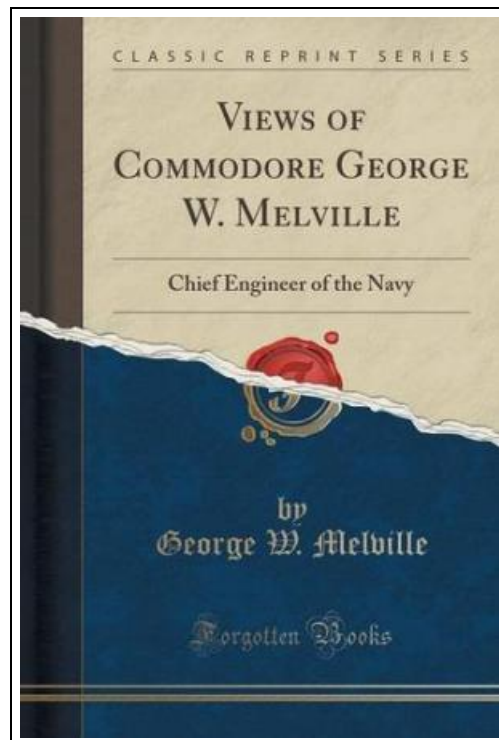


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from Views of Commodore George W. Melville: Chief Engineer of the Navy On the land rails of steel traversing valley, plain, and mountain make easy the path of the flying express and the fast freight, which together conquer time and distance in the binding into a homogeneous whole of the many States which form a Republic almost continental in extent; but the railroad is fixed, a permanent way, whose direction varies only with new constructions. The sea, on the contrary, gives a track-fluid, mobile, universal - which turns wherever swift prows may point, and on which massive hulls, much too huge for any form of land transit, may pass with ease from port to port. Moreover, when in 1805 - nine years after Washington wrote of America's distant situation - Nelson chased half around the world a French fleet nearly twice the force of his own, scared by the very terror of his name, his fierce ardor fretted itself to fury with his ships, which through a run of 7,000 miles of sea averaged but 93 miles a day, or less than 4 knots an hour. Salt beef and the French fleet are better than roast beef and champagne without it, said the great Admiral in beginning his stern chase. He found that fleet, and with it death; but in the finding, through those lagging months, while drifting or beating over those leagues of sea, he must have felt to the full the limits which stunted the sea power of his time. Steam has changed all this. Over the same western ocean which Nelson, bitterly impatient, crossed and recrossed so slowly in 1805, the...



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