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978-1-108-01858-6 - The Naval Chronicle, Volume 19

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 19**

Volume 19 (1808) contains reports of the capture of Madeira and of Danish possessions in the West Indies. Napoleon's removal of the Spanish royal family gave hope that Spain would become a British ally. Other items include a report on the successful trials of the first commercial steamboat in New York, advice on learning how to swim, and excerpts from poems by Sir Walter Scott.

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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 19: JANUARY-JUNE 1808

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE  
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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VOL.

XIX.



*Baker R.A.*

*Published June 30<sup>th</sup> 1858, by Joyce Gold 205, Shoe Lane, Fleet Street.*

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 FOR 1808:  
 CONTAINING A  
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 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.*

VOL. XIX.

(FROM JANUARY TO JUNE.)

“England expects that every man will do his duty.”

NELSON AND BRONTE.

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1808.

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TO  
GOODWIN KEATS, Esq.  
REAR-ADMIRAL OF THE BLUE SQUADRON,  
THIS NINETEENTH VOLUME OF THE  
**Naval Chronicle**  
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED  
*BY THE PROPRIETOR AND EDITORS.*

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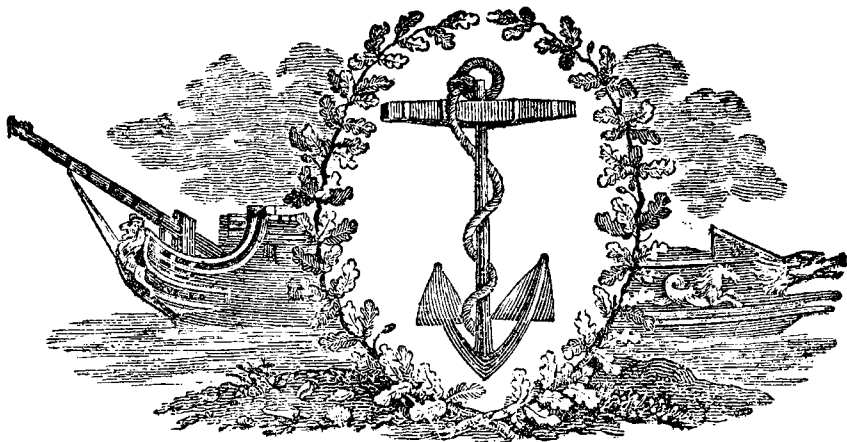


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## P R E F A C E

TO THE NINETEENTH VOLUME.

**T**HE Nineteenth Volume of the **NAVAL CHRONICLE** contains various interesting documents relative to the present eventful crisis; and, by its biographical memoirs, has rendered the services of some of our naval officers more generally known.

If it should be objected, that we do not always select the most renowned and distinguished of our naval heroes, it may be replied, that such officers do not so much require the adventitious assistance of the biographer, as men of equal merit though not of equal celebrity. At the present awful crisis of civilized Europe, amidst the general wreck and degradation of the continent, whilst the storm is still raging, and the gloom of military tyranny is deepening on all sides, it is devoutly to be wished, that our endless factions and parties would think only of employing men of the most high and established professional merit. There is a dreadful stagnation in the service, a dead calm, hitherto unprecedented in the long and desperate contest in which we have been engaged. The country, and its natural bulwark, the **BRITISH NAVY**, wants men who will dare to act and think, without that eternal wavering, and looking to others for an opinion, which paralyses all national exertions. A greater portion of talent ought to be afloat; and we know that we deliver the general sentiments of our countrymen when we express a wish, that the venerable Lord Barham were again stationed at the helm, and the experience and determined spirit of Earl St. Vincent again seen and felt on his old station off Cadiz. Beloved as that veteran admiral is by the Spaniards, and intimately connected as he has long been with their Admiral, Mazaredo, he would long

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ere this have placed the French and Spanish fleets out of the reach of Corsican perfidy and usurpation. The moment, we fear, has been lost, and the subjugation of Spain, notwithstanding its rising patriotism, will probably be the consequence.

Amidst the BIOGRAPHY of the present volume, the *Memoirs* of Captain Ellison, of Admiral Holloway, and of Captain Lydiard, are fully detailed, and from sources of no common authority. In our CORRESPONDENCE, the reader will have noticed many interesting and valuable communications. Our friend, *Bonny-Pheasant*, page 38, favoured us with much additional information respecting Sir Edward Pellew; and we have also to thank him for his extracts from the scarce and valuable *Naval Speculations*, by Henry Maydman (page 42), continued from our preceding volume. With other acceptable communications, unnecessary here to detail, we have particularly to notice the excellent correspondence of A. F. Y. which commenced at page 196; the letter of *Mercator* (page 202); the report of Rear-Admiral Sir Sydney Smith, at the Dardanelles, to Sir John Duckworth, (page 292); and the letter (page 287), containing Remarks on the Parliamentary Duties of Naval Officers.

In the selection of NAVAL POETRY, we have to thank a friend for his extract from Percy's *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*, *The Winning of Cales* (page 140); and most sincerely do we wish, what that excellent old ballad says—

“ That Cales was taken, and our brave general  
Marched to the market-place, where he did stand.”

At page 241, in the extracts from the *Lay of the last Minstrel*, canto 6, the author's name, Mr. Walter Scott, was inadvertently omitted.

The LETTERS ON SERVICE in the present volume detail some extraordinary instances of that daring spirit and gallantry which continue to appear throughout our navy. The judgment and bravery of Lieutenant Tracey, commander of the *Linnet* brig, are acknowledged by Admiral Montagu (page 82), in the capture of la *Courier* French lugger privateer.—The courage with which Lieutenant Walter Foreman, of the *Herald*, Capt. Hony, cut out an armed *Trabaccolò*, under cover of the night, whilst at anchor under the fortress of Otranto, notwithstanding a heavy fire from the shore and the vessel, is acknowledged by Lord Collingwood (page 155).—The capture of the Danish islands, St. Thomas, St. John, and their dependencies, by Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane and General Bowyer, is detailed (page 156—169).—The testimony of Vice-Admiral Dacres to the activity of Captain Douglas, of the *Reindeer* sloop, who

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had captured four privateers in the space of four months, is recorded; with an account of Captain Douglas's capture of the *Jean Tessier* privateer (page 256).—Admiral Lord Gardner, when transmitting the official letter of Captain Maitland, of the *Emerald* (page 257), respecting his distinguished valour, in an attempt to cut out a large French schooner in Vivero harbour, added, “an exploit which I trust their lordships will conceive with me to do great credit to all concerned, for their undaunted spirit and perseverance; the number of men, however, killed and wounded on the occasion, is much to be lamented.”—Captain Yeo's letter, containing an account of a very gallant exploit performed in two boats, by Messrs Trist and Lague, master's mates of the *Confiance*, is inserted (page 259).—The judicious conduct and great bravery of Captain F. B. R. Pellew, of the *Psyche*, in the capture of a Dutch corvette, of 24 guns, at the island of Java, with a Dutch armed brig and a large merchant ship, are commended by Admiral Sir Edward Pellew (page 339).—The gallantry of Captain Peter Rainier, of the *Caroline*, in the capture of some Dutch brigs, and of the Dutch frigate the *Maria*, of 36 guns, in the Indian ocean, is narrated in a letter to the ever-to-be-lamented Sir Thomas Troubridge (page 341). Captain Rainier says, “I cannot speak too highly of Mr. Bain, the master, in laying me alongside the *Maria*, and whose accurate knowledge of the seas enabled me to take the ship into Batavia.”—Captain Searle's professional character received the merited praise of Lord Collingwood (page 342), for his gallantry in taking the largest of three Spanish vessels of war, which the *Grasshopper* had fallen in with off Carthagea. Captain Searle spoke in the highest terms of the conduct of his lieutenant, Mr. Cornelius Wellis. But the eminent skill and valour of Captain Searle is still further displayed (page 343—345), whilst attached to a little squadron under the orders of Captain Maxwell, who mentions Captain Searle in terms of high praise and admiration.—The activity of Lieutenant Colin Campbell is acknowledged by Vice-admiral Dacres (page 345).—Sir Alexander Cochrane records the promptitude and skill of Captain Selby, of the *Cerberus*, whilst commanding the blockading squadron of Point à Petre, Guadaloupe, as displayed in the capture of the island of Marie Galante; in which Captain Selby was ably assisted by a detachment of seamen and marines, under Captain Pigot, of the *Circé* (page 428). Captain Selby's letter, detailing his account of the subsequent capture of the island of Deseada, and acknowledging the merit of Captains Sherriff and Ward, is inserted (p. 430). The additional services of the indefatigable Captain Searle, in the capture of the two Spanish gun boats, the destruction of

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two others, and the capture of two valuable vessels from South America, are detailed (page 432).—Captain Mason's letter, describing the gallantry of the officers and men of the ship *Daphne* and *Tartarus* sloop, W. Russel, Esq. commander, in cutting out ten vessels laden with provisions, from Flodstrand, on the coast of Jutland, is inserted (page 433). Captain Mason liberally expressed his admiration of the steady valour and good conduct of his first lieutenant, Mr. Elliot, who was wounded.—Various other instances of valour and enterprise are recorded in these Official Letters and in the Naval Anecdotes of the Nineteenth Volume of the *CHRONICLE*.

The Oviedo gazette, and the important news from Spain, brought by Captain Tremlett, of his majesty's ship the *Alcinene*, will, we trust, impart fresh spirit to the friends of the brave Spaniards; who naturally love the English, and are respected by them. We fear only the superior skill and subtilty of the Corsican, and his myrmidons; and that system of treachery, murder, and falsehood, which has ever marked the progress of the French armies. In Spain, as in Sweden, traitors strangely nestle amongst the higher ranks: and, with the exception of those two countries, the latter of which was reported to be wavering, the utter degradation of the continent is completed. We trust, however, that the time is yet approaching, when something like patriotism and heroic valour may again return, and hurl the Corsican usurper from his throne. The legitimate monarch of France still retains them, and the following letter sent by him in 1805, to the late king of Spain, with which we shall close our preface, forms a striking contrast to the general conduct and sentiments of Buonaparte.

“ SIR, MY BROTHER, AND COUSIN,

“ It is with regret that I send back to your majesty the insignia of the Golden Fleece, which I had received from the king your father, of glorious memory. There can be nothing in common between me, and the great criminal, whom his own audacity, aided by fortune, has placed upon my throne—a throne which he has so cruelly defiled with the pure blood of a Bourbon. Religion may induce me to pardon an assassin, but the tyrant of my people must always be my enemy. In our present circumstances it is more glorious to deserve the sceptre, than to sway it. God, in his impenetrable decrees, may perhaps have condemned me to finish my days in exile: but neither posterity, nor the present age, shall ever say, that *I have rendered myself unworthy to be seated and to die upon the throne of my ancestors.*

“ LOUIS.”

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*H. R. Cook sculp.*



CAPT. JOS. ELLISON.

ELLISON.

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