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978-1-108-01854-8 - The Naval Chronicle, Volume 15

Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur

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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 15

Volume 15 (1806) contains addenda to the biography of Lord Nelson published in Volume 14, including an account of his last months and details of his funeral. Biographies of William Dannett and Cuthbert, Lord Collingwood are included, together with the sixth Report of the Commissioners of Naval Inquiry and maps and descriptions of the Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and St Lucia.

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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 15: JANUARY-JUNE 1806

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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NAVAL CHRONICLE.



Funeral Carr

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THE

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OF

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OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM;

WITH A

VARIETY OF ORIGINAL PAPERS

ON

NAUTICAL SUBJECTS:

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF SEVERAL

LITERARY AND PROFESSIONAL MEN.

VOLUME THE FIFTEENTH.

(FROM JANUARY TO JUNE.)

“ENGLAND EXPECTS EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY.”

NELSON AND BRONTE.

London :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JOYCE 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, HOOD, and SHARPE, Poultry; Mr. ASPERNE, and Messrs. RICHARDSON, Cornhill; Messrs. A. & J. BLACKS and H. PARRY, Leadenhall-street; Messrs. CROSBY and Co., Stationers' Hall Court; Mr. OSTELL, and Mr. LAW, Avemaria-lane; Mr. MOTTLEY, Portsmouth; Mr. HAYDON, Plymouth; Messrs. NORTON and SON, Bristol; Mr. ROBINSON, and Mr. JONES, Liverpool; 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.

MDCCCVI.

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TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
CUTHBERT LORD COLLINGWOOD,
VICE-ADMIRAL OF THE RED,
THIS FIFTEENTH VOLUME OF THE
Naval Chronicle
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY THE EDITORS.

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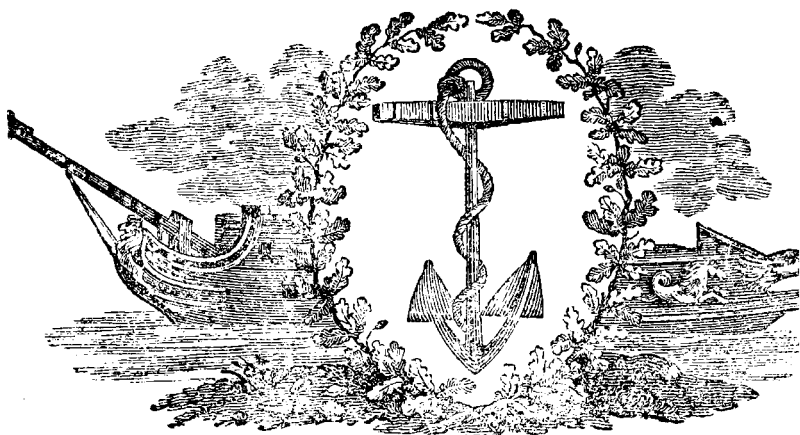
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P R E F A C E

TO THE FIFTEENTH VOLUME.

DURING the progress of the present Volume a new Ministry has been established, and a new Board of Admiralty appointed by His Majesty. The veteran Lord Barham, and the veteran Cornwallis, and the veteran Sir A. S. Hammond, have retired. Whilst the Minister, who so long guided the destinies of this country, and weathered some of the most violent storms that ever agitated the political hemisphere, has followed his favourite Hero, our lamented Nelson, to the tomb.

Attached to no party, and wedded to no system; we yet, in common with the rest of our independent countrymen, dread those sudden and continual changes, which, like the uncertain temperature of our climate, render the minds of men feverish and irritable: they are always followed by storms of thunder, and of lightning. The angry spirit of party that had subsided, or been repressed, blazes forth anew; and the modest unassuming exertions of some of the ablest servants of the public, are sunk in an ungrateful oblivion.

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PREFACE.

The present Government,* and the present Board of Admiralty, present an assemblage of talent, and of integrity, from which every thing may be expected: and we sincerely trust, that the impetuosity, and too decided character of a few individuals, will be chastened and overcome, by the candour and mild deportment of some of the leading members in the present administration.

In detailing the services, and describing the character and opinions of such members of this administration, as are connected with the great object which this CHRONICLE has in view, our readers will sometimes find, that we insert the sentiments both of friends and of enemies:

Fas est, et ab Hoste doceri!

Yet even this, we trust, will be done in a manner that is consistent with candour and impartiality; and will never deviate from our earliest profession, "That the leading objects in this publication, are to do good, and to give pain to no one*."

To some persons our pages have on the contrary given offence, for what they term an uniform sacrifice of praise, and of undue commendation, to officers who did not merit it. To this we must reply: that every man has two characters; and surely his biographer may be allowed to select the most favourable: besides, our great object has been, and ever will be, to collect facts, and authentic dates, to supply the hitherto meagre and incorrect page of our naval history. Some of our memoirs, and perhaps the most valuable, are obtained from the relations of the officers concerned; when partiality, and a laudable affection, will have a natural effect on the writer. Yet at the same time that we acknowledge this, we trust we do not deserve to be classed with the herd of flatterers; or to be suspected of any intention to palliate imperfections. Like the portrait painter, if we sometimes

* See Preface to our first Volume.

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heighten the expression, and soften the lineaments, we trust the outline is always, or at least in general, correct.

The present Volume, among other biographical memoirs, has given the lives of the late gallant Captain George Duff; of Admiral Lord Collingwood; and of Rear-Admiral the Earl of Northesk, from the first and most undoubted sources of information: yet even these, perhaps, will after all vary in point of merit; and the fastidious critic will discover, that the introduction to Lord Collingwood's is too long; the extracts from poor Duff's letters too minute; and that many things might have been added, that would impart additional interest to our account of the services of the Earl of Northesk. Remember, gentle Reader, the fable of the Man and his Ass. Like all other periodical works, the *NAVAL CHRONICLE* is not without its faults. But as long as we are open to conviction, and give that information to the British Navy, and the public at large, which they could not otherwise obtain; we trust we merit our meed of praise, and that the labourer is worthy of his hire.

Amongst the various nautical papers which are inserted in this Volume, the following will be found particularly worthy of attention:—

“Letter from a Poor Post Captain,” (page 195.)—On the “Printing of Scientific Tracts relative to Navigation,” (page 196.)—“Remarks on some of the recent proceedings of the American Senate, relative to the impressing of seamen, and the non-importation of British commodities,” (page 307.)—“Narrative of the proceedings on board the armed lugger *Aristocrat*, commanded by Captain Wilkins, July 15, 1795,” (page 310.) Surely what has been so confidently asserted, respecting the fate of Captain Wright, (page 190,) demands more consideration and notice than it has hitherto received.—Our Addenda to the first, and previous memoir of the lamented Nelson, which closed, (pages 222—235,) has, we trust, comprehended every circumstance that could at the time be collected respecting that extraordinary man; and to complete the whole, we have subjoined, as a frontispiece, a faithful representation of the Car which conveyed his

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remains to St. Paul's.—Our account of the Rules and Orders observed at the Royal Academy at Portsmouth; (page 401,) may perhaps render that noble Institution more generally known.—The various private letters we have inserted, will throw additional light and interest on the different actions that have reflected so much honour on our Navy: particularly these at page 118, from Mr. Aikenhead; from Captain Lee, relative to the attack on the Rattlesnake in 1799, (page 119.)—Defence of the Diamond Rock, (page 123.)—Letter written by an officer of the Bellerophon, December 2, 1805, (page 203.)—From the Ramillies, one of Sir J. B. Warren's squadron, (page 407.)—From a Midshipman on board the Marengo, (page 413.)—And from Mr. Horseburgh, of Walworth, for his communication relating to the loss we have sustained in the China Sea, owing to shipwrecks, and the treachery of the Malays.—We have also given at considerable length (page 477) an account of Lord Melville's Trial, which we thought it our duty to lay before our readers, and have no doubt it will prove interesting, particularly to such as reside abroad.

The arrival of Earl St. Vincent in London will probably make a change in the present administration, particularly if Lord Howick is already tired of his situation. Report says, that the Admiral has purposely been sent for. Rumours of an approaching peace are daily gaining ground: perhaps Buonaparté is mindful of part of the advice which Louis XIV gave, when dying, to his successor:—

“ You are soon going to be King over a great Kingdom: what I most earnestly recommend to you is, never to forget the obligations you have to God; remember, that it is to him you owe every thing. *Endeavour to preserve peace with your neighbours: I have been too fond of war: imitate me not in that, no more than in my too great expenses.* Take advice in all things; and endeavour to distinguish the best, that you may always follow it. Relieve your people as much as you can, and do what I have had the misfortune not to be able to do myself.”

We cannot conclude our Preface without returning our best thanks to the various Correspondents that have favoured us with their communications; as also to our friends Mr. John Theophilus Lee, and Amor, for the Drawings which they forwarded to us.

All communications intended for insertion in the NAVAL CHRONICLE are requested to be sent to Mr. GOLD, 103, Shoe Lane, London.

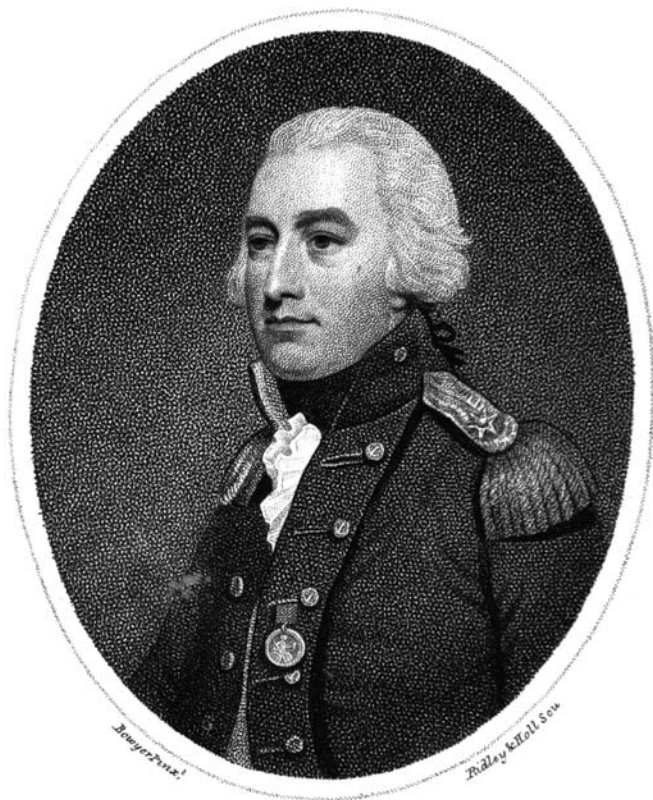
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WILLIAM



DOMETT ESQ^R

Rear Admiral of the White Squadron

Pub^d by J Gold 105 Shoe Lane Jan^y 31st 1806