

FRENCH GUNBOAT FOR COAST DEFENCE.

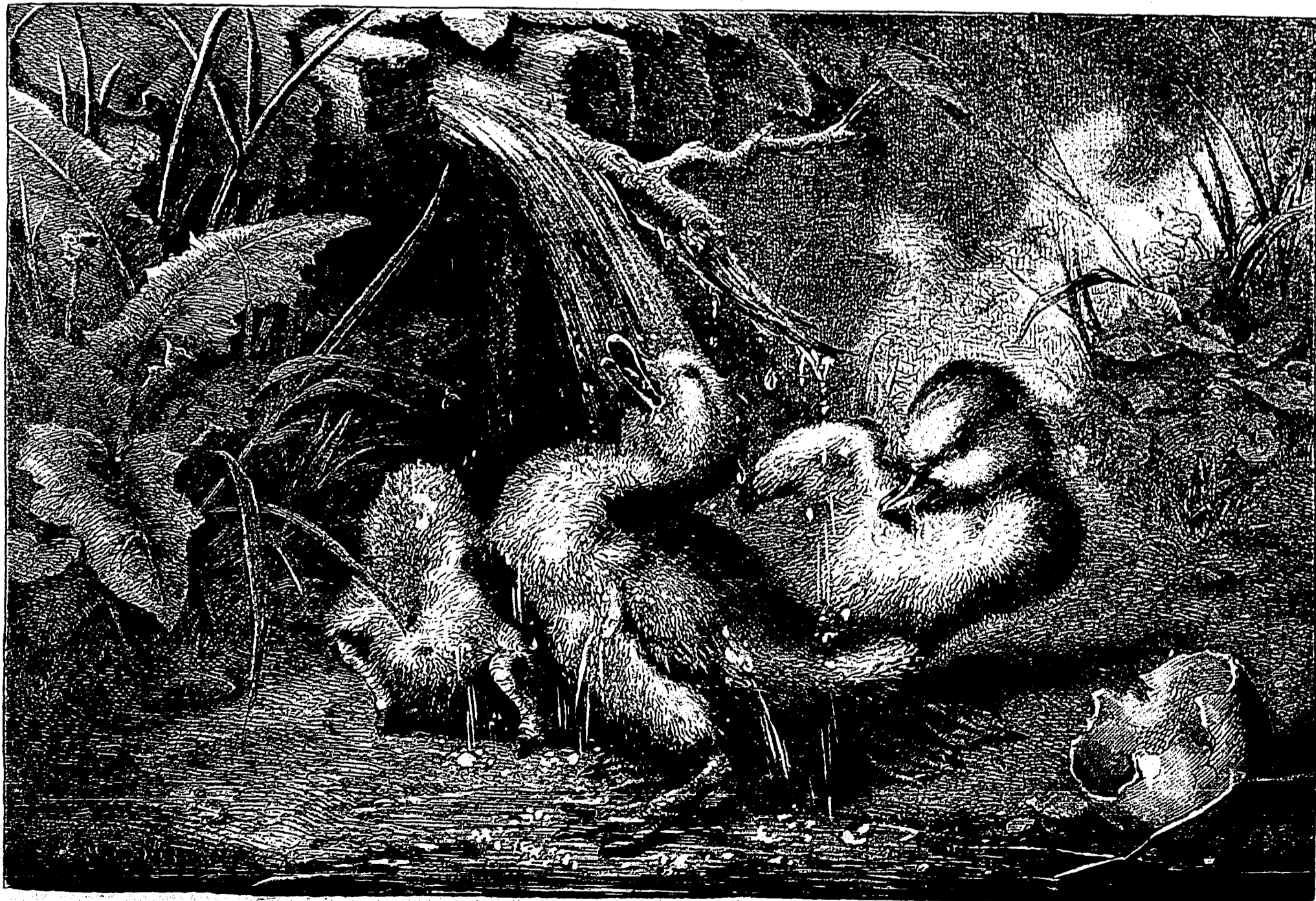
CONSTRUCTED FROM THE DESIGNS OF LIEUTENANT FARCY, BY MM. CLAPARÈDE, ENGINEERS, ST. DENIS.

The *London Engineering* says: We publish a drawing of a gunboat designed by Lieutenant Farcy, and constructed by MM. Claparède and Co., of St. Denis, for the French Navy. The length of this boat is 49 feet 2 inches, her breadth 15 feet 1 inch, the draught of water 3 feet 3 inches, and her displacement is equal to 44 tons. The boat is provided with engines of 5 horse power nominal, developing actually 40 horse power, and each engine drives an independent screw. With this power a speed of 6 knots an hour is attained, and the stability of the vessel is remarkable, since it permits to be placed upon a shell entirely empty, and weighing 10 tons, a gun of more than double the weight, and standing 9 13-16ths inches above the centre of gravity.

The armament of the boat consists of a rifled gun, 9 7-16ths inches diameter, mounted on a carriage with a special working arrangement by which the entire squad serving the gun is reduced to five men.

The sides of the gun, as well as her deck, are of thin iron plates, and these are strengthened by light ribs, especially under the carriage of the gun. A special system of construction has given to this arrangement great rigidity, which enables it to withstand the shocks of recoil from the heavy guns fired with 52.8 pounds of powder, while additional protection is obtained from the fact that the vessel is formed with a double skin. From repeated trials, the gunboat has fulfilled all the conditions for which she was built, and in the opinion

of the French Government represents a class amply sufficient for coast and river defence. In her trials she surpassed all that was expected of her, and has efficiently proved her qualities of stability, steadiness, and general sea-worthiness. Collectively, 35 rounds have been fired from her gun, of which 20 had a maximum charge of 52.8 lb.; and at present the boat appears to be accepted as the most efficient pattern yet introduced for the special service in the French Navy. Altogether the vessel may be compared with the gunboat "Staunch," recently built by Sir William Armstrong and Co., for H. M. service, but greatly superior in size, though not in armament, to that of Lieutenant Farcy.



THE FIRST SHOWER-BATH.—SEE PAGE 304.