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1885

### Inauguration of the Perry Statue, September 10, 1885

William P. Sheffield

Governor Wetmore

Mayor Franklin

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*Dr Wood*  
*Heb Wray*

INAUGURATION  
OF THE  
PERRY STATUE,

SEPTEMBER 10, A. D. 1885,

WITH THE ADDRESSES OF

WILLIAM P. SHEFFIELD,

AND THE REMARKS IN RECEIVING THE STATUE BY

GOVERNOR WETMORE

AND

MAYOR FRANKLIN,

WITH

THE SPEECHES AT THE DINNER,

OF THE

GOVERNOR, MAYOR, HON. GEORGE BANCROFT, JUSTICES  
BLATCHFORD AND DURFEE, ADMIRALS RODGERS,  
ALMY AND LUCE, THE LETTER OF  
COL. WILLIAM H. POTTER, &c.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

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NEWPORT, R. I.:  
JOHN P. SANBORN, PUBLISHER,  
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## Introduction.

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The people of Newport had long thought that it was due the memory of Oliver Hazard Perry, that a statue of him should be erected in some conspicuous place within their corporate limits, to commemorate his name and his achievement on Lake Erie. This subject was occasionally brought to the public attention, sometimes by allusion in public discussion, and sometimes through the medium of the press, from the time of his death up to 1882, and some fifteen or more years since a petition numerously signed by the people of Newport was presented to the General Assembly for an appropriation for a statue; the subject of the prayer of the petition was commended to the favorable consideration of the Assembly, but the time of this presentation was inopportune, for the people were then severely burthened by the war-taxes, both National and State, and the Assembly was disinclined to impose upon the people of the State additional burdens even to promote so meritorious an object as the erection of a statue to the memory of Commodore Perry. The subject of the prayer of these petitioners was repeatedly afterwards urged upon the attention of the Assembly, but the matter rested in the files of the House, until the House, tired of its presence, struck it from its docket.

In May, 1882, a resolution was offered to make an appropriation for an equestrian statue of the late lamented Gen-



eral Burnside in Providence; to this resolution an additional resolution was offered to make an appropriation for the erection of a statue of Commodore Perry in Newport; the committee of the House in which the latter resolution was offered, reduced the proposed appropriation for the statue of Perry to \$7,500, and coupled with it an amendment that an equal sum should be raised from other sources to complete the statue. This was a hard condition, but it was accepted by the movers of the resolution, and the additional \$7,500 to make the State appropriation available, was obtained—\$5,000 of it from the city of Newport and \$2,500 by voluntary subscriptions from individuals. [See Appendix A.]

In the meantime a public meeting was called at the State House in Newport, and a voluntary association was formed, of which the Hon. George H. Calvert was made president, John Gilpin, secretary, and Charles T. Hopkins, treasurer. This association appointed an executive committee consisting of William P. Sheffield, T. Mumford Seabury, David King, John G. Weaver and Lewis Brown, with authority to do all that was necessary or expedient to procure the formation and erection of the statue.

The General Assembly and the City Council each authorized the payment of their appropriations to this executive committee. The committee advertised in the *Art Journal* and elsewhere for proposals and models for the statue and pedestal—the foundation, pedestal and statue to cost \$15,000. Several proposals with models or drawings were tendered to the committee. The committee was unanimous in its conclusions to accept the model tendered by William G. Turner, not because he was a native of Newport, but because his model appeared to the committee to be preferable to any other presented.



The committee entered into a contract with Captain Turner for the execution of the work, including the statue, pedestal and foundation, which has been completely executed to the mutual satisfaction of the parties.

The City Council of Newport, who have acted in harmony with the executive committee in this work, appointed Alderman Job T. Langley and Councilmen Wm. O. Greene and Thomas P. Peckham to confer with the committee of the association to designate a site for the location of the statue, and this committee, acting with Messrs. King and Brown of the executive committee, fixed upon the location, after which, the City Council were asked to appoint a committee to assist and act with the executive committee of the association in making preparation for, and at, the inauguration of the statue on the 10th of September, 1885. The City Council appointed upon this committee, Aldermen Crandall and Hopkins, with Councilmen Barker, Hamilton and Lawton, to whose untiring and efficient aid the executive committee are greatly indebted for the success incident to the inauguration ceremony.

The now combined committee tendered to the Ancient Order of Free and Accepted Masons in Rhode Island, of which Commodore Perry while in life was a member, an invitation to lay the corner-stone of the pedestal, upon which the statue was to be erected, and that order accepted the invitation and performed the work committed to them with the very interesting rites and ceremonies of its order, on the first day of September, 1885.

In their preparations for the inauguration of the statue, the committee invited the Rt. Rev. Bishop T. M. Clark to act as chaplain of the day, which invitation was accepted, and the office was performed to the very great satisfaction of the committee.



The committee invited Col. John Hare Powel to act as Chief Marshal of the day, who kindly accepted the office and appointed Major H. T. Easton, Col. W. J. Cozzens, Col. John C. Seabury, Col. Andrew K. McMahon, W. W. Marvel, and Frank L. Powell as his aids, who all discharged their duties with great fidelity and ability.

The committee also appointed the following ushers, to wit: Col. A. C. Landers, Edward Newton, A. B. Corbin, Arthur B. Brightman and George L. Swan, for whose efficient aid in seating the guests on the platform and in the dining-hall the committee acknowledged themselves to be greatly indebted.

In dismissing this part of their introduction the committee acknowledge their great obligation to Mayor Franklin and the police force of the city of Newport for the maintainance of perfect order while the ceremonies of the inauguration of the statue were carried on, and for the peace and good conduct which pervaded the entire city during that day.

The committee deemed it proper at the inauguration, while they invited the public at large to participate in the ceremonies, to invite to special seats upon the stand, members of "the Perry family," including all the descendants of Commodore Perry and his nephews and nieces, the general officers of the State and members of the Legislature, members of the City Council, with the subscribers to the fund, placed at the disposal of the committee, all persons who had a right to know how the fund provided had been expended, officers of the army and navy in Newport, ex-Governors of the State, members of the press and others who had rendered services to the committee, with a few aged men in Newport who had personally known Commodore Perry.

The exercises at the stand consisted of a voluntary by the



band, prayer by the Rt. Rev. Chaplain of the day, an address by the chairman of the committee, which included the presentation of the statue in behalf of the committee to the Governor representing the people at large, and to the Mayor representing the people of the city, the reply of His Excellency the Governor and by His Honor the Mayor, and the benediction by the chaplain.

The committee, with their invited guests, then repaired to the Ocean House, where an excellent collation was served by the proprietors. The chairman of the committee presided at the collation and at the subsequent part of the entertainment. The addresses at the stand and at the dinner are reported in the subsequent pages.

The committee are under great obligations to the officers of the army and navy, to the Newport Artillery, and to the Grand Army of the Republic in Newport for the fine display made in the procession, which added greatly to the interest of the occasion.

A detailed account of the Inauguration addresses, with an Appendix, is herewith published.

The committee regret their inability to publish so few of the names of the men who left Newport and were with Perry in the battle.

W. P. SHEFFIELD,	}	Committee.
T. M. SEABURY,		
DAVID KING,		
JOHN G. WEAVER,		
LEWIS BROWN,		

NEWPORT, Sept. 1885.



ADDRESS  
OF  
WILLIAM P. SHEFFIELD,  
AND RESPONSES BY  
GOVERNOR WETMORE AND MAYOR FRANKLIN.

## Address of Hon. William P. Sheffield.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

The battle of Lake Erie was fought seventy-two years ago to-day ; and we have convened to dedicate to the public and to posterity a statue in memory of the Commander of the American fleet in that action.

Oliver Hazard Perry needs no monument of bronze or marble to commemorate his name, or to illustrate his glory. History has taken these into its keeping and will preserve them for posterity, while genius in battle, heroic valor and unfaltering energy in the performance of high duty, receives the homage of the American people.

Wherever the patriotism of the citizen is the only reliance for the defence of the nation, the people owe it to themselves to show their appreciation of the conduct of those persons who have arisen amongst them that have been public benefactors, and have conferred distinction upon their localities. They owe it to those who may come after them, that they so manifest their gratitude that it will inspire succeeding generations with a due sense of patriotism, and be an incentive to them to arise above narrow and sinister purposes to the plane of exalted virtues, and be stimulated to the performance of great actions.



Citizens of South Kingstown, the town in which he was born,—of Newport, where he was reared, had his home in mature life, and is buried;—together with the State and people at large, who have participated in his glory, have been impelled by this common sense of obligation to undertake the erection of a memorial statue of Commodore Perry, a task, the execution of which was committed to a native artist, and here is the artist's finished work.

The statue is designed to represent Perry, not as he was superintending the cutting down of the forest for the construction of his ships; not as he was meditating the plan of the battle of Lake Erie or the order of its execution; not as he appeared the evening previous to the action advising his subordinate commanders in the words of Nelson, "No captain can do wrong if he places his ship alongside of that of an enemy;" nor as he was opening the battle flag which bore upon its folds the dying words of a gallant captain; not as he was leaving his wrecked ship with her deck strewn with his dead and dying comrades, when by the received canons of naval warfare the *Lawrence* and the battle were lost; but as he appeared in that supreme moment of his life, when he had just gained the deck of the *Niagara*, before he had recovered his knocked-off cap, and while in distinct succession he was giving orders to "Back the main-top sail," "Brail up the main-try-sail," "Helm up." "Square the yards," "Bear down on the enemy's line." "Set the top-gallant-sail," "Hoist the signal for close action," orders which infused new enthusiasm into all the American crews; and as pendant answered pendant, from mast-head to mast-head, indicating the reception of the order to break the enemy's lines, hearty cheers went up from the entire American force with a fervor that presaged the result of the impending death struggle.



In contemplating this statue, we should consider the circumstances in which Perry was placed, and the events impending, when the artist has undertaken to represent him, as well as in the light of Perry's conduct thereafter, and the results therefrom, reflected back upon this critical juncture in his career. For the battle of Lake Erie did not create, but illustrated and brought out in bold outline, the real character of the man.

The crews of the American fleet were of a mixed character. Perry sent from Newport one hundred and forty-nine men and three boys in three detachments. [See Appendix B.] Half of one of these detachments was detained by Commodore Chauncey on Lake Ontario; but, shortly before the battle, Perry received from that officer a considerable accession to his force. Upon his arrival at Lake Erie, Perry found a few men in the service of the Government on the Lake, and the remainder of his men were made up of new recruits, with a contingent taken from the North Western army of men, naturally brave, but without experience on shipboard. Perry had arrayed against him skillful officers who had been taught the art of war, and the methods of victory under Nelson. Brave and highly disciplined seamen in whose vocabulary defeat had had no place, with recruits like Perry's taken from the army, and an auxiliary force of Indian sharp-shooters.

The character of a naval engagement is not to be determined alone by the number of men, the tonnage of the ships, or the weight of metal involved in the conflict. These are elements to be considered, and in the battle of Lake Erie all of these elements were against the American fleet, but the surrounding and attending circumstances, the conduct of the battle, and the results depending upon its issue are



the considerations which go to make the place in the minds of succeeding generations which the event is to occupy. History has not had committed to it for preservation, the story of the organization of a fleet, and the conduct of a battle the result of which was more dependent upon the genius, knowledge, energy, and courage of a single individual, than was the battle of Lake Erie.

Other commanders have fought in ships completely equipped for service by other hands, but Perry had to construct, equip, arm and man his ships, and in person to take two of them in succession into action; and it may be well questioned whether he is not entitled to as much credit for his intelligent comprehension of the wants of the occasion, his energy, and perseverance in collecting the materials to supply those wants, and in making up his fleet, as for his genius and courage in action.

Perry, in the beginning, was unfortunate in having succeeded an officer who, in the engagement, was his subordinate in command, and in anticipating a ranking officer in bringing on the conflict; but the surrounding circumstances and the positive orders of the Secretary of the Navy made his meeting the enemy a necessity.

The outcome of the attempts which had been made by the Government for the defence of this section of the country, had not been such as to inspire sanguine hopes of the result of this action.

The Adams, the only vessel the United States had upon the Lake before the construction of Perry's ships had been captured. General Hull had ignobly surrendered his force to the enemy at the head of the Lake, General Winchester's army had been lost to the Government, and General Van Rensselaer had been defeated at Niagara.



Perry was to act in conjunction with the north-western army under General Harrison, then awaiting the result of the battle to be transported across the Lake, in the event of a victory, to operate against the enemy in his own territory.

Perry's earnest appeal to Chauncey for men, backed by the promise that if he got them he would acquire honor and glory both for Chauncey and himself, or he would perish in the attempt, should be considered in connection with his appeal to the same officer to bring the men, and take command of the fleet. Together they show that the first appeal was not the result of an ambitious desire for vain glory; no mere impulse of emotion or passion, but the outcome of a high resolve wrought in the laboratory of a noble soul, born of that deliberate purpose which permeated his subsequent conduct in the action and which is recorded in the bronze before us.

The men from the army were animated for a desperate exertion; with them, the slaughter at the river Raisin was to be redressed and its repetition in the northwest was to be made impossible. In this disposition for redress the seamen heartily sympathized, for the war was a contest for Sailors' Rights. The American flag then trailed in the dust, but it was to be restored to its appropriate place in the esteem of the men in that section of the country. With a crew animated by these motives, Perry went into action with the *Lawrence* and fought the enemy almost single handed until all the guns of his ship were dismounted, and all but eight of her gallant crew that he left on board were either killed or wounded, when with a boat's crew he left the *Lawrence*, boarded and took command of the *Niagara*, and it is at this moment in the conflict the artist has undertaken to represent him.



Barelay said in his report to the British Admiralty, that when Perry boarded the Niagara, that vessel was fresh in action. Up to that time she had been beyond the effective reach of the enemy's guns, but under her new commander *there was no halting in her course as she bore down to break and pass through the enemy's ranks.* Every brace and bowline were taut, and every man on board apprised of what was expected of him, was soon at his post of duty; each, as he took his position, cast a hasty glance at Perry's battle flag then flying from the masthead of the Niagara, and as he took in the dying words of the noble Lawrence, formed a solemn resolve to obey their mandate and made that resolve a sacrament.

As she went into action, the Niagara belched forth a broadside at the Detroit, and the Queen Charlotte, then a broadside at the Chippawa, the Lady Provost and the Hunter. These broadsides were repeated in rapid succession with terrific effect. The other American vessels, now in action, whose crews were inspired by the daring of their fleet commander, imitated his example and closely followed him into the fight, and the combined result even Britons could not endure. The eagles of victory soon perched in triumph on the mast-heads of the American fleet, and Perry had won the battle which James Madison, then President, said had "never been surpassed in lustre, however much it may have been surpassed in magnitude."

After the action Perry returned to the Lawrence, changed the dress of a common sailor for an undress uniform, that he might appropriately receive the surrender of the enemy on board the vessel that had been in the hardest of the fight and had suffered most from it; and that the remnant of her gallant crew might have the satisfaction of witnessing the submission of the foe which had caused their sufferings.



That relief from apprehension for the safety of the fleet might be given to General Harrison and the settlers on the widely extended domain about the Lake, Perry penned and dispatched to that general a hasty note, in words familiar, and destined to be immortal, telling him "We have met the enemy and they are ours," and another like hasty note to the Secretary of the Navy, informing that officer that "It has pleased the Almighty to give to the arms of the United States a signal victory over their enemies on this lake. The British squadron, consisting of two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop, have this moment surrendered to the force under my command after a sharp conflict." There is nothing of the valor of the pen or of the exaggeration of self from the ink horn in these concise and expressive notes.

The enemy's surrender was gracefully received. Perry soon visited the wounded Barclay, and tendered him every service that it was in his power to render, and every possible attention was given to the wounded of both fleets. Then came the roll-call to see who had answered the final summons to duty on the field of honor, who had received marks of courage in the fight, and who had gone through the dreadful ordeal of battle unscathed. It was then that the tears of sorrow mingled with the exultations of victory which soon were to be shouted along the line of every highway and by-way, from hamlet to village, from village to town, and from town to city throughout the land.

Perry wrote to Governor Brook, of Massachusetts, a letter condoling with him on the fall of his gallant son in action; for while Perry's brow was laurelled with the wreath of victory, he did not forget that there were mourners weeping for brave hearts which in the fight had been forever put to rest.



The name of Perry was now made a household word from the great Northern Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, from the Atlantic Coast to the unpenetrated wilderness of the West, often repeated at the baptismal font; and a nation's gratitude was soon laid at his feet. His praise was chanted in poetry and song while he lived, and in sadder strains was sung his mourning requiem over his grave when he was buried. [See Appendix C.] As humane in victory as he had been brave in action, his generous kindness won the admiration of Barclay, and his dying comrades showered upon him their blessings and remembered him in their final prayers.

Prayers of gratitude to that Almighty power which had given victory to the American arms went up from every fireside throughout the Northwest; and mothers pressed their children more closely to their breasts as they thought themselves to be henceforth secure from the scalping knife of Indian barbarity, and that the savage war-whoop would no more break the sleep of the cradle.

At night-fall many of the dead, with all due solemnity, were tenderly committed to the deep. The wounded had all been visited and their wants attended to; the worn and weary now sought repose, and a solemn oppressive silence soon pervaded the fleets, save here and there a sound of distress from the wounded. The Captain now retired for reflection, for his mind and heart were too full for rest. He then thought of his young, devoted wife, whose prayers he believed had been his shield in battle; that his work was yet incomplete while the British had an army on the borders of the Lake, or in upper Canada,—how he could best aid General Harrison's army; and then resolved on the work of the morrow, when, soothed by reflection, his tired nature gave out and he, too, sank into a fitful slumber.



The mind of Barclay relieved of present responsibility, evolved other less pressing but more pensive thoughts. He thought not of himself, or his bleeding wound, for he had bled before for his country, when he earned his stars and made his fame secure at Trafalgar; but as the sun went down that night he thought that no more in the evening twilight would the mariners of England, standing under the cross of St. George, on that great inland water, sing their national song, "Brittania rules the waves." No more the echoes of that stirring air rolling over the silver surface of the Lake to its islands and shores, would arouse the sturdy dwellers there to join in glad unison in those lofty strains which everywhere, the world over, melts into one every true and loyal British heart. He then was moved by the sadder thought, that on that night the sun of British power which had hitherto dominated the great Northern Lakes of America had gone down forever.

Perry's available vessels were now taken to transport General Harrison's army across the Lake, and up the Detroit river. The *Lawrence*, as soon as she was put in condition, took on board the wounded of both fleets, and under the command of the gallant, but wounded Yarnell, carried them to Erie. The other vessels were repaired and fitted for other duties, or were to return to Erie.

Perry accompanied General Harrison as a volunteer aid, and participated and bore an honorable part in the battle of the Thames, as he had done in the battle of Fort George, under Chauncy, before the engagement on the Lake.

Upon his return to Detroit he found a letter from the Secretary of Navy, thanking and congratulating him for the eminent services he had rendered his country; and, as he had performed the duty committed to him, granting him leave to visit his family at Newport.



But Perry was first to return to Erie, which he had left the 12th of August. The news of the result of the battle had long preceded his arrival there, and the people had been watching and waiting his coming. On the 23d of October the Aerial, the last vessel of the fleet to leave the head of the lake came within sight of Erie. She had on board General Harrison, who had then lately defeated General Proctor at the Thames, the wounded Barclay and Commodore Perry. The people from the surrounding country crowded into Erie to welcome the arrival of the victors. Barclay was taken to Perry's quarters and there properly cared for by Harrison and Perry.

The Lawrence was anchored in Misery Bay, in the harbor of Erie, maimed and battered, and scarcely able to float, yet having on board her precious freight brought across the lake; Perry now visited this ship, and as he reached her blood-stained deck and beheld his surviving comrades, and thought of those who had been in the fight who were not then on board, he reverently raised his hands in fervent supplication to Him who giveth the victory not always to the strong, to heal the wounds, and bless, and raise up the sufferers around him; and to sustain and help the widows and orphans the battle had made; and in the thanksgiving for the preservation of those who had survived the conflict unhurt. He then returned to the shore to meet the vast concourse of people awaiting his arrival. The dead and the disabled men, the dismounted guns and the broken and tattered ships told the story of the battle and the price of the victory with more eloquence than the most brilliant imagination could compass. These visible evidences of the strife for the mastery indicated the valor, and the woe, incident to the ordeal which had been passed, with an energy and pathos



which overpowered the most obdurate will; and the multitude greeted Harrison and Perry with tears and smiles—rain in sunshine with a heartiness that language is too poor and barren to describe. The living had earned their title to everlasting gratitude, and the dead had fallen as the brave desire to fall, at the post of duty, and on the field of victory.

Perry now procured the parole and release of Barclay, and after arranging for his absence, started eastward on his journey home, but his progress was everywhere obstructed by evidences of the gratitude of his countrymen for his great action. On Monday, the 15th of November, attended by the faithful crew that rowed him to the Niagara, he arrived in Newport by the way of the south-ferry. Here he was received upon his arrival in a manner alike worthy of his neighbors and friends, and of himself.

August 23d, 1819, at the age of thirty-four, he died of yellow fever at Port Spain in the island of Trinidad. His remains were brought to Newport in a government ship, and were here interred December 4th, 1826. They were conducted to their final resting place by a funeral cortege such as up to that time had never been equalled or approximated in this state, and up to the present time has never been surpassed.

This is but a glance at the man, and the event to which we are here to-day to rear this tribute of our gratitude. There are other names and other figures that come up to view in the memory and gather around the name of Perry, of men who were efficient auxiliaries in the conflict, shared the dangers and participated in the glory of the battle of Lake Erie, and who are inseparably connected with that event.



Turner, Taylor, Champlin, Almy, Breese, Brownell, and the acting fleet surgeon Parsons were from Rhode Island ; Forest, Brook, Stevens, Hambleton, Yarnell, and others not less distinguished were from other states ; and the gallant commander of the northwest army, and his comrades in arms, whom Perry accompanied to the field on the 5th of October, in the battle of the Thames, where Perry's victory was made complete, and its results secured by driving the organized forces of the enemy from upper Canada are deserving of our remembrance to-day.

To Your Excellency the Governor, representing the people of Rhode Island ; To Your Honor the Mayor, representing the people of Newport :

The Committee charged with the duty of providing and erecting this statue of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, has performed the work committed to it, and through you dedicate it to the people of the state, and of the city, you represent as the result of its labors. It is not for the committee to comment upon the statue which has been formed and erected under its direction, but with great satisfaction the artist's finished work is submitted to the candid criticism of all who are capable of forming an intelligent judgment upon its merits. Take the statue for those whom you represent, let it be kept as a cherished treasure by the people of the state at large, and especially by the people of the city of Newport. Let no vandal hand deface the monumental bronze. Let it stand defying the wastes of time and the power of the elements, keeping pace with history in its march through coming ages in recalling to each succeeding generation the man and the event which this statue is designed to commemorate, ever inspiring the young to patriotism, and solacing the aged with the reflection that a



grateful people properly appreciate and appropriately reward their benefactors. Let the ideal Perry shadow the passer by, and from its high pedestal apparently cast a glance at each beholder, which shall penetrate and permeate his mind and heart, and possess him completely with the noble and generous purpose and lofty soul which animated Perry on the occasion which the artist has undertaken to represent him.

This statue will tend not only to remind those who look upon it of Perry and Lake Erie, but it will suggest to them other names associated with this locality, and other events connected with those who have gone out from this place, such as Sir Charles Wager, first Lord of the British Admiralty in the cabinet of Sir Robert Walpole; Arthur Brown, distinguished abroad and at home alike in literature and in law; the two admirals Brenton, who adorned the British navy; Edward Pelham Brenton, the philanthropist, a post captain and the historian of that navy; Berkeley and Channing, within whom reigned the soul of philosophy; Stuart and Malbone, unrivalled in their departments of art, and other names scarcely less conspicuous in other vocations of useful life.

The men from the central and northwestern States who come here, will look upon this memorial creation to behold the image of the youthful hero who so gallantly defended their sections of the country. The men that come here from the South and see this statue, will ask for a memorial to be erected to the memory of Greene, whose unknown grave is in far off Georgia, who in the revolution with marvellous wisdom, energy and courage, defended the people of their section from the attacks of a ruthless foe. The New Yorkers that come here will look for some reminder of the



gallant men from Rhode Island, who, in early times, stood between the pioneers of New York and their French and Indian enemies and perished in that service, in snows and frosts on the Canada frontier. The men who come here from northern New England, as their eyes rest on this bronze will recall the stories of the campaigns in which Rhode Island men bore a part in the capture of Port Royal in 1710, and shared the perils of the disastrous campaign in the St. Lawrence in 1711, the hardships of the expeditions of 1721 and 1745 against their enemies, in what is now Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and New Brunswick, and the only vestige of all of these campaigns which will be here to gladden their sight is the two old cannon there beside the fountain, which, from on board the *Tartar*, did excellent service in the fight, and at the fall of Louisburg.

Thus it is that this statue will not only awaken an interest in Perry and Lake Erie, but it will tend to remind the observer of other men and other events, which have earned for Rhode Island its great stake in the American union and in our American social system, and to impress upon the people of the State the importance of preserving unimpaired these great behests bought with many sacrifices, and around which cluster many glorious memories, and will enspirit them to rival in arts and arms the deeds of their ancestors.

His Excellency Governor George Peabody Wetmore replied in behalf of the State in the following pleasing remarks:

*Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens :*

A little more than one hundred years ago was born, and on his birthday died, in 1819, at the early age of thirty-four, the man, who on the 10th of September, 1813, took for his



battle-cry a flag, on which were inscribed the dying words of the gallant Lawrence, "Don't give up the ship;" achieved the battle of Lake Erie, and announced it in the memorable words "We have met the enemy and they are ours." He there commanded "the first American fleet that ever in line of battle encountered an enemy" and had the proud distinction of capturing the first British fleet that had ever been captured "since England had a navy."

What manner of man he was and how he lived his life, you have learned from the eloquent and instructive address which we have just listened to.

To-day, on the seventy-second anniversary of the battle and sixty-six years after the death of Perry, opposite his last residence, surrounded by representatives of his family, of the National, State and Foreign governments, of the Army and of the Navy of the United States and of our Municipal authorities, we have unveiled this statue.

In thus performing an act of tardy justice may we not help prove that after all Republics are not altogether ungrateful or forgetful of their heroes and that we in the very tardiness of our action pay a greater tribute to approved merit.

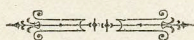
The State, this City, and our People have erected this statue—a monument to the worth and valiant deeds of other times—and we commit it to the future to be reverently cared for, as long as courage, energy, resource, generosity and humanity are held in honor.

His Honor Mayor Robert S. Franklin then accepted the trust in behalf of the city with the following well-chosen words:

In receiving this statue, I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, upon the successful completion of the labor of your committee. As citizens of Newport we may well feel



proud of the skill of our townsman, Mr. William G. Turner, the designer of this beautiful work of art. I shall not speak of the life or character of him whom it is intended to commemorate, neither shall I refer to the particular event that rendered his name illustrious, and placed it among the naval heroes of the country. This you have done in eloquent and appropriate language. The place of location is an eminently proper one : in this city, the home of his adoption, and on this park, within sight of the house he once occupied. In behalf of the city I accept the trust you have now given me, assuring you that it shall be carefully guarded, hoping that all who look upon this statue may ever remember and emulate the courage and patriotism of Oliver Hazard Perry.





POST-PRANDIAL EXERCISES.



## Post-Prandial Exercises.

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After the removal of the cloth the chairman called the guests to order and announced the first regular toast :

Rhode Island, the birthplace of the American navy.

To this Governor Wetmore was called out and responded as follows :

*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Perry Statue Committee:*

I take this opportunity to congratulate you upon the successful conclusion of your labors and our State and City in being possessed of such an admirable and spirited work of art, dedicated to the memory of Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of Lake Erie, in honoring whom we have honored ourselves. It is an additional gratification that a fellow-townsmen should have been selected for the work and that he has proved himself so eminently qualified for the trust committed to his skill.

Mr. Chairman, you have just suggested that Rhode Island is the birthplace of the American Navy and it would appear that not only is this so, but that she has been occupied for a period of almost two centuries and a half in warlike naval matters. To show this, it is only necessary to take a few from the many instances that might be mentioned.

As far back as in 1641 an armed boat was fitted to cruise around this Island to prevent the Indians from landing.

In April 1676, at an adjourned meeting of the Assembly, a flotilla of gunboats was ordered for the defence of the Island. It was to consist of four boats, each manned by five or six men, the force to be added to should occasion require. Arnold in his history of Rhode Island, says: "This is the first instance in the history of the Colonies, where a naval armament was relied upon for defence. It was the germ of a future Rhode Island Squadron, one century later, and of an ultimate American Navy."



In 1702, during the war against France and Spain, the Brigantine Greyhound, Captain William Wanton, of one hundred tons, mounting twelve guns, with a crew of one hundred men and boys was commissioned as a privateer.

The Colony ordered the sloop Tartar of one hundred and fifteen tons to be built in 1740 for the war against Spain and in the following year five privateers with four hundred men were fitted out by Newport merchants. The Tartar had a most useful career of eight years under different commanders and at last was ordered to be sold at public auction. The two guns just mentioned by Mr. Sheffield as standing by the fountain in Washington Square belonged to her.

In 1772, Whipple and others captured and then destroyed the Gaspee.

In 1775 Captain Abraham Whipple chased the tender of the Rose frigate on to Conanicut Island and captured her after a sharp fight. For this exploit, Arnold says, "To Captain Whipple is due the honor of discharging the first gun upon the ocean, at any part of His Majesty's Navy in the American Revolution."

During the session of the Assembly held in August, 1775, at East Greenwich, it was voted that the Rhode Island delegates in Congress be instructed "to use their whole influence for building, at the Continental expense, a fleet of sufficient force for the protection of the Colonies." On the third of October, these instructions were laid before Congress, assembled in Philadelphia, and on the twenty-second of December, Congress passed resolutions for the organization and equipment of a fleet, and appointed a Commander-in-Chief, four captains, five first-lieutenants and five second-lieutenants. Esek Hopkins, the Commander-in-Chief, two of the four Captains, three of the five first-lieutenants, and four of the five second-lieutenants were Rhode Islanders. The rank of Commander-in-Chief was intended to be the equivalent in the Navy, of that held by Washington in the Army, and Hopkins was the only man in the United States who ever bore the title of Admiral until our late Civil War.

No wonder then, that Rhode Island puts in a full claim for the Navy of our country and like the hen, has gathered under her wings the Torpedo School, the Training School for naval apprentices and the Naval War College, and stands ready in the future, should more of the same sort come along, to extend her wings again, and gather them in.

At the conclusion of the Governor's remarks, the second regular toast was announced :

The navy, a bulwark of our national honor, the defence of our sea-coast at home and of our commerce abroad.



The chairman stated that it was expected that Secretary Whitney would have been present to respond to this toast, but as they were honored by the presence of an ex-Secretary of the Navy who had many titles to the gratitude of the American people, in the absence of the present Secretary of the Navy he called upon the Honorable George Bancroft, who responded :

The city of Newport has received me as one of its inhabitants, and in consequence I am a citizen of Rhode Island. As such I join with you in the acts of to-day; and I ask the question whether we raise a statue to Oliver Hazard Perry because he was born on the soil of Rhode Island, chose Newport for his home, and so is identified with this city, and this State, or whether his deeds had a memorable influence on the history of his country and of the world ?

Perry was full of the qualities that win affection. He was open-hearted and generous, ever finding happiness in doing good to others, and ready to give up his life in the public service. His memory is therefore specially dear to his fellow-townsmen and to his State. But it is not their partiality that devotes this day to the culture of his memory.

When the great statesmen of America framed our constitution and the citizens of the States one after another had accepted it, the new people, child as it were of a day, organized itself and took its place by the side of empires and kingdoms and States that had existed for a thousand years. The old world laughed in scorn at the thought that a Republic, continental in its extent, could endure. The constitution was a wonderful result of concentrated wisdom; yet even those who made it hardly dared believe that it would be equal to the public demands. The condition of every seed as it first germinates is feeble, and it is long exposed to ruin from every side. How could the territory from the Mississippi to the Ocean, strike its first root in safety ? How could it grow except through long years of effort and struggle ? Must it not be like the forest trees which requires centuries to spread widely its roots and its branches ?

But Washington was there, and the country called the wisest men of the land to the two branches of the Legislature, and he made himself strong in the great ability of his advisors. The country was bankrupt. Hamilton, as has well been said, like Moses in the wilderness, struck the rock and the waters gushed forth in such abundance that the credit



of the United States was soon superior to that of any government in the civilized world, not excepting that of Great Britain.

The confederation knew nothing of a Supreme Court. A law framed by Oliver Ellsworth called it into being and prescribed its orbit; Washington promptly selected its members, and forthwith justice was administered from end to end of the boundless Republic. An army was called into existence; so, too, a navy, with officers selected from men whom our commerce had trained for the sea. As to the foreign relations of the country, one government after another did indeed accept our friendship and seek a share in our commerce; but it was not easy to reconcile the new commonwealth with the Bourbons nor with the Republic of France, and England was ruled by statesmen who had no prophetic eye and who rated the wealth, the glory, and the power of their country as of more worth than justice and the law of nations.

It is to the honor of John Adams, that, in his administration, strife with France was quieted by his own wise forbearance and personal resolution. But England was more stubbornly unreasonable and not only searched our vessels on the high seas for the property of those with whom she did not choose to be at peace, but any British-man-of-war, wherever she encountered at sea one of our beautiful ships, manned in a great part by the sons of New England Freeholders, would send a young lieutenant or midshipman to climb its deck, and press into the British service such Americans as he should see fit to call British citizens. England wronged us in our ships on which our flag gave no protection against violence. It was right that England should be met alike on the ocean and on our own Mediterranean seas. To do this great work the youthful Perry, in the winter of 1813, repaired to the shores of Lake Erie, from the trees of the forest built a squadron, lifted his fleet over the bar of the harbor, hunted on the Lake for his adversary, brought the British squadron to battle, and after a series of incidents, that fixed on him the eyes of the two fleets, on the tenth of September he made the masterly movement which enabled him before the sun could go down to write, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." Perry's victory had its share in turning a scornful enemy into a thoughtful lover of peace with the United States. It was one of the noblest acts of that war which Edward Everett used to call our second war of independence.

This is the reason why the victory of Perry claims to be remembered in the annals of mankind. We shall repeat the story to our children, and a



thousand years hence those who come after us will recall the event which we this day commemorate.

But let us not close without expressing joy that to-day the two great nations whose mother-tongue is the English, are happily bound together in amity as well as by language, and they show to the world the marvelous spectacle of an open line of boundary between the possessions of the old monarchy and the new Republic longer than from the waters of the harbor of New York to those of Liverpool, yet safe under the guardianship of reason and peace. Such is for our time the fruit of the memorable deeds of our patriot heroes. In their foremost rank a place belongs to the name of Oliver Hazard Perry.

The presence and the remarks of Mr. Bancroft were received by the audience in a manner which could not be otherwise than gratifying to him. The third regular toast was announced at the conclusion of Mr. Bancroft's speech to be :

The City of Newport—A gem set in a silver sea. It has always taken pride in its surrounding element.

Responded to by the Hon. Robert S. Franklin, Mayor :

Mr. President—In responding to this toast I could use no more fitting words than those embodied in it. True, we have more than ordinary attractions, and we take a just pride in them. Not alone do we appreciate them, but the constantly increasing body of summer residents and the presence of such gentlemen as the last speaker, also attests its popularity as a summer resort. For the features that make it so popular we are proud, but to no such degree as we are with the deeds of her sons, with the accounts of which history is replete. To-day we have met to honor her sons. May the future be far distant when Newport forgets her duty in this respect.

The fourth toast was introduced with a preamble :

The Admiralty now takes jurisdiction of the inland waters. Its justice is an inspiration to Jack Tar since Wager first decreed the common sailor should share in prize money. It is also an inspiration to the sailor that this court is his guardian and will see that he has his rights:

This was replied to by Mr. Justice Blatchford of the United States Supreme Court, who said :

The sentiment to which I have been invited to respond is, the in-



spiration which the sailor receives from the assurance that the Admiralty will protect him in his rights. We are assembled to celebrate the victories in war of the hero son of Rhode Island. But peace hath its victories no less renowned than war. The jurisdiction of the Admiralty is deeply imbedded in the Constitution of the United States—that wonderful instrument, the product of the prescient wisdom of the great men of their time, in this as in many other respects. They had seen the unhappy contest in England between the Court of Admiralty and other jurisdictions, and, recognizing the great usefulness of the Admiralty jurisdiction, as exercised by the Courts of the Continent of Europe, they gave to the Federal Courts the broadest admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, as administered by the Continental Courts. Such is the interpretation put on the Constitutional provision by the Supreme Court of the United States. That jurisdiction is beneficent—exercised for good ends and by convenient and prompt methods. As was well said by that distinguished lawyer and judge, Chief Justice Taney, in a judicial opinion: “I can see no ground for jealousy or enmity to the Admiralty jurisdiction. It has in it no one quality inconsistent with or unfavorable to free institutions. The simplicity and celerity of its proceedings make a jurisdiction of that kind a necessity in every just and enlightened commercial nation. The delays unavoidably incident to a court of common law, from its rules and modes of proceeding, are equivalent to a denial of justice where the rights of seamen, or maritime contracts or torts, are concerned, and seafaring men the witnesses to prove them; and the public confidence is conclusively proved by the well-known fact, that in the great majority of cases where there is a choice of jurisdictions, the party seeks his remedy in the Court of Admiralty in preference to a court of common law of the State, however eminent and distinguished the State tribunals may be.”

The spirit of these words of Chief Justice Taney is that embodied in the sentiment to which I am responding. The Courts of Admiralty are especially careful of the rights of seamen, and, by the exercise of their power of siezing his vessel and holding it to respond to him, they are able effectually to secure to him his right to his earnings. In the sententious language of the Admiralty, the seaman's right to his wages adheres to the last plank of his vessel. Thus it is that while the seaman is necessarily subjected to strict and, in a sense, absolute and autocratic rule, he feels the ever-present assurance, that the Admiralty, by prompt and efficient methods, will secure to him his wages and his right to redress for unwarranted wrongs suffered at the hands of his superior offi-



cers. So we have built up a body of seamen, on public and private vessels, hardy, energetic, fearless, devoted to duty, such as those who under Oliver Hazard Perry fought the fight with success, and those who under Schley rescued Greeley and his companions in the Arctic seas. In all dangers and trials, whether in war or in peace, the American seaman proves himself a worthy representative of the American character, and a faithful supporter of the flag of his country.

The fifth regular toast was announced as follows by the chairman :

Amidst the contentions of individuals and nations there is a power which ever seeks to avert force. Idealized in marble that it cannot feel; blindfolded that it cannot see; holding equally-balanced scales that it may weigh equal justice to all. The most beneficent of all the powers of government, without which victories would be vain. The judiciary, it moves with a firm hand because the bayonet is behind it. May it never have an occasion to call the bayonet to its aid.

Chief Justice Durfee was called upon to respond to this toast, and said :

Mr. President—The judiciary is rather a large subject, fitter for a volume than for an after-dinner speech. It does not suggest to me a great deal which is particularly appropriate to the occasion. Nevertheless, as a member of the Rhode Island judiciary, I am glad to participate in this commemoration of a Rhode Island hero. The toast reminds me that the judiciary is without physical power, dependent in the last resort on the military for maintenance of its authority. We judges, therefore, even as judges, have good reason for testifying our admiration of the loyal and intrepid soldier and sailor. In this view, moreover, the toast points to a truth which is too often forgotten, namely, that we who serve the people are all of us helpers one of another—fellow-servants working together to one end, the general welfare, and that we are therefore all in turn, the humblest as the highest, each in his degree, if we but well perform our parts, entitled to mutual honor and consideration. There is an important truth here, which fully appreciated would invigorate all the civic virtues. Occasions like this are admirably calculated to inculcate it. The States or the nation could well afford to multiply such occasions, for as such they are exposed to assaults from without, and to corruptions and dissensions from within, and it is mainly to the virtues of their virtuous citizens that they must look for preservation and prosperity. For generations now we have had no experience of foreign war;



but history often repeats itself after long intervals. When such a war comes, if it comes, we shall again need the gallant sailor and the resourceful commander, the dauntless naval hero who, in the imminent crisis of battle sees with lightning-like clairvoyance of genius the one right thing to do, and utterly oblivious of self, speeds like a thunderbolt to its accomplishment. Such a naval hero was Perry, and the monument which we dedicate to him to-day may help to form some youthful mind to like heroism for the exigencies of the future. It will do more. The inmost soul of Perry's glorious deed was a loyal sense of duty, the sentiment of patriotic service, and when we erect a monument to him we honor all such service, whenever and however performed. We inspire and cultivate true ideas of public duty. I have said that for generations we have had no experience of foreign wars; we are the living witnesses of a tremendous civil conflict. God forbid that it should ever recur; but to guard against its recurrence, what better can we do than honor its loyal heroes with monuments and statues and memorial tablets which, speaking continually to the plastic mind and heart of the people, shall imbue them with a generous enthusiasm for their country? What better can we do especially than commemorate the matchless fortitude and magnanimity of the great general, recently dead amid universal lamentations, who led the Union armies to final triumph, by a monument which, sublimely towering, shall tell to all coming generations the story of his magnificent services? It was a favorite idea with my father, if I may be pardoned the reference, that it was the duty of the State to erect monuments, enduring but not necessarily costly, to every sort of exemplary civic worth as a part of popular education. He thought the State would thus cultivate a love of whatever is best in its history, and to most effectually insure its own perpetuity. The lesson thus to be taught is the grand old Spartan lesson of self-devotion to the public weal. In the monument to Roger Williams, in the soldiers' monument, in the statue to-day unveiled, and in the contemplated equestrian statue to Burnside, the State has made a good beginning. Let her go on until our public squares are peopled with noble figures, so that her citizens passing among them shall feel their every worthy purpose strengthened as they pass, and their every ignoble impulse shamed and subdued.

The sixth toast was :

The Old and the New Navy—wooden ships under canvas, with smooth-bore cannon, against steel armor, rifle cannon, torpedoes, rams



and steam power. Human strength against machinery, constructed and directed by the most deadly science.

Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers, a nephew of Commodore Perry, was introduced to respond, and said :

*Mr. President and Gentlemen:*

Until I came to this house a few moments ago, I did not know that I was to reply to this toast, and while I thank you for the honor you confer upon me, I fear that I may not do justice to a sentiment so wide in its scope and so worthy of careful consideration.

Having served the country as a sea-officer for more than half a century, I may claim an intimate connection with the old and the new navy; with the ships of oak and the ships of iron; with the era of smooth-bore cannon and that of rifled guns; with the period when ships were moved by canvass only, and with the day when they must go into battle, propelled by steam alone.

When I came into the navy in 1833, we possessed ships than which there were none better in the world. That great constructor, Mr. Humphreys, long before had recognized the fact that if we were to meet the ships of Great Britain in battle, we must be ready with better ships than theirs, and to his genius we owe those great frigates that won for this country so much renown, and proved to the world that England was no longer the unchallenged mistress of the sea. These ships, manned chiefly by the hardy sons of New England, with officers representing every portion of our union, did noble service, and brought light to the hearts of our people when the days were very dark. "There were giants in those days" upon the ocean, and they deserved well of the Republic—Hull, Decatur, McDonough, Jones, Lawrence, Biddle, Bainbridge, and a host of other paladins of the sea, worthy of all honor; great examples to us who came after them. I may not dwell upon the gallant officer to whom we do homage to-day, for he was my near kinsman; Newport and Rhode Island have shown how they appreciate his merit by the statue you have just placed opposite his home, in evidence of the love for his memory, still strong in the State and city from which he went forth to do battle for his country.

The lesson of our war of 1812 was not lost upon the countries of Europe, and they have gone forward in the development of their navies, until, to-day, we find ourselves lamentably their inferiors, not only in the number of our ships, but in their quality. They have recognized that every nation must be ready to protect its



maritime interests, and to strike stalwart blows upon the sea. To-day the navy of England is grand beyond compare, wonderfully developed in all that science and mechanical art, and the lavish use of money can do to make it irresistible. There is nothing to us seamen so grand as its iron-clad fleet. Think of its "Inflexible," with twenty-four inches of armour on its sides; its ships that carry guns each weighing a hundred tons; its armoured ships to have a speed from sixteen to eighteen knots; its swarm of torpedo boats; its swift corsairs, ready to destroy an enemy's commerce. Its iron-clad fleet is always to a great extent ready for service. When you think upon what short notice this fleet can come to New York and lay its banks under contribution, tell me, gentlemen, are we not living in a fool's paradise? We are now without one modern cannon upon our coast that is worthy of the name, and although we are beginning to build a few small guns, we have not the skilled labor nor the plant to forge a heavy gun in our rich country. We have not fostered this industry, and whatever may be thought of protection in general, no one can doubt we should give such encouragement to our workers in steel as will enable us to forge our own weapons of defence. Those that we have to-day are almost as obsolete as those used by the Indians against your forefathers and mine in Rhode Island, in the early days of this good commonwealth. In England a gun is to be built sixty-one feet long, to weigh one hundred and fifty-six tons, to throw a projectile of two thousand pounds, with a charge of seventeen hundred pounds of powder.

In 1845 our navy had at its head a statesman and an educator, very wise in his generation, who founded the Naval Academy. From that date, slowly but steadily, the new problems of naval education have been solved, and the new navy developed by scientific officers. I have seen much of other navies [while serving as naval attaché in Europe, and while in command afloat, and it is my conviction that no country has such good junior naval officers as our own. The great danger is that they may grow old in subordinate positions, and not attain command until their energies and faculties shall have been chilled and cramped by hope long deferred. It is essential that men who are to command well, shall begin to command early, like him who won the battle of Lake Erie when younger than many of our ensigns of to-day.

The seventh regular toast was :

The naval commanders in the war of 1812. Hearts of oak in ships of wood, with an energy of courage limited by the impossible. They fought hard battles—won great distinction for themselves and country.



Replied to by Admiral John J. Almy, U. S. Navy.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen:*

It gives me a feeling of much pride and pleasure to be here to-day, I truly assure you. As an officer of the navy and a son of Rhode Island, to be present at this distinguished gathering, is something that will not soon be forgotten.

I consider it my bounden duty to make a pilgrimage to my native State once in every few years, to visit the graves of my father and my mother—who lie buried in Middletown near by—to see that they are kept in proper order. I come also to visit a few worthy relatives who have their homes here. It is now seven years since I have been in Rhode Island, and certainly there could be no more fitting occasion than this to visit my native State.

To-day we have met to do honor to the name and the achievements of a great naval hero—Oliver Hazard Perry. I feel that on this day every son of Rhode Island should assist in this celebration. In honoring the name of the gallant hero of Lake Erie and the splendid victory which he gained, Rhode Island does honor to herself. In the language of Scripture, I will say: "It is good for us to be here."

Some writer has said: "Say what you will, the world has made up its mind to venerate a hero. It stops for him to take rank of all other great men. The honor of our legal sages, the fame of the founders of our constitution, all faded away before the military glory of the hero of New Orleans."

"The world cares comparatively little about science. Even the labors of Archimedes in his solitary cell are remembered only by the mathematician and the scholar. But all remember him as directing on the walls of Syracuse the resources of science against the enemies of his country." And thus we meet to-day to express our veneration for a hero.

Rhode Island has always been a naval State from the days of the Revolution to the present time. In all the wars, for a small State she has done more than her share in creating and maintaining a navy.

But I am called upon to speak "to the Naval Commanders of the War of 1812." After the elegant and eloquent address which we have just heard from the orator of the day upon the character of the hero of Lake Erie, it would be superfluous in me to speak of that great commander, but I will mention other names and their brilliant exploits.

On the 11th of September, 1814, one year and a day after the battle of Lake Erie, Commodore McDonough, with his fleet, fought and con-



quered the British fleet on Lake Champlain; and while this was going on, General Macomb with his army was fighting and conquering the British army under Sir George Prevost. Hearty and efficient co-operation of the army and the navy against the enemies of the country was this—all in sight of each other.

Early in the war we see the brilliant action between the Constitution and the Guerriere, with Commodore Isaac Hull the successful hero and victor. Very great importance was attached to this victory, as it broke the charm of British invincibility upon the ocean. It set the whole country ablaze, Britain was no longer Mistress of the Seas.

Two months after this came another glorious fight and victory between the frigate United States and the English frigate Macedonian, where the gallant Decatur, in command of the former ship, was the conqueror, bringing his prize safely into port amid the huzzas of the excited populace of New York. The accounts as published in the papers of that day are very thrilling.

I will not detain the company by going into detail of the several naval actions and all the accompaniments, as it would take up too much time. They are all related in "Song and Story," which have no doubt been perused, and are familiar to all within the sound of my voice.

The next successful naval action was the United States ship Wasp, under Captain Jacob Jones, who, after a spirited fight, captured the British ship-of-war Frolic.

Then comes upon the scene once more the good old ship Constitution, now under the command of Commodore Bainbridge, who meets with the English frigate Java on the coast of Brazil, and after a fight of two hours, Bainbridge is victorious, compelling the English frigate to surrender.

About this time, and in the same parts of the ocean, the United States ship Hornet, under Captain Lawrence, engaged the British man-of-war Peacock, and after a spirited action of fifteen minutes sunk the Peacock.

Then the stinging little Hornet soon makes her appearance again under Captain James Biddle; she falls in with and engages in sharp action the English man-of-war Penguin, which she compels to surrender.

The historian informs us that the success of the Constitution and the Hornet—two of the vessels of Commodore Bainbridge's squadron, served greatly to increase the popularity of the navy.

Then comes another stinging Bee to annoy, harass and destroy the enemy. The United States ship Wasp, Captain Johnston Blakely,



fought and captured two English ships of war—the Reindeer and the Avon within a couple of months of each other; vessels of about the same size as the Wasp.

Now for the *third* time during this war of two years and nine months—that grand and glorious old ship, the Constitution, again makes her appearance, now under the command of Commodore Stewart. One beautiful moonlight night off the Cape de Verde Islands he falls in with the English ships of war Cyane and Levant, has a little successful manœuvring with the Constitution, in which he gets the advantage, engages them in action, and after four hours fight and manœuvring, captures both of them. Commodore Stewart and the Constitution ever after this received the *soubriquet* of “Old Ironsides.”

The United States ship Peacock, Captain Warrington, on her way to the East Indies to destroy English Commerce, falls in with, and has a sharp conflict with the English brig-of-war Epervier, in which the Peacock is victorious. The Epervier is captured and taken into Savannah as a prize.

The last of these attractive and successful naval actions in this war ended with the United States brig Enterprise, Captain Burrows, and the English brig-of-war Boxer, in which the Enterprise was the successful vessel. The Commanders of both vessels were killed in the fight.

The ships were not only fought with courage and spirit, but the most consummate skill in seamanship was displayed upon every occasion.

The Hornet sunk the Peacock in fifteen minutes. The fight between the Constitution and the Java commenced at 2 P. M., and ended at 4 P. M., and Commodore Bainbridge in his official report states that the Constitution by sunset was all ready to engage another frigate. Creditable comments could be made of other ships and their Commanders throughout the war of 1812.

We have all read of the indomitable perseverance, and the dangerous encounter of the gallant Captain David Porter, of the navy, and the dash which he made into the Pacific Ocean, carrying consternation and destruction into the British Whaling fleet, so that there was not a vestige of them that remained.

Captain Daniel T. Patterson commanded the Naval forces which co-operated with General Jackson at New Orleans, and the gallant old hero always acknowledged and appreciated the great services which Captain Patterson rendered upon that occasion.

An important name connected with the navy in the war of 1812, is that of Commodore John Rodgers, who was senior officer to all of those



whom I have mentioned, though not conspicuous as a commander in any great naval action, he did much for the organization of the navy. He trained and schooled many of those officers of whom I have spoken. He has often been called the father of the American navy of 1812.

Here then is a galaxy of naval heroes of whom the country—indeed any nation—may well feel proud, and I take great pleasure in naming them.

Rodgers, Hull, Perry, Decatur, Bainbridge, McDonough, Stewart, Jones, Porter, Lawrence, Blakely, Biddle, Warrington, Patterson, Burrows. Precious names these, which we should never forget. They should be treasured in our hearts, and we should impress upon our sons to remember them, and when they are called forth to fight and to conquer, to associate these names with "Sailor's Rights", "Our Country", "The Union" and the "Constitution."

They are the "Hearts of Oak in ships of wood, with an energy of courage, limited only by the impossible. They fought hard battles—won great distinction for themselves, and for their country."

The eighth regular toast was :

The originator of the Naval Academy and the originator of the Naval War College—each a benefactor of the navy and entitled to the gratitude of his country.

In reply to this the chairman introduced Commodore Luce, President of the Naval War College, who spoke as follows :

*Mr. President and Gentlemen:*

As the distinguished statesman and historian, the Hon. George Bancroft now present, is the originator of the Naval Academy, I will not presume to touch upon the subject of that institution.

In regard to the Naval College I may say that it is only the natural outgrowth of the Naval Academy.

It is the province of the College to take the graduate of the academy and carry him, after an interval of sea service, to a higher course of study; to the highest, in fact, of his profession—War. That particular name has been given to the college in order that its special mission may be kept steadily in view—that it may never be lost sight of. War and its cognate branches constitute the college curriculum. It is only by a close study of the science and art of war that we can be prepared for war, and thus go very far towards securing peace.

There are two distinct methods of learning war. First, by means



of that school of application commonly known as the Field of Battle, and, secondly, by a close study of the operations of war as taught by the Great Masters of the Art. Many of the great Captains of history were graduates of the former school. But of more modern times the most distinguished seamen and soldiers have passed through both schools. They have had their early training at the naval or military schools where their minds have acquired a bent, or it may be said a taste for war, or, better still, where they have obtained a glimpse of the principles of the science, and their education has been completed in the stern school of war itself.

I would not be understood as saying that a naval or military school must necessarily possess all the attributes of a seat of learning, with its extended buildings, rich libraries, a numerous corps of professors and carefully arranged curriculum—far from it. In the days of Lawrence and Perry the quarter-deck was the true naval school. The quarter-deck was the school that produced those heroes, who so firmly established our naval reputation. It was the quarter-deck that produced Farragut and the long list of gallant seamen who are yet too near to us to admit of a proper appreciation of their virtues and their deeds. Let us never forget that school! However much we may owe to the Naval Academy—and we do owe it much—let us never forget that earlier school!

But the War College which the government has recently established here has been called into existence by the generally recognized necessity of keeping up with the advance of knowledge; and preserving or keeping fresh, the lessons of history. The college takes up the graduate of the academy after an interval, during which he has been engaged in the practical duties of sea service, and carries him along in the highest branches of his profession—not teaching war so much as allowing him, or more properly of giving him the opportunity, of teaching himself, war, by the lessons given us by the first masters of the art.

It is freely admitted that war cannot be taught by books alone, but to say that we may not profit by a close study of the glorious examples set us by the distinguished officers whose services adorn the pages of our history, is to discredit education itself, and dim the lustre of the name of him whose deeds we commemorate this day.

Perry was indeed one of those great captains who has given us lessons which we are to study at the War College to-day.

The tactics to which he owed his victory were identical with those practiced by the great French Admiral, De Suffren, in the East Indies in



1782, when opposed by the English naval forces under Sir Edward Hughes; by Lord Rodney in the West Indies, in his victory over Count de Grasse in the same year; and by Lord Nelson at the Nile and at Trafalgar. Stated in its simplest terms, those tactics consist in leading down a column of ships upon the enemy's line, cutting through, and doubling upon a portion of that line, so as to place it between two forces. This manœuvre has been so fully and so clearly set forth already as to need no further explanation. I allude to it simply for the illustration it affords of one of the many lessons of war we are now engaged in studying at the college, and to point out more emphatically how the name of Perry and the memory of his deeds must live even when the "storied urn and monumental bust" shall have crumbled with decay.

Those who love to seek parallels in history may find one here. The people of Rhode Island have raised a memorial to their favorite hero by the shores of the sounding sea; so, centuries ago, did the wise Athenians. And thus spake the "voiceful stone":

By the sea's margin, near the wat'ry strand,  
Thy tomb, Themistocles, shall ever stand;  
By this direction, to his native shore,  
The merchant shall convey his freighted store,  
And when our fleets are summoned to the fight,  
Athens shall conquer with thy tomb in sight."

And even so shall it be here. As the Athenian navy was the "Child and champion of Athenian Democracy," so shall our modern navy be the child and champion of American Democracy, using that term as descriptive of the genius of a great people, rather than restricting it to its narrower sense as applied to a political party. And when our fleets are summoned to the fight, Columbia shall conquer by the spirit that has descended to us from our Lawrences and our Perrys.

But who are those noble fellows, who, in all the pictures of the battle of Lake Erie are represented as pulling the boat which conveyed Perry from the ill-fated "Lawrence" to the "Niagara?" Let us not, in our hour of gladness, forget them. An English poet sounding the praises of those who survived a great naval conflict, soaring higher and higher with his theme till he reaches the very climax of his song, suddenly pauses, and, in a minor key, pays a tribute to the memory of the dead:

"Let us think of those who sleep,  
"Full many a fathom deep,  
"By thy wild and stormy steep, Elsinoor."

Let us not forget the sailors to whom Perry owed his victory. Many of them sleep beneath the waters of the lake. They made history, and



their comrades wrote it down for succeeding generations. With the most profound respect for the distinguished historian now present, I maintain that some of our best history—some of our best naval history, at least, has been written by just such men as rowed Perry when he shifted his flag to the “Niagara.”

It was a sailor who wrote that:

“We sail’d to and fro on Erie’s broad lake,  
 “To find British bullies, or get in their wake;  
 “When we hoisted our canvas with true yankee speed,  
 “And the brave Captain Perry our squadron did lead.

The deepest and most lasting impressions received in my early days were made by the historical songs our sailors were wont to sing. It was from their lips I first learned how:

“Dacres came on board  
 To deliver up his sword”,

and of the magnanimity of Hull in refusing to receive it.

They sang of the “Constellation”, who had a “bold Commander, and Truxton was his name”, and how:

“The Constellation shone so bright,  
 The Frenchmen could not bear the sight—  
 \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*  
 As the blood did from their scuppers run,  
 The Captain cried, ‘We are undone’—  
 Their flag was struck, the battle won,  
 By brave Yankee boys.

Every naval victory is honored by one or more songs. One of the best, and certainly for this occasion, one of the most appropriate, records that:

“With half the western world at stake,  
 See Perry on the mid-land lake,  
 The unequal combat dare;  
 Unawed by vastly stronger powers,  
 He met the foe and made him ours,  
 And closed the savage war.”

It was the unlettered sailor who wrote these stirring ballads which commemorate our early victories at sea, and which keep alive in those sturdy young seamen\* we have seen in the parade to-day, the spirit of their fathers. Their deeds will not be forgotten; they have their memories preserved by a monument not reared by hands.

“Nor wreck, nor change, nor winter’s blight,  
 Nor Time’s remorseless doom,  
 Shall dim one ray of holy light  
 That gilds their glorious tomb.”

---

\*In allusion to the naval battalion formed by the Apprentice boys from the U. S. Training Squadron.



The ninth regular toast was:

The town of South Kingstown in which Perry was born—the mother of a restless progeny of good men. It has scattered its jewels over the land, and yet it keeps its own casket full.

The chairman said that Col. William H. Potter, of Kingston, who had taken a great practical interest in the erection of the statue of Perry, had been invited to respond to this sentiment, and his absence would be regretted by all present who knew him, and by none more than himself, and all would join him in regretting the occasion of his absence, but that he had the satisfaction of presenting to the company an exceedingly interesting and instructive letter which he would read, and read the following:

KINGSTON, R. I., September 1st, 1885.

*Hon. William P. Sheffield, Committee in charge of the Inauguration of the Statue of Commodore Oliver H. Perry.*

DEAR SIR:—

Your letter of August 17, inviting me to be present at the inauguration of the Statue of Commodore Oliver H. Perry on the 10th of September next, and to respond "To the Birthplace of Perry" is received.

My admiration for the qualities displayed by that gallant officer, the long intimate and valued friendship between his son Christopher Grant Perry (a type of true manhood), and myself, and also my sense of obligation as a citizen, would all impel me to undertake so grateful a duty. But the state of my health compels me to forego it.

The victory of Lake Erie won by Commodore Perry was a most important one. Taking into consideration the time and circumstances, the internal condition of the country, and its relations to foreign nations, its importance can scarcely be over estimated.

The battle was hot and decisive, and at one time it was seemingly lost. The occurrence tested the man. He was equal to the emergency—and by his personal prowess, quickly turned defeat into a brilliant victory, and the result was modestly, yet most tersely stated in those memorable words of Perry, "We have met the enemy and they are ours—two ships, two brigs, one sloop and one schooner."

The history of this battle is preserved in an address delivered before



the R. I. Historical society by Dr. Usher Parsons in February, 1852. Dr. Parsons was surgeon on board the *Lawrence*.

Though late, it is fit, wise and right that this statue should be erected—not however so much to extend or perpetuate the fame of him in whose honor it is erected, as to evince that we are neither unmindful of, nor ungrateful for the great services he rendered to his country.

As to him, his virtues and his valor, his name and fame are already enshrined and embalmed in the hearts of his countrymen.

The statue and the occasion would fail of their highest and grandest purpose, if confined to personal laudation of its object—and none I think would deprecate this more than he whom it emblems.

To suppose that mere personal ambition, the love of fame, were the motives which actuated him, it is to degrade the man, and to belittle all his achievements. It would do him great injustice.

*His* patriotism was of the old-fashioned kind—that which consisted in conferring a benefit on his country without pecuniary reward, not in filching money or profit from it.

Patriotism of recent times begins and ends in the patriot's pocket. As Holmes says: "And freeborn statesmen legislate and steal"—and have their (Honorable?) constituents for accomplices, and with them they divide the spoils.

"The birthplace of Perry", his native state and country need patriotism of the stamp of '76, and of the tenth of September, 1813, and we need it in peace as well as in war. It is said, peace hath its victories as well as war, and let me add it has its *duties* too. *Honest* and brave patriotism are as essential to the preservation of our liberties in peace, as are courage and valor to achieve or defend them in war.

Rhode Island has a rich and precious heritage in her traditions and history, and in the principles of civil and religious liberty upon which her government was founded. Let not this heritage be lost, either from love of lucre, or by corruption and degeneracy.

Let this statue inspire all, *especially the sons of Rhode Island now and hereafter* to emulate and practice that *genuine and unselfish patriotism* of which he, whom it symbolizes, was so illustrious an example.

Yours Truly,

WILLIAM H. POTTER.

The chairman then stated that the Honorable Matthew C. Butler, a senator in Congress from South Carolina, and a



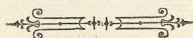
nephew of Commodore Perry, had been expected to be present and to answer to the toast :

The Congress of the United States, it holds the purse of the nation and controls the life-blood of the navy. May it ever remember that a thorough preparation for war is the greatest security for peace.

The chairman stated that he had received a telegram in the morning from Senator Butler, informing him that an unfavorable turn in the sickness of his daughter, who had been for some time ill, to his very great regret prevented him from being present.

The chairman then introduced the artist, Captain William G. Turner, to the audience, and said that Captain Turner was too modest to address them, but was willing to have his work speak for him.

Captain Turner was greeted with great heartiness and enthusiasm by the audience .





APPENDIX.



[APPENDIX A.]

# Memorandum of Subscribers to the Perry Monument Fund.

---

David King, Jr.....	\$100 00
George W. Gibbs.....	100 00
Theodore K. Gibbs.....	100 00
George Peabody Wetmore.....	250 00
William F. Sheffield.....	200 00
E. J. Anderson.....	100 00
John N. A. Griswold.....	100 00
Edmund Tweedy.....	50 00
William H. Sherman.....	50 00
Alfred Smith.....	200 00
J. P. Hazard.....	25 00
William Dehon King.....	25 00
George H. Norman.....	100 00
Lewis Brown.....	15 00
William B. Weeden.....	25 00
Augustus P. Sherman.....	5 00
Benjamin Bateman.....	10 00
James C. Swan.....	10 00
Mrs. Anna Pell.....	50 00
George H. Calvert.....	100 00
Benjamin F. Downing, Jr.....	1 00
Cash.....	1 00
George W. Flagg.....	1 00
Cash.....	1 00
Albert Sherman.....	5 00
Cash.....	3 00
Thomas Dunn.....	10 00
Thomas Galvin.....	5 00
Cash.....	1 00
Cash.....	2 00
Cash.....	1 00
A. C. Titus.....	25 00
Mary H. Bailey.....	50 00
Eugene Hartman.....	10 00
Seth W. Macy.....	10 00
Col. John Hare Powel.....	50 00
Newport Artillery Company.....	50 00
John G. Weaver & Son.....	75 00
William A. Clarke.....	100 00



Joseph W. Hammett.....	10 00
William Gilpin and wife.....	10 00
Richard Cornell.....	50 00
John A. C. Stacy.....	25 00
T. Mumford Seabury.....	25 00
Charles E. Hammett, Jr.....	10 00
William H. Potter.....	150 00
John E. Seabury.....	2 00
William A. Stedman.....	2 00
William E. Dennis.....	5 00
Capt. John Waters.....	5 00
Philip Rider.....	5 00
Samuel Smith.....	5 00
John Connelly.....	1 00
A. C. Landers.....	5 00
William C. Congdon.....	5 00
John H. Cozzens & Son.....	5 00
William P. Sheffield, Jr.....	10 00
Henry Bull, Jr.....	5 00
John H. Crosby, Jr.....	5 00
Cash.....	1 00
Rodman Cornell.....	2 00
H. B. Wood.....	1 00
Melville Bull.....	5 00
William J. Swinburne.....	5 00
John C. Stoddard.....	2 00
Thomas W. Wood.....	2 00
Charles S. Murray.....	1 00
Cash.....	5 00
James H. Hammett.....	5 00
George M. Dockray.....	2 00
B. B. H. Sherman.....	2 00
Cash.....	1 00
George Denniston.....	10 00
Cash.....	1 00
Albert K. Sherman.....	5 00
Cash.....	1 00
J. M. K. Southwick.....	2 00
Cash.....	1 00
Cash.....	1 00
Cash.....	2 00
Cash.....	2 00
Cash.....	2 00
Henry W. Cozzens.....	5 00
Edward W. Lawton.....	5 00
Cash.....	1 00
William P. Clarke.....	2 00
John Rogers.....	2 00
Cash.....	1 00



Cash.....	4 00
P. H. Horgan.....	1 00
Cash.....	5 00
L. L. Simmons.....	5 00
McAdam & Openshaw.....	5 00
Henry H. Young.....	5 00
Oliver Read.....	20 00
Henry E. Turner.....	20 00
J. G. Spingler.....	1 00
Thomas Coggeshall.....	10 00
J. P. Cotton....	5 00
Arnold L. Burdick.....	5 00
Robert S. Franklin.....	10 00
William O. Greene.....	10 00
Cash L. B....	10 00
Cash L. B.....	10 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,557.00

## [APPENDIX B.]

The committee have been enabled from assistance received from Geo. C. Mason, Esq., and others, to ascertain the names of the following men who left Newport for Lake Erie, but they fear that the names of the residue are lost beyond recovery. The names of those who have been brought to their notice are:

George Cornell,	Henlick Huddy,	Thomas Sweet,
Stephen Fairfield,	William Weeden,	George Williams,
Silas Tiffany,	Jonathan Tallman,	John Welch,
Charles Pohig,	George Southwick,	Andrew Griffin,
James Bird,	Robert Tyler,	Peter Kinley,
Benjamin Easton,	Daniel Albert,	John McDonald,
Newport Hazard,	Elisha Smith,	James Phillips,
John Fox,	John R. Sheffield,	Parker H. Lawton,
James A. Perry,	Joseph Southwick,	Charles Smith,
William M. Dyne,	John Sterne,	John Norton,
William Stevens,	Benjamin Marble,	Elias Spear,
Joseph Austin,	Isaac Peckham,	John Coddington,
William Cozzens,	John Gurney,	James Hadwin,
Jeremiah Harry,	Wilson Mays	Nathan Chapman,
Benjamin Reynolds,	Francis Fowler,	Robert Graham,
Nicholas Narbourn,	William Cranston,	Caleb Butts,
William Gardner,	Hannibal Collins,	Simeon Doty,
Joseph Simpson,	Westerly Johnston,	John Brownell,
George Dunwell,	Peleg Denham,	Robert Fergusson,
Joshua Hiscox,	William Read,	John P. Hammond,
William James,	Caleb Fish,	Caleb Mumford.
	Daniel Albro.	



## [APPENDIX C.]

## PERRY'S VICTORY.

Ye tars of Columbia, give ear to my story,  
 Who fought with brave Perry, where cannon's did roar,  
 Your valor has gained you an immortal glory,  
 A fame that shall last till time is no more.  
 Columbian tars are the true sons of Mars,  
 They rake fore and aft when they fight on the deep;  
 On the bed of Lake Erie, commanded by Perry,  
 They caused many Britons to take their last sleep.

The tenth of September let us all remember,  
 So long as the globe on her axis rolls round;  
 Our tars and marines on Lake Erie were seen  
 To make the proud flag of Great Britain come down.  
 The van of our fleet, the British to meet,  
 Commanded by Perry, the Lawrence bore down;  
 Her guns they did roar with such terrific power  
 That savages trembled at the dreadful sound.

The Lawrence sustained a most dreadful fire;  
 She fought three to one for two glasses or more;  
 While Perry undaunted, did firmly stand by her,  
 The proud foe on her heavy broadsides did pour.  
 Her masts being shattered, her rigging all tattered,  
 Her booms and her yards being all shot away,  
 And few left on deck to manage the wreck,  
 Our hero on board her no longer could stay.

In this situation, the pride of our nation,  
 Sure heaven had guarded unhurt all the while,  
 While many a hero, maintaining his station,  
 Fell close by his side and was thrown on the pile.  
 But mark you, and wonder, when elements thunder,  
 When death and destruction are stalking all round,  
 His flag he did carry on board the Niagara;  
 Such valor on record was never yet found.

There is one gallant act of our noble commander,  
 While writing my song, I must notice with pride;  
 While launched in the boat that carried the standard,  
 A ball whistled through her just close by his side.  
 Says Perry, "The rascals intend for to drown us,  
 But push on, my brave boys, you never need fear!"  
 And with his own coat he plugg'd up the boat,  
 And through fire and sulphur away did he steer.



The famed Niagara, now proud of her Perry,  
 Display'd all her banners in gallant array;  
 And twenty-five guns on her deck she did carry,  
 Which soon put an end to this bloody affray.  
 The rear of our fleet was brought up complete,  
 The signal was given to break through the line;  
 While starboard and larboard, and from every quarter,  
 The lamps of Columbia did gloriously shine.

The bold British lion roar'd out his last thunder,  
 When Perry attacked him close in the rear;  
 Columbia's eagle soon made him crouch under,  
 And roar out for quarter, as soon you shall hear.  
 O, had you been there, I now do declare,  
 Such a sight as you never had seen before—  
 Six red bloody flags, that no longer could wag,  
 All lay at the feet of our brave commodore.

Brave Elliot, whose valor must now be recorded,  
 On board the Niagara so well play'd his part,  
 His gallant assistance to Perry afforded,  
 We'll place him the second on Lake Erie's chart.  
 In the midst of the battle, when guns they did rattle,  
 The Lawrence a wreck and the men most all slain,  
 Away he did steer, and brought up the rear,  
 And by this manœuvre the victory was gained.

O, had you but seen those noble commanders  
 Embracing each other when the conflict was o'er,  
 And viewing all those invincible standards  
 That never had yielded to any before!  
 Says Perry, "Brave Elliot, give me your hand, sir;  
 This day we have gained an immortal renown;  
 So long as Columbia Lake Erie commands, sir,  
 Let brave Captain Elliot with laurels be crowned.'"

Great Britain may boast of her conquering heroes,  
 Her Rodneys, her Nelsons and all the whole crew;  
 But none in their glory have told such a story,  
 Nor boasted such feats as Columbians do.  
 The whole British fleet was captured complete,  
 Not one single vessel from us got away;  
 And prisoners some hundreds, Columbians wonder'd  
 To see them all anchored and moored in our bay.

May heaven still smile on the shades of our heroes,  
 Who fought in that conflict their country to save,  
 And check the proud spirit of those murdering bravoes  
 That wish to divide us and make us all slaves.



Columbians sing and make the woods ring,  
 We'll toast those brave heroes by sea and by land;  
 While Britains drink Cherry, Columbians, Perry,  
 We'll toast him about with full glass in hand.

---

AMERICAN PERRY.

---

*Tune—"Abraham Newland."*

---

Bold Barclay one day,  
 To Proctor did say,  
 "I'm tired of Jamaica and sherry;  
 So let us go down,  
 To that new floating town,  
 And get some American Perry!  
 Oh, cheap American Perry!  
 Most pleasant American Perry!  
 We need only all  
 Bear down, knock and call  
 And we'll have this American Perry.

"The landlady's kind,  
 Weak, simple and blind—  
 We'll soon be triumphantly merry;  
 We've cash in the locker,  
 Our custom shall shock her,  
 And we'll soon get a taste of her Perry.  
 Oh, American Perry!  
 The sparkling American Perry!  
 No trouble we'll find  
 Your orders to mind,  
 So away for American Perry.

All ready for play  
 They've got under way,  
 With hearts light and right voluntary;  
 But when they came there  
 They quickly did stare,  
 At the taste of American Perry.  
 Oh, the American Perry!  
 Sparkling American Perry!  
 How great the deception,  
 When such a reception  
 They met from American Perry!  
 They thought such a change  
 Was undoubtedly strange,  
 And rued their unlucky vagary;



"Your liquor's too hot,  
 Keep it still in the pot,  
 Oh, cork your American Perry!  
 Oh, this American Perry!  
 Fiery American Perry!  
 By all that is evil,  
 It's a dose for the devil,  
 Oh, curse your American Perry!"

Full sorely they knew  
 The scrape would not do,  
 'Twould ruin his Majesty's ferry,  
 So they tried to turn tail,  
 With a rag of a sail,  
 And quit this American Perry.  
 Oh, this American Perry!  
 Flashing American Perry!  
 But crossing the lake  
 Was all a mistake,  
 They had swallowed so much of the Perry.

Then Barclay exclaimed:  
 "I cannot be blamed,  
 For well I've defended each wherry;  
 My men are so drunk  
 And some so defunct,  
 If I strike to American Perry.  
 Oh, this American Perry!  
 Thundering American Perry!  
 Such hot distillation,  
 Would fuddle our nation,  
 Should it taste this American Perry."

The stuff did so bruise  
 His staggering crews,  
 That some with their feet were unwary,  
 While some had their brains  
 Knocked out for their pains,  
 By this shocking American Perry.  
 Oh, American Perry!  
 Outrageous American Perry!  
 Old tough British tars,  
 All covered with scars,  
 Capsized by American Perry.

The Indians on shore  
 Made a horrible roar,  
 And left every ground nut and berry;  
 Then scampered away,  
 For no relish had they



## APPENDIX.

For a dose of American Perry.  
 Oh, American Perry!  
 Confounding American Perry!  
 While General Proctor  
 Looked on like a doctor,  
 At the deadly American Perry.

The Briton was sick,  
 Being *Pear-ed* to the quick,  
 And his vessels were quite fragmentary;  
 So scolding his luck,  
 He prudently struck  
 To a stream of American Perry.  
 Oh, American Perry!  
 Persevering American Perry!  
 A whole British fleet,  
 Ship to ship has been beat  
 By an *American Commodore Perry*.

On American ground,  
 Where such spirit is found,  
 Let us toast deep the *Heroes of Erie*,  
 And never forget  
 Those whose life's sun did set,  
 By the side of their Commodore Perry.  
 Oh, brave American Perry!  
 Triumphant American Perry!  
 Let us ever remember  
 The *Tenth of September*,  
 When a Fleet struck to Commodore Perry.

---

 ELEGY

On the disinterment of the remains of Commodore O. H. Perry by an  
 officer of the Lexington.

---

From his lonely grave by the sea-washed sand  
 To the clime of his fame we bore him,  
 For he could not rest in a foreign land  
 With the red cross waving o'er him:  
 So we covered his breast with the stars of light,  
 In the flag that he loved so dearly,  
 When he met the proud foe in his might,  
 And the battle followed cheerly.

With mourning flag half-mast displayed,  
 We roused our drums to meet him,



And fore and aft we stood arrayed  
 With minute guns to greet him;  
 While memory showed him ever nigh,  
 As he looked when fame had crowned him,  
 With victory beaming from his eye,  
 And freedom cheering round him.

Like some bright flower that meets its doom  
 Where the scorching winds have hasted,  
 Like some young pine, whose mountain bloom  
 The bolts of heaven have wasted;  
 So fell the beautiful and brave,  
 In the Zenith of his glory,  
 With a nation's tears to wet his grave,  
 And embalm his name in story.

Then strew his bier with early flowers,  
 And wave the laurel o'er him  
 Who made the sea's proud mistress "ours,"  
 That none had done before him.  
 Let ocean hear and roll along,  
 Till winds and floods are weary,  
 While music wakes the chords of song  
 For the Hero of Lake Erie.

---

### LINES

On the removal of the remains of Commodore O. H. Perry. ?

---

[From the *Norfolk Herald*, December, 1826.]

---

'Tis well—'tis right! he should not sleep  
 Upon a foreign strand,  
 Beyond the wild and mournful deep,  
 But in his native land.

His native land, that boasts his birth,  
 And cherishes the fame  
 Of one whose high heroic worth  
 Does honor to her name.

Nor should that city, fond as fair,  
 Embrace him all alone,  
 But it should be Columbia's care  
 To claim him for her own.



And she should lay her warrior down  
By Erie's conscious wave;  
The shore that witness'd his renown  
Would yield him fittest grave.

There set the stone—let laurels grow  
Around it—fairest flowers,  
And grave these words—"We've met the foe,"  
What else?—"and they are ours."

