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978-1-108-01851-7 - The Naval Chronicle, Volume 12

Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur

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Volume 12

Volume 12 (1805) contains the Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Commissioners of Naval Inquiry. Following Napoleon's coronation as Emperor in 1804 fears of a French invasion increased. Historical and literary reviews in this volume are reduced in favour of extensive intelligence reports from the Mediterranean, Britain and France. Biographies of Sir Isaac Coffin and George Cranfield Berkeley are also included.

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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 12: JULY-DECEMBER 1804

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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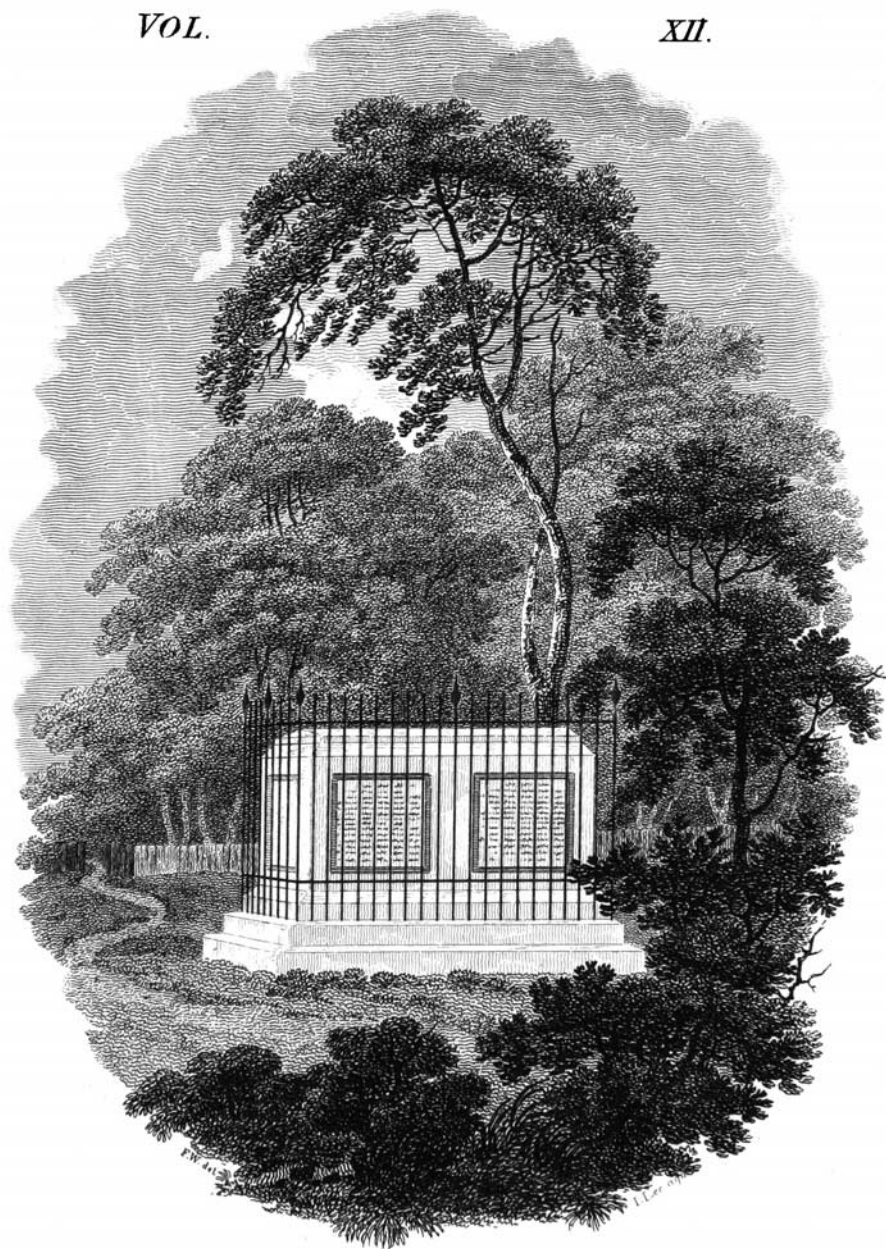
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*The Tomb of Sir Andrew Snape Douglas Kn.^t in Fulham
Church Yard.*

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THE
Naval Chronicle,
 FOR 1805:
 CONTAINING A
GENERAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY
 OF
THE ROYAL NAVY
 OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM;
 WITH A
VARIETY OF ORIGINAL PAPERS
 ON
NAUTICAL SUBJECTS:
 UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF SEVERAL
LITERARY AND PROFESSIONAL MEN.

VOLUME THE TWELFTH.

(FROM JULY TO DECEMBER.)

In Native Vigour bold, by Freedom led,
 No path of Honour have they fail'd to tread;
 But whilst they wisely plan, and bravely dare,
 Their own Achievements are their latest care.

HAYLEY.

London :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY I. GOLD, SHOE-LANE.

And sold by Messrs. LONGMAN, HURST, REES, and ORME, Mr. SYMONDS, and Mr. WALKER, Paternoster Row; Mr. WHITE, Fleet-street; Messrs. VERNOR and HOOD, Poultry; Mr. ASPERNE, and Messrs. RICHARDSON, Cornhill; Messrs. A. & J. BLACKS and H. PARRY, Leadenhall-street; Messrs. CROSBY and Co., Stationers' Hall Court; Mr. OSTELI, and Mr. LAW, Avemaria-lane; Mr. MOTTLEY, Portsmouth; Mr. HAYDON, Plymouth; Messrs. NORTON and SON, Bristol; Messrs. MANNERS and MILLER, Mr. CREECH, and Mr. CONSTABLE, Edinburgh; Mr. ARCHER, Dublin; and the principal Booksellers in the different Seaport Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

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TO
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
WILLIAM HENRY
DUKE OF CLARENCE,
THIS TWELFTH VOLUME OF THE
Naval Chronicle
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY THE EDITORS.

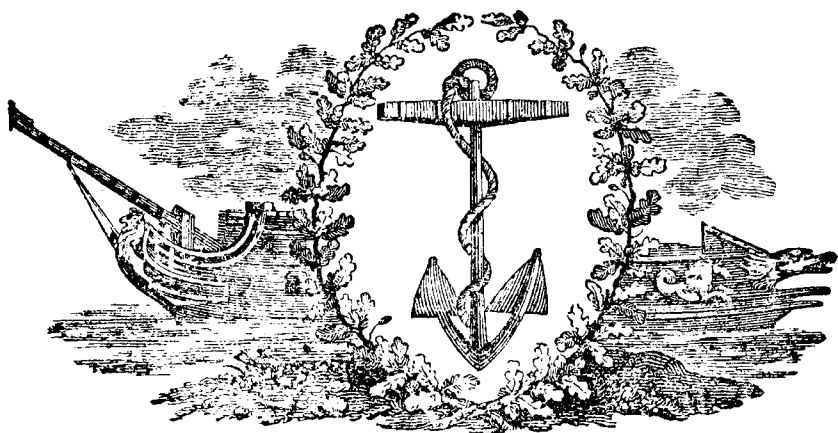
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P R E F A C E

TO THE TWELFTH VOLUME.

OUR posliminious Preface to the present Volume, must in the first place express our thanks for that increase of Patronage we receive; and also for the Communications, and Hints, which have arrived from different Correspondents, who thus impart an addition of interest, and of importance, to the NAVAL CHRONICLE.

We have seldom witnessed a period when such a variety of Naval Events has swelled the annals of every month, as that which the present Volume comprises; and it has been with the utmost difficulty, that we could discharge our duty in this respect, without entirely devoting the greater part of each

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Number to chronicle facts, which otherwise would soon be lost amidst the enterprise and energy that prevails.

Notwithstanding all our diligence, and the good *Look-out* we uniformly preserve, we find that some facts occasionally drift by us, and are carried away by the current. Such was the case with the interesting letter of Lieut. Hardinge to his Uncle, dated April 1804, which appears first in this Volume in the current Naval History of the Year. We request our Readers to assist us in this respect; and shall consider it as a favour, if they would forward to our Publisher, Mr. GOLD, whatever in the redundant columns of the Public Prints may have escaped our notice, or not been deemed by us sufficiently worthy of preservation.

We are glad that so many of our Readers, particularly those who are not employed on the Home Stations, approve of our printing any late intelligence of importance, on the second page of the Wrapper: whence it is afterwards incorporated with the body of the Work. By this means we are enabled to insert Gazette Letters, and communications from our Friends, to the moment previous to publication.

The most painful part of our labours in this Volume, has been the task of recording so many distressful Shipwrecks. The first Court Martial in the succeeding pages, was held on the loss of the *Apollo*; and

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since that event, to the dreadful scene we have narrated in Torbay, what an alarming portion of our Wooden Walls has been destroyed ! No blame can be imputed to their Commanders ; but why the Western Squadron at so late a season of the year, should resort to Torbay, must perhaps be answered, by the peculiar emergency of the times. We fear only, that the persevering and gallant Cornwallis will injure his own health, as well as his Fleet. The Station, indeed, is most desirable to any Commander who is driven from off Brest ; but unless Government will expend the comparatively trifling sum of money, that would render Torbay a secure Harbour, the truth of the old Axiom will be often exemplified by those who enter it during the winter months :

“ Incidit in Scyllam, qui vult evitare Charybdim.”

The Biography of the present Volume has not been deficient in either interest or variety. Sometimes we can only give an Outline or an unfinished Sketch, which we leave to our Correspondents, and future Biographical Memoirs, to complete. A periodical Work, like the Tide, will stay for no man : we are therefore obliged to *shove off* when our monthly Freight is ready. The Life of Commissioner Coffin might furnish further particulars elucidating the Naval History, could they be procured ;—as well as those of Sir Peter Parker, and Sir Richard King ;

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and in many instances these subsequent additions have been, and will again be, supplied. The Life of Lieutenant Hunter in our next Volume will throw additional light on the character, not only of Admiral Coffin, but of the late Admiral Peyton, and other Officers. We however particularly wish that our Friends would assist us with further particulars of such Officers as appear in our Biography. This department of the Work has given great satisfaction on the Continent, particularly in Russia and the East Indies: any communications towards its improvement will therefore be thankfully received. The Memoir of Commodore Dance is written by a gentleman who had not previously honoured our CHRONICLE by his exertions.

Amidst the Communications we have received on other subjects, and which appear in this Volume, our thanks are principally due, among others, for the “Sketch of the Maritime Progress of the Russians,” signed N. (page 18.)—The two letters signed B. A., (page 117,) respecting “An Attempt in 1741 to discover a North West Passage to China.”—The “Remarks given in to Lord Melville by Capt R. Willis,” signed C. (page 122).--“Further particulars of the late Capt. Martin Neville,” (page 187,) signed G. T.—Communications of Mr. James Mitchell, (page 193,) respecting his “Patent for manufacturing Cables, Hawser, and other Cor-

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dage."—The excellent Ballad, *Duke William's Ramble*, (page 228,) signed *Amor*, which we had in vain so long sought for, from the time we inserted the original anecdote in our second Volume (page 307).—The "interesting Letter from Lieutenant Spearing of Greenwich Hospital," (page 281).—An account of "Captain Goodall's Escape from France," (page 286,) signed R.T.—the Letter (at page 290,) signed J.M.—That from Mr. George Matthews, (same page,) containing "Hints for improving our Navy."—With a translation of "The French Account of the Capture of the Corvette *le Curieux*," (page 380). The limits of this Preface will not allow us to add more than our thanks to G. T. for his four Drawings, and to an acquaintance of the late Admiral Sir C. Knowles, for his "Correspondence on Ship Building," which shall appear as soon as the press of other articles will allow.

The introduction of PORTRAITS has given our Chronicle an additional value: in this Volume we have inserted one, by an artist of considerable celebrity, J. Fitler, R.A.S., Marine Engraver to his Majesty. We could have wished, indeed, with many of our Readers, that this Print had not been so slight; but can only affirm, no expense was spared, since the Plate on the whole amounted to twenty guineas. The Frontispiece is done by Mr. Lee, the same gentleman who engraved the last, and who was recommended to us by Mr. Landseer. It is taken from an

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original Drawing made on the spot, by our ingenious Friend F. W. The HEAD PIECE to the Volume represents three different Vessels, from an hasty Sketch with a pen by Mr. Pocock, for the late Mr. Fry of Bristol, who was accustomed to prefix them to Ship Advertisements in the Bristol Paper: they were sent us by one of Mr. Fry's Sons, and we trust Mr. Pocock, who still continues to render our work the most essential service, will not be offended, by our wish to preserve even this relic; the wood Engraving has not done the Drawing the justice which it merited: but this neglect will be prevented in our future Volumes. We have received some beautiful Drawings from Mr. Pocock, and have to apologize to our Readers, that none are inserted in the present Volume. A more full description of Mr. Samuel Daniell's View of the Cape of Good Hope would have appeared, had that gentleman sent it us in time: the objects in the Fore-ground consist of a dead whale and some pieces of Ice.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of the gentleman who furnished us in this, and the preceding Volume, with an HISTORICAL LIST OF THE ROYAL NAVY, we have not been able to complete that List as we intended; it will however be shortly continued: and our Readers may then bind up the remaining numbers of that Appendix, either in the present or in the subsequent Volume.

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The ensuing Year promises, on many accounts, to be eventful, and decisive. The British Lion, who so long has remained quiet, and been only watching for his prey, is at length upon his feet, exerting his utmost energy to free Europe from the ravages of the Beasts of Prey. An Expedition, whose original destination is wisely kept a profound secret, is on the eve of taking place: and if we may judge from the truly formidable and unusual manner in which the preparations for it are carried on, the Country will have reason to be satisfied with the event. The Usurper NAPOLEON has reached the summit of his ambition; but he seems to feel his Imperial Crown as uneasy as his predecessor MACBETH. The threatened Invasion of ENGLAND will probably end in its ultimate security and prosperity; and as in that case we shall in some measure owe these blessings to the wily Corsican, we would suggest the following, as a proper Motto to his Diadem; a translation of it occurs in a SACRED BOOK, which his obsequious Slave the POPE seems to have forgotten:

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

BELSHAZZAR, the King, says DANIEL, made a great Feast; and in the same hour came forth the fingers of a man's hand, and wrote the above words upon the wall of the King's Palace.

PLATES IN VOLUME XII.
From Original Designs.

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	HEAD PIECE to Vol. XII, engraved on Wood, represents three different Vessels, and is taken from a hasty Sketch made with a Pen by Mr. Pocock, in the Year 1770, for the late Mr. FRY, who prefixed them to Ship Advertisements in the Bristol Paper. It was sent to the Publisher of the NAVAL CHRONICLE by one of Mr. FRY's Sons 1
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Engraved by Ridley from an Original Miniature.

SIR ISAAC COFFIN BAR^T
Rear Admiral of the White Squadron



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