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Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur
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Volume 26

Volume 26 (1811) contains reports of British naval successes in the Far East. The capture of Tamatavé in Madagascar and the surrender of Java are discussed, with extracts from French state papers concerning the French navy. An improvement in the King's mental health is announced, and maps and descriptions of the Dardanelles Strait and the port of Istanbul 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 26: JULY-DECEMBER 1811

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108018654

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1811

This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-01865-4 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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NAVAL CHRONICLE.

VOL. XXVI.



*Erected at the public expence, to the Memory of
 Capt.^{ain} John Cooke,
 who was killed commanding the
 Bellerophon,
 in the Battle of Trafalgar:
 in the 44.th Year of his Age, and the 30.th of his Service.*

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 FOR 1811:
 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.

VOL. XXVI.
 (FROM JULY TO DECEMBER.)

Tu regere imperio populos *Britannæ* memento ;
 Hæc tibi erunt artes ; paci-que imponere morem,
 Parcere subjectis, et debellare superbos.

LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY AND FOR *JOYCE GOLD*, 103, SHOE-LANE;

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TO
SIR PETER PARKER, BART.
ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET,
THIS TWENTY-SIXTH VOLUME OF THE
Naval Chronicle
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY THE PROPRIETOR AND EDITORS.

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P R E F A C E

TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH VOLUME.

THE Editors of the NAVAL CHRONICLE present their twenty-sixth Volume to the Public, in the gratifying consciousness, that, neither in the record of important public events, nor in the varied display of useful and interesting information, will it shrink from a comparison with any of the preceding.

It may be said, that the star of Britain has, of late, shined with unusual brilliancy in the East. The capture of the Isle of France, so amply illustrated in our twenty-fifth Volume, has been followed by the surrender, respectively, of Ternate, one of the strongest islands in the Molucca Seas; of Gorontello; of the French port of Tamatavé, at Madagascar; and, though last, not least, of Batavia, and the whole of the Island of Java, west of the Cheribon. To expatiate on the value of the last-mentioned acquisition, would be superfluous. "An Empire," observes Lord Minto, in his official letter to the Earl of Liverpool, "which, for two centuries, has contributed greatly to the power, prosperity, and grandeur of one of the principal and most respected states of Europe, has been thus wrested from the short usurpation of the French government, added to the dominion of the British Crown, and converted, from a seat of hostile machinations and commercial competition, into an augmentation of British power and prosperity."

The capture of the Isle of France was also succeeded by a naval battle, off Tamatavé, as hardly fought, and as successful in its result, as most that have been recorded during the present war. The surrender of two French frigates, out of three, and the flight of the third, sufficiently prove the retention of our superiority.

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Nearer home, and upon a smaller scale, our naval exertions have been displayed to equal advantage. Buonaparte will not soon forget the capture of one of his praams, by the Naiad frigate, off Boulogne; nor the surprise of a convoy in the Gironde, effected by the superior address and bravery of the commanders of H. M. ships Diana and Semiramis.

These achievements are all duly recorded in our "*Letters on Service*;" and, amongst other occurrences, of minor importance, the details of which are also preserved under that head, the contest between H.M. sloop of war, Little Belt, and the United States frigate, President, will be found deserving of particular attention. Though subdued by what may be termed an overwhelming force, the Little Belt never struck her colours!*

The NAVAL BIOGRAPHY, comprised in the present Volume, stands high in value and interest. The memoir of Captain Dacres occupies an unusual portion of room; but the original historical documents, of which it has been made the vehicle, are of such a nature, that, we believe, few, if any, readers, can wish the space to have been otherwise filled. They cast a new and extraordinary light upon the Dardanelles Expedition; and depict, in vivid colours, the narrow-minded policy, by which the conduct of great governments is sometimes regulated. The classical, as well as the political and naval reader, will also be gratified by the farther illustration of the proceedings before the Turkish capital, afforded by the descriptions accompanying the Charts of the Strait of the Dardanelles, and the Port and Canal of Constantinople.—Such genealogical particulars as relate to Captain Dacres, will best be seen by referring to the memoir of

* Commodore Rodgers's account of the action, as well as Captain Bingham's, with a report of the proceedings of an American Court of Inquiry, on the Commodore, and a variety of other particulars relating to the subject, will be found by referring to the Index. The report of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry, holden at Halifax, on Captain Bingham, is postponed, from want of room, till the succeeding Volume.

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his brother, the late Vice-admiral Dacres, in the present Volume.

The additional record of Admiral Sir J. B. Warren's professional services, while attached to the Western Squadron under Earl St. Vincent, contains extracts from many original letters, with much other historical information; and the memoir of Rear-admiral T. Bertie is entitled to notice, for its chronological accuracy, and the exactness of its details. Captain Grey's memoir is of some value, for the unpublished *Letters on Service* which it introduces.

Connected, in some measure, with the biographical department of the NAVAL CHRONICLE, are the *fac-similia* of the hand-writing of different officers. The present volume alone presents the following:—*Horatio Nelson, Nelson and Bronte, Earl St. Vincent, Sir Thomas Troubridge, Rear-admiral T. Bertie, Admiral Hunter, Sir W. S. Smith, Sir J. T. Duckworth, Sir Samuel Hood, Sir Alexander Ball, Captain Flinders, Col. J. Oliver, and the Committee of the Lords and Commons, for the Admiralty and Cinque Ports, in the year 1647.* The copy of Captain Pilgrim's commission, to which the last mentioned *fac-similia* are affixed, in that year, is an archæological curiosity.

The Correspondence of the NAVAL CHRONICLE continues to support its character for variety, independence, and professional utility. The more prominent articles under this head are, Admiral Hunter's plans for the construction of Life-boats, and for checking the recoil of naval artillery,* communicated by TIM. WEATHERSIDE; the cases of Captains Bray and Uvedale, by HEART OF OAK; the vindication of Admiral Patton's "*Natural Defence of an Insular Empire,*" by AN OLD NAVAL OFFICER OF NO PARTY; and the elucidations of the Shipwreck of St. Paul, by D. L. AMATEUR, and J. C.—JOHN,

* It may be worth while to compare this with Admiral Bertie's plan, noticed at page 9.

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PREFACE.

PHILONAUT, A CONSTANT READER, DUILLIUS, VERITAS, TOM STARBOARD, A FRIEND TO NAVAL MERIT, and other contributors, are also entitled to thanks.

The great and serious importance of the Hydrographical department becomes monthly more and more conspicuous. It comprehends not only the geographical sites of places, but many local observations which are interesting to navigation in general. Under this head are also collected all notices to mariners, appertaining to pilotage, &c.—For his very valuable contributions to this department, we beg leave to return our most grateful thanks to I. S. S. To Captain Flinders, and to Colonel Oliver, commanding-in-chief at the Molucca Isles, we are also much indebted.—The numerous hydrographical articles in this Volume, will readily be found, on referring to the word HYDROGRAPHY, in the Index.

Amongst our STATE PAPERS, that which relates to the loss sustained by the East India Company, by the capture and wreck of shipping, in the years 1807-8, and 1808-9, will be found highly important.

Of the more miscellaneous and desultory parts of the Volume, it seems unnecessary to speak. With this rapid sketch of its leading contents, it is therefore consigned to that professional and public patronage, to which, it is presumed, the claim will not be found insufficient.

* * * Authors or publishers of Naval Works are invited to transmit them to our Office, for the purpose of being reviewed; and we request a continuance of contributions from our kind Correspondents, which will always meet with early attention.—For the accommodation of Correspondents, &c. at the west end of the town, a letter-box is open at Mr. Andrews's, print-seller, Charing Cross.

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THOMAS  BERTIE. ESQ.^{RE}

Rear Admiral of the White Squadron