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978-1-108-01844-9 - The Naval Chronicle, Volume 5

Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur

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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 5: JANUARY-JULY 1801

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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THE NAVAL CHRONICLE.

VOL.

V.



FROM JANUARY TO JULY.

M D C C C I.

————— *tumida æquora placat,
Collectasque fugat nubes, solemque reducit!* *Æneid Lib. 1. 146.*

LONDON.

Printed by Bunney & Gold Shoe Lane.

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TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
GEORGE JOHN EARL SPENCER,
VISCOUNT ALTHORPE,
MEMBER OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE
PRIVY COUNCIL
KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER
AN ELDER BROTHER OF THE TRINITY HOUSE
&c. &c. &c.

This Work,
COMMENCED UNDER HIS AUSPICES,
CONTINUES, BY HIS PERMISSION,
TO BE INSCRIBED,
WITH THE MOST GRATEFUL RESPECT.

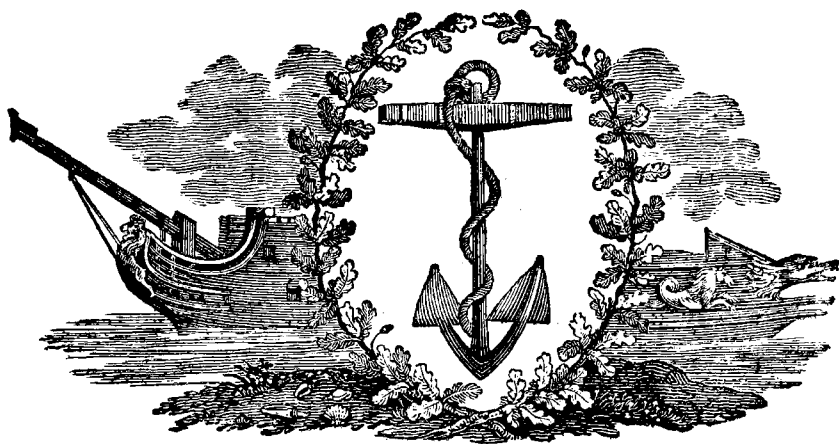
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P R E F A C E

TO THE FIFTH VOLUME.

THE truth of that very trite remark which we have before quoted, “the Preface, though actually preceding the book itself, is almost without exception the part last written,” is from necessity far more conspicuous in every periodical publication than it is in one of any other description. It serves as a brief concise index to the whole, and certainly saves the impatient reader, who is content with slightly skimming the surface of Literature, no inconsiderable portion of trouble.

All Authors must be supposed to have one of two objects in view whenever they are hardy enough to submit their labours to the fiery ordeal of public criticism: the self-satisfaction of affording either information or amusement; a miscellaneous collection of papers, notwithstanding the

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subject of them is confined to one particular science or art, stands peculiarly well adapted to afford both, and the general judgment with regard to the propriety or futility of the selection will tend to increase the vanity or mortify the pride of the Editor and his Correspondents.

With respect to the latter, their liberal and ingenious contributions speak fully for themselves. The former bends with submission, and with no inconsiderable degree of anxiety, before that tribunal whose praise forms the pinnacle of literary gratification. Against the choice or selection of the noble and illustrious persons whose memoirs will be found in this volume, it is presumed with confidence, that no objection whatever will even be whispered, and it is with scarcely less presumption, that the truth, as to the profession of studied impartiality and want of flattery, will be readily admitted. Characters like theirs, whose merits will be found too feebly recorded, defy censure, and would be offended at praise; the labour and merit of the Biographer rest merely in the collection of materials, and he has only to lament if in any instance they have fallen so far beneath his own wishes as to prevent him from doing that ample justice to the valuable services and characters of those men, whom even their foes must respect and venerate.

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Among the Philosophical Papers will be found some not only peculiarly interesting, instructive, and amusing, but several which may certainly serve for the basis of investigations or improvements, and seem to promise the greatest advantage even in a national point of view. Among the most conspicuous of these are the excellent treatises on Naval Signals and Telegraphs, and the proposals made by the late Mr. SNODGRASS for the improvement of the British Navy. These are selected not with the slightest invidious intention of depressing the high merit of one ingenious man at the expence of another, but merely because the objects of those just pointed out seem to stand somewhat higher than their companions as public desiderata. On the inferior points of selection it is scarcely necessary to enlarge; the Proprietors trusting there has been no diminution or relaxation from that attention which their friends have on former occasions done them the honour to applaud.

The lighter parts of the work, such as the Poetry and Anecdotes, selected merely for amusement, will prove, as the Proprietors have the vanity to hope, sufficiently productive of the avowed end for which they have been inserted, the greater part of them are original, and such as have previously appeared in print, are certainly a lawful prize to the literary

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caterer, under the sanction of the well known and applicable motto to all miscellaneous collections and publications “*Sparsa Coegimus.*” In respect to the Register of Events the most prominent and interesting occurrences have been collected, and the Proprietors trust that the animadversions or remarks made on them will be admitted as candid and liberal, even by those foes to Britain and her welfare, whose impotence has been pointed out, and whose conduct has been the subject of reprehension.

Conscious of the rectitude of their own intentions, however the execution of them may fall short of their own wishes, the Editor and Proprietors hope still to maintain the same station in the opinion of their friends, which the success they have hitherto experienced has rendered them credulous and vain enough to believe they possess.

London,
June 30, 1801.

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