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Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur  
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### Volume 40

Volume 40 (1818) contains the conclusion of an autobiography attributed to Napoleon. It discusses the practice of impressment, and includes reports from an Arctic expedition led by Captain Ross in search of the North-West Passage, as well as an article disputing its existence. Other items include a biography of Sir John Jennings and an account of the death and funeral of Queen Charlotte.

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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 40: JULY-DECEMBER 1818

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE  
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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 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. XL.

FROM JULY TO DECEMBER.

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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

**JOHN HENRY, Esq.**

ADMIRAL OF THE RED SQUADRON,

THIS FORTIETH VOLUME OF THE

**Naval Chronicle**

[FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 1818.]

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

*BY THE PROPRIETOR,*

*Joycegold*

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## P R E F A C E

### TO THE FORTIETH VOLUME.

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**T**HE Volume that concluded our record of the public events of the year 1817, has in its most mournful feature become in some degree the prototype of this. In the decease of our late beloved Queen, we have another awful memento of the ultimate vanity of human distinctions, and of our own mortality. The King still lives; an instance no less awful, to reprove the pride of man! What is wealth or greatness that such sacrifices to them as *are* made, *should* be made, seeing that sovereignty itself affords no exemption from the heaviest of all human afflictions! Dark in body and in mind, what is the existence of our good old King? It is incomprehensible, but as an evidence of Almighty Power, who can give the body to live without the mind, or with the mind subdued and superinduced by a foreign spirit! Oh were that of our excellent Sovereign again restored to that susceptibility of impression which constitutes the perfection of human existence, what astonishment would seize it on a relation of the events which have occurred since its lapse.—The power of Buonaparte, which set at defiance all moral calculation of defeat, broken, and reduced to its original elements, and himself a prisoner in a remote island, under British custody!!!—The young Princess, the idol of the nation, in whom it had built its hope, as on a base, having all the probabilities of duration that youth, health, and exemption from corroding care could give it; cut off in the spring of life!—What gratification and wonder!—what disappointment and sorrow! would these accounts produce, were his mind (alas too sensible!) restored to its former sensibility!—but were it so, and he should inquire for the FAITHFUL PARTNER of his many years, and should be told—she also is gone! it would be a shock to dismiss the soul for ever to that state of being, where the bond of affection shall no more be broken—where Love and its objects shall be no more separated.

\* \* \* \* \*

The tranquillity of Europe is still preserved, and so harmonized are the sentiments of its several Courts, that there seems to be but one object in their distinct contemplations, and that—the best means of securing its duration. The Continent, however, has, even now, its agitators; but so long as the *Master Spirit* is detached, there is not much ground for apprehension. The allied troops have been withdrawn from France, and we may, at least we should, thence infer, the increasing stability and pacific disposition of its present government. It is, indeed, probable, that no attempt to disturb it during the life of the present monarch will be made; whose conciliating manners seem to have created many friends, even of those who to the rest of the family are Anti-Bonapartists.

With respect to the countries of Europe generally, however, the bond of peace is, perhaps, to be more surely sought in their exhausted treasuries,



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their public debts, and extreme taxation. Trade is reviving, and but reviving, and will not yet bear the weight of additional imposts; nor is there any one of the present Sovereigns of Europe in whom ambition is madness.

If we extend our view across the Atlantic, we see a contemplation of future *Glory!* and a diligent preparation of means to realize it; but at the same time a disposition rather to have their views inferred, than to avow them.

In this state of things, we have brought our FORTIETH Volume to a close, having commenced it with an account of the public services of Sir JOHN JENNINGS, an officer of high reputation in the age that witnessed them, and therefore creditable in this. Those of Sir ROBERT HOLMES, which, in the order of our miscellaneous Biography, follow, although somewhat prior in point of time, exhibit also another honourable addition to the series which grace our CHRONICLE.

This class of our Biography, as we have before stated, is, however, not that which we prefer; but on the failure of more recent subjects, we avail ourselves of it, as consistent with our views of rendering the NAVAL CHRONICLE a complete register of Naval Biography, so far as perfection is by us attainable. These are the only instances in the Volume in which we have perhaps trespassed on the reader's pleasure, although in furtherance of our plan. The communication of some interesting documents relative to the public life of the late Captain TUCKEY, from his family, has enabled us to lay before our readers a series of services more likely to interest them, as combined with the history of our own times. And on a similar ground of recommendation, we have given, with the desirable accompaniment of a Portrait, the public services of Captain NICOLAS, forming a very considerable portion of naval information relative to the last war, and reflecting much honour on the gallant Captain who performed them.

We have used our best endeavours, and we hope successfully, to render the Miscellaneous part of the Volume acceptable, by its variety of subject, which, although not always important, we trust will never be found dull.

In the paucity of naval subjects for remark, naturally arising from a state of peace, the *ingenuity* of our Correspondents has been put to the proof, with results highly creditable to their talents. The variety and sagacity of their observations on the present state of naval concerns, evince the excellence of their understandings and genius in a very high degree—the instances of which we shall point out to as great an extent as the narrow limits of our Preface will admit of.

The first article in the Volume is *W.*'s Third Letter "To a Friend, relative to his Son's entering the Naval Service." We have in the Preface to the preceding Volume, given an opinion of the merit of these Letters; and we have certainly found no reason to retract it, on a perusal of those subsequently published; they contain a fund of very useful information and advice to youths entering the service, delivered in good appropriate language. "The Comparison of the Two Services," by *Philo-Nauticus*, at page 27, seems very fairly made, and entitled to the attention of those whose province it is to make an effective application of it. The letter of

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## PREFACE.

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*Z. A.* page 32, in answer to "Remarks on the Reply to Mr. Urquhart's Pamphlet on the Evils of Impressment," is very ably written. We are not inclined to enter into the subject of difference between these two gentlemen, but shall be at all times ready to give them the opportunity of debating it. We think, however, that personalities are better avoided, as always foreign to the *question*. At page 193, will be found *Robur's* Seventh Letter, written with his usual energy, and in the spirit of real patriotism; in which he urges the expediency, or rather necessity, of forming our navy more upon the model of that of the United States. These observations are followed up, at page 200, by the ardent *Albion*, who having adopted the name of his country, seems to have pledged himself to the support of her honour and interests by all the means in his power. In this letter he recommends the adoption of the American practice of sending out a cruising squadron for the purpose of training and practising our seamen and officers in their naval duties and discipline; and at page 202, is a letter by *Nestor*, on the same subject, of keeping the naval preparations and practice of the Americans constantly in view, and squaring our own to theirs in such a manner as may enable us to contend on something like equal ground, when the period of contention shall arrive. The laudable labours of *Mr. Urquhart*, in detecting errors of management in the Trinity House concerns, will, we hope, be successful; and that the funds of that Corporation will be duly applied to the objects of its foundation, in their full extent. We do not, ourselves, profess an adequate knowledge of their present application, to decide on the correctness of Mr. Urquhart's objections; but as there appears, at pages 206 and 207, a specification of facts which seem to warrant them, we trust they will be attended to by those to whom they are addressed, and measures adopted to remove them.

The recent Polar expeditions have produced many very ingenious remarks on the nature and situation of the Polar regions, the progress and discoveries of former navigators, and the probabilities and improbabilities of success in future attempts. It was not to be expected, that in the number of our scientific Correspondents, we should be long without some communications on the subject, and that copious and well-considered paper was received from our intelligent Correspondent, *Phoca*, which we have given at page 208, and continued at page 275. The reasoning and research of this excellent naval document does very great credit to the talents and industry of the writer. His diligent investigation of the subject, his selection of authorities, in corroboration of his own remarks, evince his zeal and ability in a degree greatly to his honour, and we should be proud of his future communications, confident that on any subject his enlightened mind would afford much useful information. *Mercator*, at page 272, has offered some ingenious remarks on the sailing of our ships. At page 273, *A Friend to Naval Merit* has suggested the propriety of increasing the number of retired post captains, and commanders. At page 286, *Alfred*, with his accustomed zeal and ability, enters into the consideration of the state of our navy, and urges the necessity of an adequate preparation against the chance of hostilities with America, whose progressively increasing

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naval strength he with much reason considers as a real object of alarm. At p. 289, are some farther remarks on the management of the affairs of the Trinity Corporation, addressed to T. Urquhart, Esq. The active zeal of Mr. Urquhart for the correction of naval wrongs, has brought against him a very powerful antagonist on the subject of Impressment, in a gentleman who signs himself *Z. A.* At page 291, are some very cogent observations by him, defending the existence of that evil, as a necessary one. The letter is written with the correctness of a scholar, and the observations are evidently those of a mind habituated to reflection, looking to the probable consequences of innovation on customs warranted by their long establishment and practice, and penetrating beneath the surface of things, to expose the fallacy of appearances—all, certainly, is not evil that appears such; nor, in human concerns, is there any essential good to be obtained without a sacrifice. At page 299 is a letter from *Philo*, recommending a superior course of naval education, on board ships of war.—From the instances of navigators who have reached high northern latitudes, communicated to us by *Polaris*, the question may be very fairly inferred, “Why has not the Pole been reached?” for we are there told that navigators have gone as far as the 83d degree, and found the sea clear and open as far as the eye could reach beyond it.—At page 370, is a very interesting Narrative of Captain Thurston’s Proceedings at the Island of Timor. We have ourselves been much gratified in the perusal of it, as evincing traits of ability that would illustrate a much higher rank of command.—At page 385, is No. I. of a series of Letters by Captain Manderson, on the advantages derivable from the Port of Falmouth.

We have unavoidably omitted the notice of many articles of Correspondence, equally worthy with those we have mentioned, for which omission we have only to repeat our former apology—the want of room. The Correspondence of the Volume closes with a moderate, well-written letter from *Britannicus*, relative to the meeting of the New Parliament, and the well-grounded expectations entertained of a general amelioration of all that concerns the commonwealth of the kingdom.

The contributions of our constant and much-esteemed friend, Mrs. *M<sup>c</sup>Mullan—An Old Shipmate—C.—C. H.—A Lady*, (certainly a favorite of the Muses, whose favors to her we shall always be happy to see transmitted to us)—and *T. T.*—have enabled us to give a very pleasing variety to the Volume.

In adverting to the regular communications from Dr. BURNBY, we are impressed with a due sense of our increased obligation to him, and beg his acceptance of our very sincere thanks, and we might reasonably presume those of our readers, for having enriched the Science of Meteorology, by his copious descriptions of atmospheric *Phenomena*.

To the PATRONS of the NAVAL CHRONICLE we present, with the completion of the Volume, our grateful acknowledgments of their support, in an undertaking certainly valuable in its purposes, and now respectable in its duration.