Contributions.

The Herreshoff Launch.

In the last number of the Mechanical Engineer we notice an account of another victory for the Herreshoff boats. The English navy has, within the last few years, been providing itself with a species of swift, safe despatch or vedette boat. Private firms have competed with one another in furnishing boats which should meet the high requirements of the Admiralty. The Herreshoff Company, of Bristol, R. I., learning of the existing demand and the extent to which it was met, put in a proposal to furnish vedette boats superior in every respect to those which were then regarded as the perfection of English naval construction of that class.

In July last the Herreshoff Company sent over two boats, each forty-eight feet long, nine feet beam, and five feet depth. These were tried in competition with a boat of the same class and power, and of exactly the same size, built by John White, of Cowes, who, on account of the superiority of his boats, has enjoyed a monopoly in supplying the navy with vedette boats. After an exhaustive series of trials, the English judges pronounced unanimously in favor of the Herreshoff boats. They made fifteen and one eighth knots an hour against twelve and six tenths knots of White's boat.

Herreshoff's boats were lighter than White's, owing to the peculiar form of boiler and compound engine. The examiners pronounced enthusiastically in favor of the Herreshoff safety coil boilers as unexplodable, less liable to injury from shot, capable of raising steam more quickly, far lighter, and in all respects superior to White's, which was an ordinary tubular marine boiler. Herreshoff's boats were promptly accepted and two "navy pinnaces" ordered.

In October they were tried against White's pinnace, and beat it nine and one fourth to seven and one eighth knots. The pinnaces were of the same size: thirty-three feet long, eight feet ten inches beam, four feet one inch depth. The official report credits Herreshoff's thirty-three-foot pinnace with greater floatage capacity, more speed, and more available space than a thirty-eight-foot English pinnace.

The Herreshoff Company have an order for two pinnaces for the French navy, and it is expected that their boats will create more of a surprise in France than they did in England, for the French are behind the English in the speed of their launches.

Mr. Nathaniel G. Herreshoff, of the Herreshoff Company, was formerly a student at the Institute.

Annual Dinner of the A. A. M. I. T.

The third annual dinner of the A. A. M. I. T.,* which took place on Friday, the 30th, at Young's Hotel, proved very enjoyable, although we all felt keenly the absence of Mr. Ware's familiar face. If he was not with us in body, however, he was with us in mind; for he sent a very feeling letter and some excellent verses, which are subjoined.† The menu itself was ample and excellent. The menu cards, designed by some of our members, were the best we have had yet. The first page, bearing the announcement of the fact that the dinner was the third annual one of the association, together with the date and place of holding it, consisted of a scroll-work design with four little sketches of Boston, Paris, Assos, and New York, intended to call to mind the various architectural colonies in those places. Of the two inside pages, the left-hand contained the menu, and the right some verses from an old window in the Duke's Head Inn, at Yarmouth, together with a song of Mr. Ware's. The heading of the left-hand page was a very taking little scullery boy bearing a roasted turkey on a dish, and the whole framed in by the wire of an old hostelry bell; the bell itself, well over to the

---

* Architectural Association of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

† We telegraphed for Prof. Ware's permission to print these verses; but as we have received no answer, we judge he has not returned from the West as yet. We will print them as soon as we get his permission.