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978-1-108-01842-5 - The Naval Chronicle, Volume 3

Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur

Frontmatter

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The *Naval Chronicle*, published in 40 volumes between 1799 and 1818, is a key source for British maritime and military history, and is also sought after by those researching family histories. Six instalments per year were produced (and often reprinted with corrections) by Bunney and Gold, later Joyce Gold, in London, and bound up into two volumes per year. Printed economically, on paper of varying weights and often with very small type, the extant copies have been heavily used over the course of two centuries, present significant conservation challenges, and are difficult to find outside major libraries.

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### Volume 3

Volume 3 (1800) contains biographies of heroes of recent significant battles, including a detailed biography of Lord Nelson and articles on Sir John Borlase Warren and Sir John Moore. Literature reviews and a historical review of shipbuilding are also included. Among the technical reports are discussions of prototype lifeboats, medical articles on yellow fever, and illustrated topographical descriptions of Falmouth harbour and the English Harbour in Antigua.

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# The Naval Chronicle

*Containing a General and Biographical  
History of the Royal Navy of the United  
Kingdom with a Variety of Original Papers on  
Nautical Subjects*

VOLUME 3: JANUARY-JULY 1800

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE  
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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# THE NAVAL CHRONICLE.

VOL.

III.



FROM JANUARY TO JULY.

M D C C C .

.....  
——— *tumida æquora placat,*  
*Collectasque fugat nubes, solemque reducit!*  
.....  
Kneid. Lib. 1. 148.

LONDON.

Printed by Bunney & Gold, Shoe Lane.

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TO  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
GEORGE JOHN EARL SPENCER, LL. D.  
PRIVY COUNSELLOR  
KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER  
AN ELDER BROTHER OF THE TRINITY HOUSE  
AND FIRST LORD COMMISSIONER OF THE ADMIRALTY  
OF GREAT BRITAIN,  
&c. &c. &c.

*This Work,*

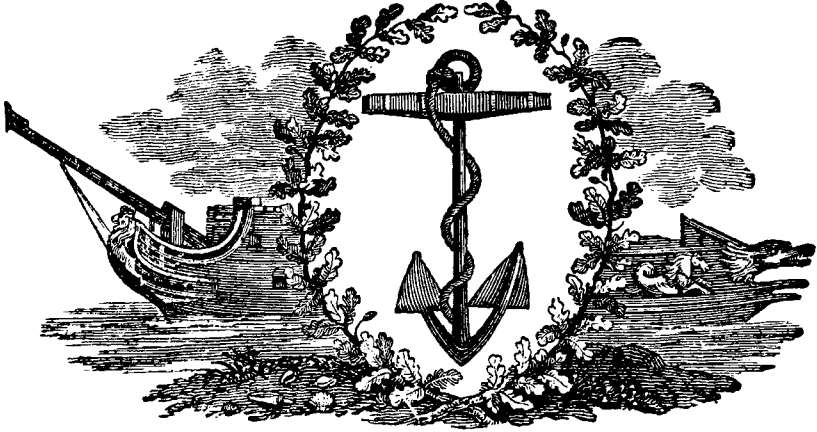
COMMENCED UNDER HIS AUSPICES,  
CONTINUES, BY HIS PERMISSION,  
TO BE INSCRIBED,  
WITH GRATEFUL RESPECT.

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## P R E F A C E

TO THE THIRD VOLUME.

ALL'S WELL ! exclaims the midnight sentinel who marks each succeeding Ship-Bell of the watch ; and the sound, repeated at intervals, proclaims the vigilance and precaution that is continued. Thus, in like manner, it again behoves us to declare that we have not slumbered at our post ; but continue to hail those who have hitherto embarked with us, and taken a part in the anxious fatigue of our labours.

To conduct a periodical work in such a manner as shall offend no one, and to scrutinize its multifarious contents with that attentive delicacy, that may prevent their injuring the professional reputation of any individual ; has often reminded us of the admirable fable of ÆSOP, in which the good-natured old man is at length obliged to destroy the object that caused such a complication of anxiety. Old Æolus, also,

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whom Virgil describes as seated on the cavern that contained his storms, struggling to escape, did not require a greater portion of patience, and prudent precaution \*, against the various attempts of his inflated subjects, than the Editor of a work, professing to record the biography of living officers; and in some measure endeavouring to abate that asperity which has often prevailed in the Navy, and thus injured the reputation of its brightest ornaments, by distorting, or withholding THE TRUTH.

The Third volume of the Naval Chronicle possesses an additional value in this respect, as we have given a more extensive limit to its Biographical Department. In our life of Rear-Admiral Payne, we brought forward some authentic anecdotes of an officer whose invariable modesty, and singleness of heart, had prevented his real character from being so generally known as it deserved: he who has spent his life in doing good to others, and who invariably has neglected his own interest, deserves to be placed on a due elevation, in this age of Egotism, and Grasping. Our memoir of the late Captain Brodie gave to the public all we could obtain from the first sources respecting that valuable officer. The life of the hero of the Nile was entirely composed from original materials; and must prove of essential service to the future historian of the present eventful period. The fame of the brave Captain Harvey would in some degree have been abated, or forgot amid the general blaze of Naval Glory,

\* As Sir Walter Raleigh used to say – “*he that follows Truth too close, will sometimes be struck at with her heels.*”



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## PREFACE.

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if the attention of our worthy correspondent had not enabled us to rescue his biography from that oblivion, into which it might have fallen, had it depended solely on the official letters of the day. A life of Sir John Borlase Warren was equally wanted with those of the gallant veterans, the Lords HOOD and BRIDPORT, to enable the public to form a correct idea of the most important events during the present war: our readers may rely on the correctness of what we have published respecting the Quiberon expedition, and the fate of the lamented SOMBREUIL. And here we must be allowed to add a few words; lest the Spleen or Envy of some future reader, on perusing our volumes, should accuse us of giving a too favourable account of the officers we have noticed in the progress of our work. The biographical memoirs, from the first, were intended to sooth the angry and calumniating spirit that had so generally prevailed, and often deeply wounded the character of the BRITISH NAVY. If we have contemplated the Corinthian pillars of this Sublime Object with too great veneration; the fault, if it really is one, cannot be reprehended: we have throughout anxiously strove, that the voice of eulogy should be the voice of truth. Characters, indeed, might have been selected, that required a different mode of consideration; but neither our inclination, nor the professed principle of the work, would allow us to toil through the regions of darkness, whilst we “admired the dawn of the morning, and the light of the sun.”

When that indefatigable and learned biographer, the late Dr. Kippis, was accused by Sir Horace

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## PREFACE.

Walpole of having made the *Biographia Britannica* an apology for every one; the former replied, that the life of Sir Robert Walpole should prove it was not \*. As the inimitable Sterne observed, “when a sacrifice is resolved on, it is easy to gather sticks from any thicket to make the fire.” Neither the object, nor principle of the *NAVAL CHRONICLE* ever professed such a design.

The preface of a work, whether periodical or not, though placed at the beginning of the volume, is generally the last that is written: we wish, therefore, that the concluding sentence of the third volume of the *Naval Chronicle*, written in Portsmouth Harbour, with *THE SPENCER* lying at her moorings in all her beauty before us, may express an earnest wish, *THAT A SHIP THUS NAMED, AND THUS COMMANDED †, MAY PROVE INVINCIBLE:*

*Nil desperandum, Teucro duce et auspice Teucro.*

*On board H. M. S. BRAAKHEL,  
Portsmouth Harbour, June 23, 1800.*

\* *Walpoliana*, vol. i. page 73.

† Captain Darby.



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## ADDENDA.

The **ARETHUSA**, **SERAPIS**, and **TRUSTY**, were built at Bristol, not Liverpool.

We are sorry that our *Cornish Correspondent*, in the *Sans Pareil*, should be displeas'd with our conclusion of the Biographical Memoir of the Right Hon. Lord Hugh Seymour ; but trust, if he again peruses the passage with attention, he will find no cause for censure. The lines objected to were addressed by an old Courtier to his intimate friend—one whom he highly respected.

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Communications for this Work, with any corrections or additions to articles already published, are desired to be sent, post paid, directed to Messrs. **BUNNEY and GOLD**, *Shoe Lane*, London.

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