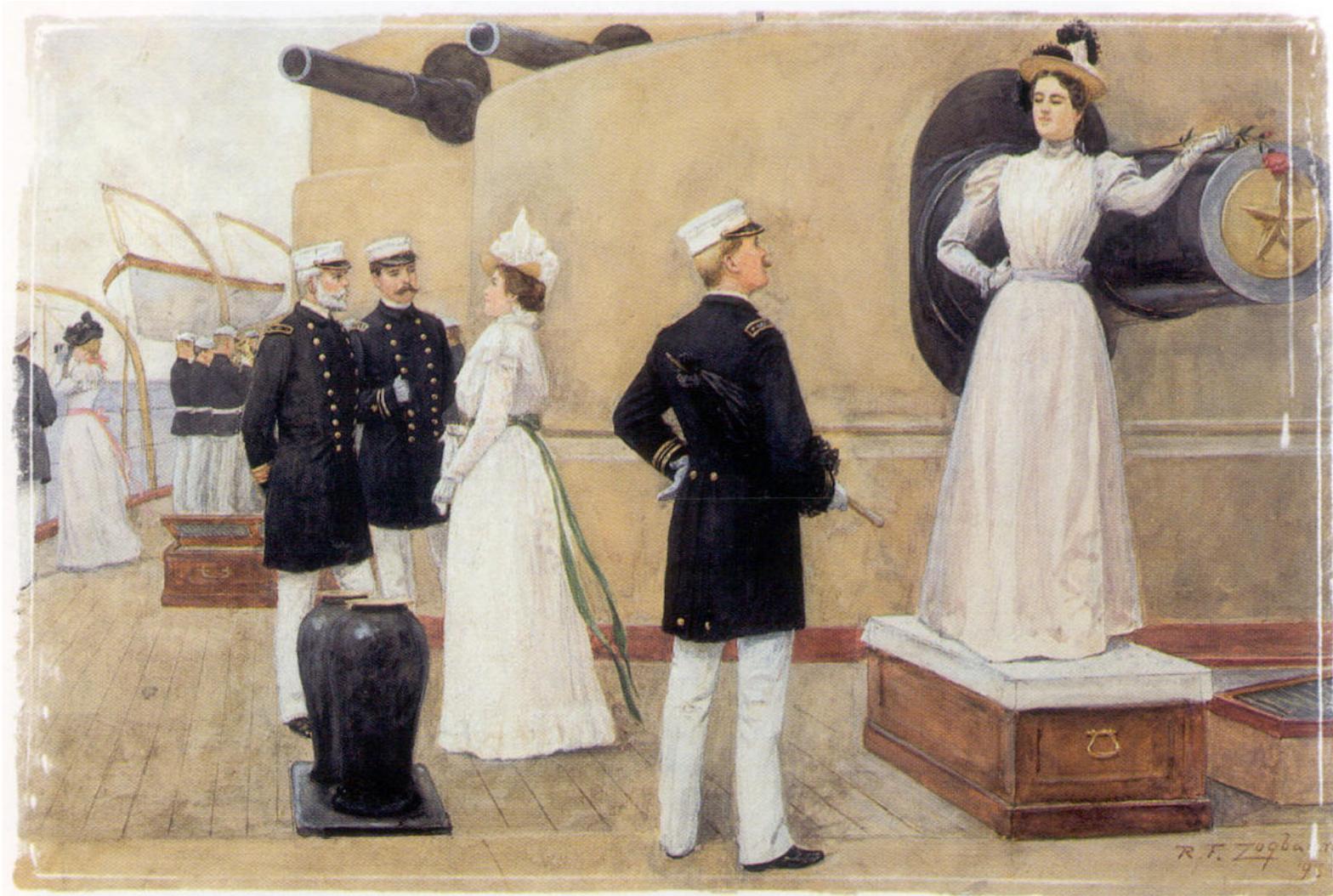
Then let me smile my homely, round-mouthed smile,  
Don't start the death that scatters mile on mile,  
Oh, my brothers, on the ships  
Bloodless let us keep our lips,  
Let our hearts be free from murder for awhile!  
But should our masters feel the thirst for blood —  
Should they choose to ope the gates unto the flood!  
I must speak at their desire,  
I must curse in death and fire  
At the pressure of a finger on a stud.



Rufus Zogbaum, *The Twelve-Inch Gun*  
Frontispiece of *Ships and Sailors*, 1898

Although brave may be the hearts that rule my might,  
And cool may be the eyes that are my sight,  
From armoured top to keel  
I shall make the vessel feel  
That anger flames to fury in a fight.  
I shall answer for the flag that floats astern;  
But when heated with the powder that I burn,  
Though I crave but to defend  
I may turn and crush and rend,  
And satisfy the wages that I earn!

I'm a potent force in making nations friends,  
I'm the servant of humanity — its ends  
Are mine to keep, but yet I might destroy,  
I'm a law unto the laws, although a toy,  
A delicate and dangerous great toy.  
You have builded me, and fangled me, and tried me,  
You have groomed and housed me well,  
As you fear the powers of hell  
Do not loose the like-to-kill that is inside me.



**Rufus F. Zogbaum (American, 1849-1925), *The Twelve-Inch Gun*, 1898**

Watercolor on board, 14½ x 22½ in. (36.8 x 56.6 cm). Frontispiece in James Barnes, ed., *Ships and Sailors: Being a collection of songs of the sea as sung by the men who sail it: with numerous illustrations in colour and black-and-white by Rufus F. Zogbaum*. Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1898.

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