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978-1-108-01878-4 - The Naval Chronicle, Volume 39

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 39

Volume 39 (1818) includes an 'autobiographical' memoir, allegedly written on St Helena by Napoleon. The financial concerns of a post-war navy are obvious. William Wilberforce was involved with a committee set up for the relief of the thousands of destitute former sailors in London. Concerns were expressed about the building up of the American navy, and appeals made for the ending of impressment.

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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 39: JANUARY-JUNE 1818

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE  
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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

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

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108018784](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108018784)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1818

This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-01878-4 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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THE  
**Naval Chronicle,**  
 FOR 1818:  
 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. XXXIX.**  
*FROM JANUARY TO JUNE.*

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

**LONDON:**

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

And sold by Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, & Brown : Sherwood, Neeley, and Jones, and Walker & Co. *Paternoster-row*; Asperue; and Richardsons, *Cornhill*; Black, Kingsbury, & Co. *Leadenhall-street*; Booth, *Duke-street*, *Portland place*; Wm. Stockdale, *Piccadilly*; Byfield and Son, *Charing-Cross*; Mottley and Co. and Mills, *Portsmouth*; Congdon, Hoxland, and Platt, *Dock*; Haydon—Curtis—Smith—Rogers—and Nettleton, *Plymouth*; Godwin, *Bath*; Norton and Son, *Bristol*; Robinson, *Liverpool*; Manners and Miller, Creech, and Constable, *Edinburgh*; Turnbull and Lumsden, *Glasgow*; and the principal Booksellers in the different Seaport Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

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TO  
**LORD RADSTOCK, G.C.B.**

ADMIRAL OF THE RED SQUADRON,

THIS THIRTY-NINTH VOLUME OF THE

**Naval Chronicle**

[FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 1818.]

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

*BY THE PROPRIETOR,*

*Joyce Gold*

Cambridge University Press

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## P R E F A C E

### TO THE THIRTY-NINTH VOLUME.

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**A**S the Chroniclers of Naval Transactions, the periodical duty of Retrospect on our past labours affords us that cheering gratification, which will always result from labours honestly pursued, with views of general good to all within their sphere of action ; with views not formed of wild theories of human perfectability ; mere schemes of the closet applied to active life ; systems of abstract reason to oppose the passions of mankind ; delusive dreams of inexperienced theorists, at which the philosopher of the world can only smile—and which the artful Seditious only projects with views of gain, at the expense, and in many instances the ruin, of those who trust him. Not such are our labours.—As the Chroniclers of Naval Transactions, and especially of those in which the interests and welfare of Britain are immediately involved, our vigilance, in conjunction with that of our active and intelligent coadjutors, has been directed to various subjects of relative importance, and to consequent suggestions, either of present or future adoption.

In the Regent's Speech at the close of the last Session of Parliament,\* we are assured of the pacific disposition of the Foreign Courts—we are willing to rely on it—and wish to see the advancement of Trade and Commerce, the chief objects, as they are indeed the chief interests, of a state of Peace. But sorry we are to find, that in a certain quarter of the world there is a disposition to try to the utmost the patience of its neighbourhood, by alarming encroachments and preparations, wearing the appearance of any thing but pacific intention. It is to be feared, indeed, that however with the people trade and commerce may be found the chief objects of consideration, views of a more brilliant but less solid nature prevail in the government—the ambition of extended territory, and the military glory acquired in the extension of it, operate on the minds of the powerful few to whom the nation's strength and treasure are consigned,—and a probability exists, that they will be engulfed in the vortex of martial conflicts, as soon as its martial strength is matured, in which mutual destruction will again be substituted for mutual good ; and therefore, prudence dictates, on our part, a strict observation, and correspondent measures ; and so far as the NAVAL CHRONICLE can contribute in the way of suggestion to their efficacy, its pages will be devoted on all occasions.

The contents of the present Volume, in its various departments, will be found as usual, to their practicable extent, consistent with the general professions of our Publication. In the Biography, we have commenced with a well-authenticated memoir of the public services of Captain George Mundy, C.B. in the series of which will be found, from the first entrance of that gentleman into the British Navy, the characteristics, as they successively developed themselves, of a highly respectable British officer. Skill, courage, and discretion, are the qualities of Captain Mundy, and are

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\* See page 485.



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the requisite qualifications of the higher gradations of command, and which we have no doubt he will in due time attain. To this memoir is attached a well-executed portrait, which we regret to say is an embellishment we have been unable to present with any of the subsequent memoirs of this Volume. We have given the second place in this department to a naval character of considerable notoriety in his day, the late Admiral Sir Hugh Palliser; the occurrences of whose public life will be found interesting, and in many respects exemplary, even in the present. The paucity of documents transmitted to us for the draught of the memoirs of Captains Neville, Shipley, and Bettesworth, renders them less extensively interesting than they would have been with a more copious supply of materials; but even as they are, it is impossible to peruse them, but with admiration of the gallantry of their regretted subjects, and confidence in the effects of their example.

From the practical services of the hero, we turn now to the no less honourable, and useful character, who devotes a portion of his time to the occasional consideration of the means whereby heroism may be rendered most available to the country of the hero and her cause. And in the honourable band of Patriots to which the NAVAL CHRONICLE owes so great a portion of its value, first appears that strenuous advocate for his country's welfare, *Robur*, a signature most significantly appropriate to his style and theme. His first letter, "On the Increase of our Naval Force," will be found at page 41. To him in direct succession appears, p. 43, the zealous and worthy *Albion*, "On Impressment," &c. : his warning voice deserves attention. At page 53 are some judicious observations, by *A Clerk of the Weather Office*, "On the Manners, &c. of the Navy." At page 56, our readers will be pleased to see their old friend, *Iron Gun*, transmitting his weighty observations on the comparative inequality of the discharge of shot between the British and American 74's, in a letter, "On the Misnomered U. S. Ship Franklin." At page 120, is inserted *Robur's* second letter, "On the Increase of our Naval Force." *Arion*, in a letter to the Right Hon. Viscount Melville, has offered some very good arguments on the subject of "Retired Lists for Post Captains and Commanders : " this letter will be found at page 122. Page 127, presents a second letter to the Right Hon. Lord Melville, from the indefatigable *Albion*, in the cause of British Seamen; *Albion* is one of those honest remonstrancers who rarely asserts a grievance without suggesting a remedy. At page 134 is a Reply from Mr. Urquhart to a Letter from the Ship-Owners' Society, inserted in the following page. *Robur's* third letter, "On the Increase of our Naval Force," page 198, enforces the expediency of keeping up our naval superiority, by arguments clearly indisputable, and ought to be effective. At page 202, is a letter from *Spectator*, "On the intention of Government to import Ship-timber from Trieste," &c. : the letter is short, but valuable in a high degree for the information it contains. At page 206 is an Address to the Right Hon. Viscount Melville, from the sage *Nestor*, and it is an Address worthy of his prospective wisdom: his subject is our "Naval Force," and its inability to present a ship of equal force with the American Franklin. If in any future contest with America we are left to that

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## PREFACE.

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unequal kind of combat which subjected the British Navy to such grievous reverses in the last, a most weighty responsibility must fall on the naval department of our government. The Americans have liberally sent it models, and if it does not provide counterparts, it will be answerable for all the unnecessary disgrace and destruction that may ensue from such neglect. At page 215, our much-respected Correspondent, *J. C.* presents some very valuable observations "On our Naval Force." That peculiar description of force so ably insisted on by him, is in fact so indispensably necessary, that in the event of another war with America, the chance of defeat and disgrace, with all its serious consequences to the country, will be ten to one without it—our frigates will in fact be of little or no use at all. *Robur's* fourth letter will be found at page 282; and it is especially gratifying, in the assurance it gives, that orders have been issued for a considerable addition to our naval force, *on the American plan.* A letter from *T. H.* p. 287, is eminently entitled to notice, from the important assertion (if it be correct), "that the Ipswich-built shipping has, hitherto, been perfectly free from the dry-rot." At page 293, is a third letter to the Right Hon. Viscount Melville, "On the State of the British Navy," written with his usual zeal and ardour, and with such a course of argumentation, as evince in *Albion* a mind intensely vigilant of all that affects the naval interests of his country. At page 298, is a kind of *Serio-comic* Address, from *Arion*, to The Most Excellent and Most Noble John Bull—on various points in which his welfare is concerned: it is a letter highly creditable to the good sense of *Arion.* At page 306, is a letter from *Mr. Urquhart*, to the Lord Mayor, respecting British Seamen. *Britannicus*, "On Ship-building," page 311, is worthy of attention, as treating on a subject of the first importance to the British Navy. The navy estimate of charge, as transmitted by *G. T.* at page 311, presents, as to the number of ships, a gratifying view of our naval force, as we hope it will in a short time be. *Oceanus*, in his letter to the Right Honourable Viscount Melville, page 370, expresses some doubt on assertions that we most earnestly wish could be affirmed with certainty. At page 372 is a very material query from *Nestor.* At 375, *Juvenal* has favoured us with the conclusion of his "Historical Account of the Rise of the British Navy to the Command of the Ocean," for which we return him thanks, and shall be obliged by any future communications from him consistently with the plan of our publication. At page 378, are some interesting observations relative to the reported death of "Mungo Park," by *J. M.—n.* At page 382, our much esteemed friend, *Orion*, submits a few remarks on the too early promotion of naval officers to command: the letter is short, but the subject is certainly important. At page 383, is the first letter of a series promised us by *W.* addressed "To a Friend, relative to his Son's entering the Naval Service," and if we may judge of the others by those we have given, they will be entitled to much commendation, as an accurate picture of naval life, and correct statement of the requisites for the formation of a naval officer. *Robur's* sixth letter, "On the Increase of the Navy," page 438, resumes the subject of the inequality of force between the American and British frigates, &c.: the subject is really so important, that the anxiety of

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Robur, we are convinced, is general throughout the Navy, and in the minds of all who consider the future honour and welfare of Britain. We are happy in the re-appearance of *Impartialis*, as a Correspondent of the NAVAL CHRONICLE: the subject of his letter is a justifiable defence of himself. We are confident in the good intentions of *Impartialis*, however he may have erred in the expression of them. His letter will be found at page 440. At page 445, is a letter from *Mr. Urquhart*, to the Right Hon. Earl Spencer, on the subject of the Trinity-House Corporation, in which he states the nature of its original constitution, and the subsequent deviations from its salutary regulations. At page 452, is an excellent letter from *Tiphys*, to Viscount Melville; its subject is miscellaneous, but in every particular important.

We shall conclude our desultory recapitulation of the Correspondence, with the notice of two very valuable letters, one "On Naval Education, by *Nestor*; and one to Viscount Melville, by *Albion*," "On the Increase of the Navy of Foreign Powers," pages 461 and 463: our limits will not admit of any comments, but we are sure they will be read with much commendation of the views and suggestions of these benevolent and patriotic writers.

From this cursory review of some of the most prominent articles of our Correspondence, it is indeed obvious that a spirit of real Patriotism prevails throughout, and in the thorough perusal of it, the talents and information of the writers will be no less so, and will do them honour, not only in the minds of their cotemporaries, but also in the estimation of posterity—may they persevere in their laudable endeavours, and prevail—as we are convinced they have in a great degree, to the benefit of their country in its naval concerns, and to the credit of that department of the State which has the superintendance of them.

In the Hydrographical division of our work, we have to acknowledge our obligations to "*An Old Stager*," for his observations on the Variation of the Compass. To "*Phoca*," for his Remarks, *à priori*, on our Expedition to the North Pole; and to Captain Krusenstern, for an interesting article relative to Lieutenant Kotzebue's late Voyage to the South Seas. To James Horsburgh, Esq. also our thanks are due, for a communication of the ascertained site of the shoal called Cumbrian's Reef, or Gadd's Rock.

The Poetry of the Volume consists chiefly of contributions from Mrs. M'Mullan, a lady whose poetic talents have been submitted to the judgment of the public in a more ample and connected display, and we trust with that favourable success they merit. To C. for his "Family Voyage," we return our due acknowledgments.

To Dr. Burney, for the regular transmission of his Meteorological Journal, we return our very respectful thanks, and are happy in the opportunity of relieving ourselves in some degree from the weight of obligation derived from its *value*, by the expression of them.

To our Subscribers, and to the Purchasers in general of the NAVAL CHRONICLE, for the constancy of their Patronage, we offer our periodical and due return of thanks, and the assurance of our endeavours to maintain the highly respectable character it has borne through a regular and uninterrupted course of NINETEEN years' publication.

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*Captain George Mundy, C.B., R.N.*

*Publ'd on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1818, by J. G. & Co. Naval Chronicle Office No. 27, 103, Shoe Lane, London.*