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978-1-108-01874-6 - The Naval Chronicle, Volume 35

Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur

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### Volume 35

Volume 35 (1816) concentrates on British attempts to suppress the Barbary pirates in the Mediterranean and discusses state papers describing these diplomatic efforts. The volume also includes fascinating descriptions of the community created on the Pitcairn Islands by the descendants of the mutineers from the *Bounty*. There are also a biography of Alexander Dalrymple and maps and descriptions of St Petersburg harbour and Bornholm Island, Sweden.

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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 35: JANUARY-JUNE 1816

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE  
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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NAUTICAL SUBJECTS.

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UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF SEVERAL

*LITERARY AND PROFESSIONAL MEN.*

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VOL. XXXV.

*(FROM JANUARY TO JUNE.)*

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" England is a Land which can never be conquered, whilst the Kings thereof keep  
the Dominion of the Sea."—(W. RALEGH.)

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TO  
**WILLIAM PEERE WILLIAMS, Esq.**

ADMIRAL OF THE RED SQUADRON,

THIS THIRTY-FIFTH VOLUME OF THE

**Naval Chronicle**

[FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 1816.]

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

*BY THE PROPRIETOR,*

*Joyce Gold*

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# PREFACE

TO THE THIRTY-FIFTH VOLUME.

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**I**N acknowledging the support and patronage which have enabled us to conclude and publish the XXXVth Volume of the *Naval Chronicle*, we feel increased pleasure from the sense of augmented obligation; and if the long continuance of a periodical work be any criterion of its character, the progress of it under the eye of an intelligent public, during the course of eighteen years, must confer upon it no small degree of respectability, especially when it is considered as totally unsupported by that forced, factitious fame, to which so many of the candidates for public favor have owed their temporary buoyancy, and whose pretensions have in some instances seemed to require that not only the trumpet, but the terrene trumpeter, be brazen, to publish and uphold them. But this is by-the-bye—we do not mention it with any comparative views—the very nature of our own publication forbids the bloated puff!—“*Ornari res ipsa negat, contenta docere.*”

In taking our usual review of the Volume, we are duly sensible how much it owes to our kind auxiliaries, as the vehicle of various information, and correspondent interest.

The Biography, as the very face and front of the Volume, should bear in its character an especial commendation; and if it do not, it is more our misfortune than our fault. As a record of public naval services, it is open to all who have performed them; and so long have been the naval wars from which we have just emerged; so glorious the events to the British nation; and so numerous the list of officers by whom they were produced; that although we have transferred to our Chronicle the names and actions of many, to the preservation and diffusion of their fair-earned fame, many still remain, whose actions, well worthy of record, are, we fear, withheld by an unjust diffidence, a doubt that their apprehended small importance would be incompatible with a formal publication of them; it should, however, be considered, that it is by a combination of small actions that great events are produced, and that each individual contributor to a grand result is entitled to his share of the honour it confers.

Under this impression, and wishing to preserve from the oblivious gulf of Time—the inevitable Lethe of all unrecorded actions, however honorable—it is our intention to adopt the suggestion of a very valuable Correspondent and evident well-wisher to the *Naval Chronicle*, and to propose occasionally, on the Wrapper of our Chronicle, the names of such naval officers as to our recollection and judgment may occur; relying on the extensive circulation of the notice for such relative communications as may be mediately or immediately obtained. Lists of Biographical Queries may be



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always had, on application for them at the Naval Chronicle Office, or will be transmitted agreeably to received direction.

The commencing and concluding articles of our Biography will be found peculiarly interesting; the former as containing a large portion of nautical information and remark; the latter as affording additional and important evidence respecting that subject of general indignation and regret—the death of Captain Wright. We presume, indeed, that the whole of the Biography will be well received, as the various subjects of it were all exemplary in their respective services.

Whatever credit may be due to our judgment in the Nautical Selections, as ours, it becomes us to say little; we have endeavoured to blend amusement with information, and trust that we have in some degree succeeded.

In considering the merits of our Correspondence, we have always to regret that the limits of our preface will not admit of our doing justice to the whole; our especial notice must be rather confined to the nature of the subject treated on, than to the abilities evinced in the treatment.

*Mentor's* letter of caution, page 47, is truly patriotic; at the same time we are unwilling that notions of hostility should be inculcated on either side, by a too open expression of respective jealousies.

The very excellent letter of *Arion* to Lord Melville, on the seduction, by the Americans, of British seamen, page 115, is worthy of peculiar attention; but, we fear, the essential remedy must be sought in the inclinations of the seamen themselves. We are sincerely sorry to find it possible for a British Sailor to serve in any other than a British Navy. If the Americans can deprive us of our seamen, they will indeed shear the locks of Samson.

The letter signed *Adam*, on White Slavery, a term discriminative of the Negro Slavery, contains some very just remarks. The insolent depredations of the Barbary States seem indeed to have a “charmed” existence. Considering the piracy of these small tyrants but as an insult, it might justly excite our indignation; but when we contemplate the mass of misery evinced in the various sufferings of the unfortunate captives, thus unwarrantably torn from the bosom of civilized society, the endurance of it by any one of the Christian Powers is really wonderful; and we are induced to repeat, although not accustomed to think superstitiously, that such atrocities have a “charmed” existence—that the insulted powers endure them by an unaccountable infatuation; for admitting that to crush the petty power of these barbarians would be (although we know not how) incompatible with the national policy of any one or more of the maritime countries of Europe thus insulted, the same motive cannot exist in all. But it is avowed in none. And yet these enormous aggressions have existed in a more or less degree during two centuries. To add to our cause of wonder, although by the very laudable exertions of Sir Sidney Smith, there has been an assembly of the knights of all orders, whose professions, if not merely nominal, are virtually binding on them for the extinction of such enormities; and although a general assent seemed to prevail to the proposition of Sir Sidney, the grievance still exists in repeated acts of insult to the

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nations of Europe, and cruelty to the unfortunate victims of Moorish rapacity.\* The effect of Treaty has been too often tried: it has been, however, again attempted, notwithstanding experience has repeatedly proved the futility of such negotiations. The treaty is made with the Dey, but the Dey himself is but the chief of a gang, who will pay no obedience to orders incompatible with its established system of piracy; and even admitting that the Dey may be sincere in his signature of the treaty, he would in all probability lose his life, were he to insist on its execution. There must be an end (to use the Buonapartean phrase) of the Barbaric *Dynasty*, or there must be, so long as this system of piracy exists, a union of the Christian Powers, in an established and concurrent system of opposition to it.

N. T. R.'s observations on the expediency of a fixed plan of command on board the ships of the royal navy, page 308, are entitled to the notice of those competent to establish it. We have always thought that too much is allowed to the will of one man, who, if he be of a tyrannical temper, may render the condition of his ship's company a state of continued oppression. So far as the nature of the naval service can admit of it, the captain's power of punishment should be limited.

The Navy, and perhaps we might be warranted in saying the Nation, is in no small degree indebted to our constant and valuable Correspondents, *Alfred*, *Nestor*, and *Albion*, for their many patriotic remarks and suggestions; they are indeed too numerous to be here particularized, and their merit too self-evident to need our indication of it. We, however, cannot allow ourselves to proceed without expressing our cordial concurrence of opinion with *Nestor*, page 390, that there exists no valid objections to the payment of our seamen on foreign, as well as on home stations—at least we think it would be better to *prove* than *presume* them.

We shall now, according to our usual custom, point out to our readers the many valuable articles of Correspondence which we have not room to notice more especially; *viz.* A continuation of the *Synopsis of Naval Actions of British ships of war with the ships of the United States*, p. 31. *U. P.* in defence of *Albion*, against the remarks of *J. C.* p. 39. *Impartialis*, on the situations of gunner and purser, p. 42. *C. H.* respecting the American steam frigate *Fulton*, p. 44. *Albion*, in reply to *J. C.* p. 45. Question of *Peter Plain*, respecting the gratis administration of the oath to half-pay officers, p. 124. *P. P. K.* in reply to *Impartialis*, p. 124. *A Vice-Admiral*, in reply to the same, p. 127. *J. C.* suggesting an improvement in buoys, and in reply to *Albion*, p. 129. *A Reader of the N. C.* apologizing on a subject that we should have conceived needed no apology, p. 132. *J. A. Fore*, list of ships foundered in the Indian and China Seas, leaving no traces of information how, p. 133. *John*, on the neglect of old commanders and lieutenants, p. 134. *Nestor*, on the reluctance of seamen to re-enter the navy, &c. p. 213. *Albion*, in reply to *J. C.* p. 215. *Paulinurus*, on the project of Sir Sidney Smith, respecting the States of Bar-

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\* An account is just arrived, that 300 English, French, and others, have been massacred by these wretches at Bona,

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Following the order of our established sections, the Hydrography next claims our notice; and inasmuch as the *Opifex* is more excellent than the *opus*, we previously assure him, that although *last*, he is very far from being *least* in our grateful estimation; his constant assiduity in the communication of articles for the department of which he has kindly undertaken the sole care, and the judgment with which he suits his subjects, as occasions occur, to the passing events of the times, render his services truly valuable, and our sense of them is commensurate with the benefit. Nor are we alone in this opinion of his services. A scientific cotemporary says of this section of our volume;—That he always looks over the hydrographical communications of the monthly numbers of the NAVAL CHRONICLE, with great pleasure, and has often felt obliged to our Hydrographer, for the first information of useful matter, which perhaps otherwise would not so soon have reached him.

We have now only to repeat our thanks for the continuance of that patronage with which we have been so long honored; and, under the assurance of our best endeavours to deserve the favor, we request the aid of our liberal patrons' interest in a further extension.