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Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur  
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### Volume 27

Volume 27 (1812) describes worsening Anglo-American diplomatic relations and includes American state papers outlining American responses to skirmishes between British and American ships. The assassination of the Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval, in May of that year, and its effects on British foreign policy are discussed. The volume also includes a map and description of Batavia in Java, poetry by Lord Byron, and a biography of Sir Charles Cotton, a long-serving senior officer in the Navy who died suddenly in February 1812.

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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 27: JANUARY-JUNE 1812

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE  
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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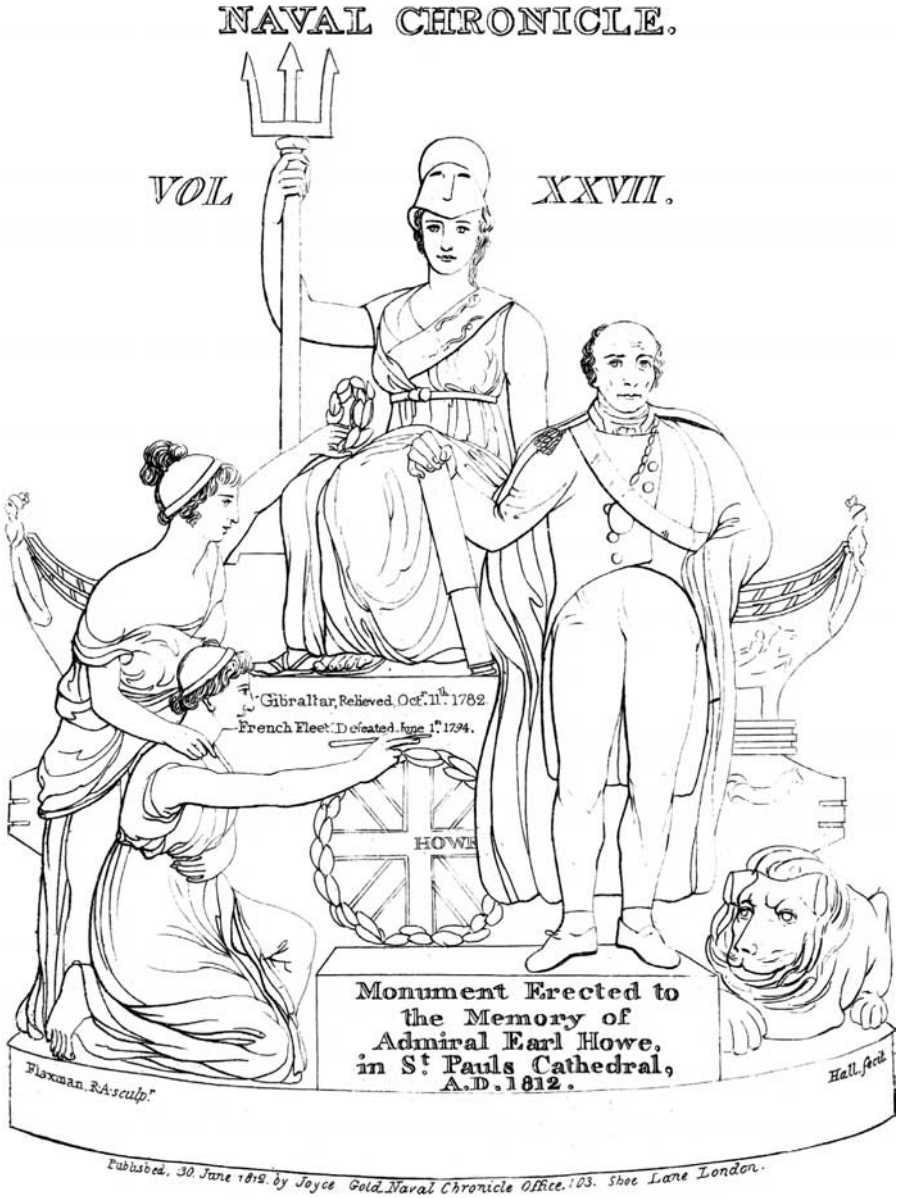
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 FOR 1812:  
 CONTAINING A  
*GENERAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY*  
 OF  
**THE ROYAL NAVY**  
 OF THE  
**United Kingdom ;**  
 WITH A VARIETY OF ORIGINAL PAPERS ON  
 NAUTICAL SUBJECTS.

—  
 UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF SEVERAL  
*LITERARY AND PROFESSIONAL MEN.*  
 —

**VOL. XXVII.**  
 (FROM JANUARY TO JUNE.)

—  
*To regere imperio populos Britanne memento  
 Hæc tibi erunt artes*  
 —

"These are imperial arts, and worthy thee."  
 —

**LONDON:**

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TO

SIR RUPERT GEORGE, KNIGHT,  
AMBROSE SERLE, ESQUIRE,  
JAMES BOWEN, ESQUIRE,  
THE HONORABLE JOHN DOUGLAS,  
JOHN HARNESS, M.D., F.L.S.  
THE HONORABLE COURTNEY BOYLE,

Commissioners for conducting his Majesty's Transport Service,  
for taking care of Sick and Wounded Seamen, and for  
the care and custody of Prisoners of War :

THIS TWENTY-SEVENTH VOLUME OF THE

**Naval Chronicle**

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

*BY THE PROPRIETOR,*

*Joyce Gold*

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## PREFACE

TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH VOLUME.

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AT the commencement of the “new era,” it may perhaps be expected that the Editor of the *NAVAL CHRONICLE* is to offer some declaration of sentiment as to future system. That, however, would be altogether a work of superarrogation. Uninfluenced by any change of men, and only anxious for the honour and welfare of the Country, they who, by their wisdom and patriotism, shall best conserve those, will have the strongest claim on the support of this publication.

It must not be denied, that the recent political changes seem likely to require a keen and steady eye, to contemplate their probable results. The revocation of the Orders in Council, of 1807 and 1809\*—those instruments which had so long been eulogised by some, and condemned by others—can scarcely fail of producing a considerable effect on our commercial relations; and, if, as there now seems reason for expecting, his Majesty’s Catholic subjects of Ireland as well as of England, are to attain an equality of civil rights with the Members of the Established Church, great and important mutations must occur in the Kingdom at large, comprehending of course the naval and military services. To mark the nature and extent of that

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\* The Prince Regent’s Declaration, issued in the month of April last, respecting the Orders in Council; and the French Declaration, revoking the Berlin and Milan Decrees, as they relate to America, will be found towards the close of the present Volume: the Order in Council of June 28, 1812, revoking the Orders of 1807 and 1809, with respect to America, was not published sufficiently early for insertion: it will appear in the ensuing Volume.

effect, and to record the progress and consequences of such changes, will fall peculiarly within the province of the Editor of the *NAVAL CHRONICLE*.

By the unremitting exertions, and superior prowess of Britain, the “ships, colonies, and commerce” of the enemy have been brought so near to nonentity, that of fleets destroyed, or captured settlements, there has been, lately, but little to record. The defeat of a superior French force, in the Adriatic, by the *Alceste*,\* *Active*,† and *Unite*; ‡ the capture of the *Rivoli*, by the *Victorious*; § the dispersion of a *Boulogne* flotilla, by the *Rosario*, || with the *Griffon*; ¶ and the complete destruction of a French squadron, off *Lorient*, by the *Northumberland*,\*\* are, however, so many instances of professional merit, that will not shrink from comparison with any, of similar magnitude, which our annuals can boast of. Achievements, so intrinsically brilliant, would have raised the naval character of any country but Britain, to an enviable height.

The memoir of the late Sir Charles Cotton, which, as an individual article, occupies an unusually extensive portion of this Volume, will not, it is presumed, be thought a mean addition to our stock of naval biography. The copious materials out of which it was drawn, were collected from various sources; and the cheerfulness and promptitude wherewith much valuable information was afforded, by the Rev. Mr. M—— and J. K——, Esq. entitle those gentlemen to the Editor’s best thanks. The Memoir, while it rescues the memory of the deceased from the imputation of his having been a willing or negligent party to the blameable Convention of Cintra, will, by the numerous official documents which it comprises, be found

---

\* Captain M. Maxwell.

† Captain J. A. Gordon.

‡ Captain E. H. Chamberlayne.

§ Captain J. Talbot.

|| Captain B. Harvey.

¶ Captain G. Trollope.

\*\* Captain H. Hotham.

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to illustrate British naval proceedings on the coast of Portugal, in 1807 and 8, and, consequently, to facilitate the labours of the future historian.

The memoir of Lieutenant Peshall is highly important, from various causes. The unceasing exertions which have been made, by the British Government, to ascertain the fate of an individual officer, are highly commendable and gratifying; while the cordial assistance which was given by the Spaniards, as well during a state of warfare, as under the rule of the Supreme Junta, when the two nations were united in peace and amity, deserves the warmest and most honourable mention.

On presenting the original memoir of Sir Robert Calder, in the XVIIth Volume, the Editor felt that it was rendering an act of justice to a meritorious, but suffering officer; and, in supplying the deficiencies of that memoir, he trusts that an acceptable service to the public has been performed.

The information from which the memoir of Admiral Phillip has been sketched, was less copious and explicit than the compiler could have wished; but it is hoped that, at a future period, means may be attained of filling up what has been professedly offered only as an outline.

Sir James Wishart, and Admiral Haddock—officers of distinguished merit in their day—were selected from a long list of our antient naval worthies, whose services are destined for future record in the pages of the NAVAL CHRONICLE. Such memorials, whilst they cherish a proper feeling of respect for those to whom Britain has been greatly indebted, operate as no mean incentives to the rising members of the profession.

The hydrographical department of the NAVAL CHRONICLE continues to increase in importance and in value; for which the grateful thanks of the Editor are again chiefly due to the indefatigable friendship of J. S. S.

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## PREFACE.

Amongst the Correspondence in this Volume, the letters of A MASTER'S MATE OF SIX YEARS, and JUSTICIUS, to Lord Melville, on the pay and half-pay of Naval Officers; and those of AN OLD OFFICER OF THE ROYAL MARINE CORPS, and NOT AN OLD NOR A YOUNG SUB. OF MARINES, respecting the rank and remuneration of the Marine Forces, are eminently entitled to notice; as is the proposal of NAVALIS, for the institution of a *Nelson Club*. MULCIBER, on earthquakes, it is hoped, will renew his labours relating to those interesting, though dreadful phenomena. To A CAPTAIN IN THE ROYAL NAVY, for pointing out the necessity of supplying ships with Chronometers; to J. T. L. for the account of Governor Dower's action with the Dunkirk squadron, in the year 1779; to TIM. WEATHERSIDE, and ROBUR, for various communications; to A FRIEND TO THE CAUSE OF CHRISTIANITY, TOM STARBOARD, BILLY BOSTON, and others, the acknowledgments of the Editor are also due.

The other miscellaneous parts of the Volume must, as usual, be left to bespeak their own claims to the reader's approbation.

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\* \* \* Authors or publishers of Naval Works are invited to transmit them to the NAVAL CHRONICLE Office, for the purpose of being reviewed; and a continuation of contributions from our kind Correspondents, is requested, 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, Naval print-seller, Charing Cross.

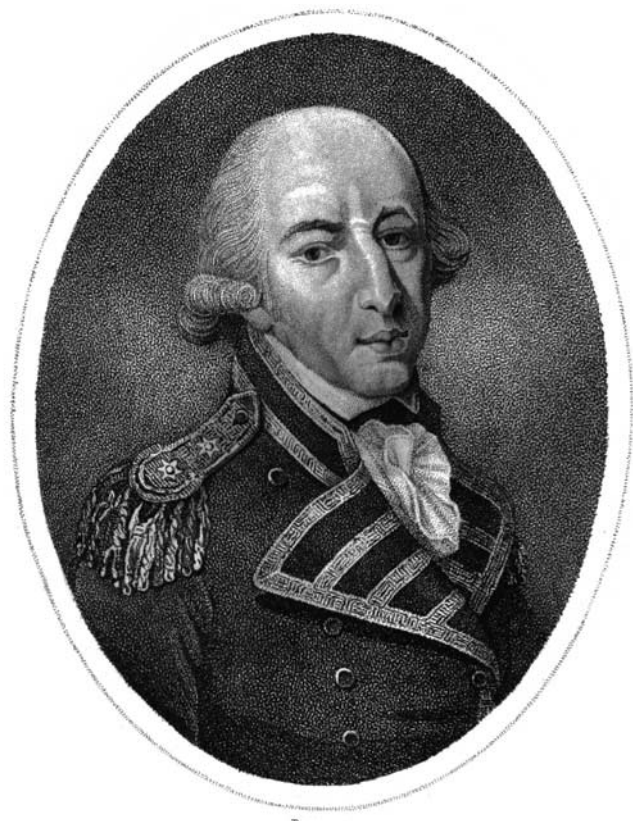
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ARTHUR PHILLIP ESQ.

*Vice Admiral of the Red Squadron*

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