

NAVAL SONGS AND BALLADS

BY GARDNER W. ALLEN

IN THE library of this Society is a collection of broadsides marked: "Songs, Ballads, etc. In three Volumes. Purchased from a Ballad Printer and Seller in Boston, 1813. Bound up for Preservation, to show what articles of this kind are in vogue with the Vulgar at this time, 1814. N. B. Songs and common Ballads are not so well printed at this time as 70 years ago, in Boston. Presented to the Society by Isaiah Thomas. August 1814."

There are in this set three hundred and two broadsides containing three hundred and forty-nine distinct poems. Mr. Ford says of them that "no other American library can offer anything like it for the period, and all other libraries combined would still hardly be able to match the contents of these three volumes."¹

In this collection of broadsides are about fifty American naval songs, more than two thirds of them relating to the War of 1812; others to the Revolution and to our hostilities with France and Tripoli. A few are perhaps more political than naval; it is not always easy to draw the line between them. There are a number of other songs, concerning the sea or sailors of a sentimental sort, of less interest to the historian. Several of these latter are British. Fourteen of the naval ballads are listed in "Broadsides, Ballads, etc., Printed in Massachusetts, 1639-1800."² About half

¹"The Isaiah Thomas Collection of Ballads," by Worthington C. Ford. *Proc. Amer. Antiq. Soc.* XXXIII (1923) p. 35.

²Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll. Vol. 75 (1922), edited by W. C. Ford. This volume contains about eighteen titles of naval ballads not in the Thomas collection. In the Harvard College Library collection of broadsides the naval ballads, kindly assembled by Prof. G. L. Kittredge, seem to include only two or three of those in the Thomas collection and about fifteen not in it. In Paine's "Ships and Sailors of Old Salem" (p. 216) is a reproduction of a broadside entitled "Captain of the Essex," not seen elsewhere.

of all these naval songs bear the imprint of Nathaniel Coverly, Jr., Milk St., Boston, who presumably was the "Ballad Printer" alluded to by Mr. Thomas.

The songs are nearly all anonymous and few will deny, after reading them, that oblivion is a kinder fate for most of the writers than would be the reputation of their authorship. It is believed that not many of these poetical effusions were ever reprinted from the original broadsides, even in the newspapers of the day; a few, however, have found their way into popular song-books.

Patriotic songs and ballads, relating to war and battles on land and sea, reflect the popular sentiment of their day and have a certain historical value. The British began to write such ballads as early as the fourteenth century, but in no great numbers before Elizabeth's time. Sea songs and poems of this sort were commonly the product of professional ballad-writers, yet occasionally of authors of good literary repute; in some cases they were written by sailors who had themselves taken part in the events described. Piracy was a favorite theme of ballad-writers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

A collection of British naval ballads, published in 1908,¹ contains a considerable number of special interest to us. There are several relating to the American Revolution, including two on the defeat of the British at Charleston, South Carolina, in 1776, and one on Paul Jones, of which there is another version in the Thomas collection. There are several also, in this English book, on the War of 1812, among them one of the best of our songs on the *Constitution* and *Guerriere*,² and following it one on the *Chesapeake* and *Shannon* in the same metre and evidently intended as an answer to the first.

Crude as most of these broadside ballads are, they

¹Firth, "Naval Songs and Ballads" (Publications of the Navy Records Society, Vol. XXXIII), 244-248, 259, 308-315.

²"It oftentimes has been told."



THE AMERICAN
CONSTITUTION FRIGATE'S
 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE BRITISH FRIGATE GUERRIERE,

Which after an Action of 25 Minutes, Surrendered, and being completely Shattered, was blown up, it being impossible to get her into port.

COME jolly lads, ye hearts of gold,
 Come fill your cans and glasses,
 Be fun the order of the day,
 'A health to all our lasses.
*Yankee doodle keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 As hot as British folks can sup,
 We'll give it to 'em handy.*

The Constitution long shall be
 The glory of our Navy,
 For when she grapples with a foe,
 She sends her to old Davy.
*Yankee doodle keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 We'll let the British know that we
 At fighting are quite handy.*

Not long ago Frob British Ships
 Unto her gave a chase sir,
 But spite of all their quips and cranks
 She beat 'em in the race, sir.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 Though ten to one, the Yankee boys
 At fighting are quite handy.*

At length the British ship *Guerriere*,
 Quite proudly came across her,
 And *Dacres* said, in half an hour,
 In air he'd surely toss her.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 He counted chickens ere they hatch'd,
 Because the eggs were handy.*

But soon, alas! poor *Dacres* found
 That he was quite mistaken,
 And thought he got himself well off,
 By saving of his Bacon.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 The Yankee boys for fighting fun,
 Are always quick and handy.*

And now begun the bloody fray,
 The balls flew thick and hot sir,
 In half an hour the job was done,
 The *Guerriere* went to pot sir.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 The British did'n't like the fun,
 And quit soon as 'twas handy.*

Now here's a health to *CAPTAIN HULL*,
 And all his noble crew sirs,
 And should he choose to fight again,
 His lads will see him through sirs.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 For riddling British ships I'm sure,
 Brave HULL is quite the dandy.*

Now safe in Boston port we're moor'd,
 Our girls with smiles shall meet us,
 And every true American,
 With loud huzzas shall greet us.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 Our brave commander now we'll toast,
 In punch, and wine, and brandy.*

must have stirred the emotions of the common people. The exaltation peculiar to a state of war and the awakened spirit of patriotism upon receipt of the tidings of victory were translated by the ballad-writers into verse. The War of 1812 was unpopular in New England—of that there is ample evidence. Yet in their hearts the people were true to their country. Perhaps many descendents of Federalists now regret the stand taken by their forebears. At any rate, whatever the predominant political sentiment may have been, the New England of that day was a maritime community. The Navy was largely manned by Yankee seamen; naval exploits and sea adventure appealed to the popular imagination.

After his capture of the *Guerriere* in the summer of 1812, the first important victory of the war, Captain Isaac Hull, returning to port, "reached Boston on August thirtieth, entered the lower harbor, and dropped anchor off the light-house. . . . When the people learned that the *Constitution* with Dacres and his crew was below, they could not restrain their joy, though the day was the Sabbath. . . . As Federalists they could not forget that it was a Federalist Congress and a Federalist President that established the navy; that Federalists had always been its steady friends and staunch defenders; that it had long been their boast that in the hour of trial the 'wooden walls of Columbia' would prove the bulwark of the nation; and now, when the hour of trial had come and a frigate built by Yankee shipwrights in a Boston shipyard and commanded by a Yankee captain had more than made that boast good, they could not find expression for their gratitude. . . . On Monday, when Hull brought the *Constitution* up the bay, he was given, a reception the like of which Boston had not yet accorded to any man."¹

The "Columbian Centinel" was a strong Federalist paper and upon learning of the declaration of war against England in June, 1812, had exclaimed: "The

¹McMaster, "History of the People of the United States," IV, 76,77.

awful event so often anticipated by us as the inevitable effect of the infatuated policy of the Rulers of the American People has now been realized." On Wednesday, September 2, the "Centinel" thus recorded Captain Hull's arrival: "On Monday morning the *Constitution* came up to town and was welcomed and honored by a federal salute from the Washington Artillery under Capt. Harris and by the hearty, unanimous, and repeated cheers of the citizens on the wharves, the shipping, and housetops." A dinner was given in Hull's honor at Faneuil Hall, Saturday, September 5. The streets and shipping were decorated with bunting and the captain was escorted to the hall, says the "Centinel," by a procession of "about five hundred of the most respectable citizens of both parties." Among those present and taking an active part in honoring the guest were John Adams, Christopher Gore, Josiah Quincy, President Kirkland of Harvard College, Harrison Gray Otis, and the judges of the Federal and State courts. An ode written for the occasion by another Federalist, Lucius Manlius Sargent, was sung."¹

Two historians of the Adams family have recalled the events of this momentous episode. Henry Adams says: "No experience of history ever went to the heart of New England more directly than this victory, so peculiarly its own; but the delight was not confined to New England, and extreme though it seemed it was still not extravagant, for however small the affair might appear on the general scale of the world's battles, it raised the United States in one half-hour to the rank of a first-class Power in the world."² Charles Francis Adams, in a paper read before the American Historical Association in 1912, speaks of "the intense feeling" which "found utterance in every form of shouting and tumult. There was, too, sufficing occasion for it all.

¹"Columbian Centinel," June 24, Sept. 2 and 9, 1812.

²"History of the United States," VI, 375.

Its sense of self-respect had suddenly been restored to a people."¹

Six months later there was further cause for rejoicing in Boston when the same good frigate came home after another cruise. The "Columbian Centinel" for Wednesday, March 3, 1813, relates that "Yesterday a splendid Public Dinner was given in the Exchange Coffee House to Commodore Bainbridge and the officers of the U. States frigate *Constitution*, for their gallant achievement in the capture of the British first rate frigate *Java*." This event had taken place December 29, 1812. The Hon. Christopher Gore presided at the dinner and the paper, giving a list of those present, including the most prominent Federalists, goes on: "After naming the above gentlemen, it is unnecessary to say the toasts and sentiments were appropriate, independent, and American." An ode for the occasion was provided, as before, by Lucius Manlius Sargent. Both branches of the Legislature, the House of Representatives by unanimous vote, passed resolutions expressing the thanks and appreciation of the Commonwealth to Commodore Bainbridge and other naval commanders.²

In the fall of the same year came the tidings of Commodore Perry's victory on Lake Erie. "The people of Boston, in mass meeting assembled, voted a sword. The *Constitution* honored him with a salute. Both parties claimed him as their own. He became the toast of the hour at innumerable Democratic festivals held to celebrate 'the triumph of the American arms over their enemies,' and the chief theme of scores of naval songs, odes, verses, and impromptu lines."³

It would thus appear that Federalists' hearts were

¹"Amer. Hist. Review," XVIII (April 1913), 520.

²Harris, "Life of Commodore William Bainbridge," 166-168. A number of Boston playbills, during the winter of 1812-1813, announced short sketches called "Patriotic Effusions," to follow the principal play. They commemorated the recent victories and seem to have chiefly consisted in the singing of naval and patriotic ballads.

³McMaster, "History of the People of the United States," IV, 38.

BRILLIANT NAVAL VICTORY.



Yankee PERRY, better than Old English CIDER.

"TUNE--THREE YANKEE PIGEONS."

HUZZA ! for the brave Yankee boys,
 Who touch'd up John Bull on lake Erie,
 Who gave 'em a taste of our toys,
 From the fleet of brave Commodore Perry.
 They were not made of 'lasses but lead,
 And good solid lumps of cold iron ;
 When they hit JOHNNY BULL on the head,
 They gave him a pain that he'll die on.
Rumpti idite, I,
Rumpti I, ti idite,
Ri tol, ol, de rol, lol,
Our tight little navy forever.

Now the *Niagara* bore down,
 To give 'em a bit of a whacking,
 The *Lawrence* came up and were round,
 And set her nine pounders a cracking.
 They soon felt the *Scorpion's* sting,
 And likewise the *Ariel's* thunder ;
 The *Porcupine* give 'em a quill,
 And made the *Queen Charlotte* knock under.
Rumpti, idite, &c.

The *Somers* now gave 'em a touch,
 And the *Tygress* she gave 'em a shock sir,
 Which did not divert Johnny much,
 For it put him in mind of the *BOXER*.
 The *Trippe* she was hammering away,
 The *Ohio* soon made 'em smell powder,

* The brave *Caledonia* that day
 * Made her thunder grow louder and louder
 * *Rumpti, idite, &c.*

* We gave 'em such tough Yankee blows,
 * That soon they thought fit to surrender ;
 * That day made 'em feel that their foes,
 * Were made in the masculine gender.
 * Poor Johnny was sick of the gripes,
 * From the pills that we gave them at *ENUX*,
 * And for fear of the stars and the stripes,
 * He struck to brave Commodore PERRY.
 * *Rumpti, idite, &c.*

* Now as for poor old Johnny Bull,
 * If we meet him on land or at Sea sir,
 * We'll give him a good belly full,
 * Of excellent gun powder tea sir.
 * Huzza ! for our brave Yankee Tars,
 * Who pepper'd the British so merry,
 * Who fought for the stripes and the stars,
 * Under brave Commodore PERRY.
 * *Rumpti, idite, &c.*

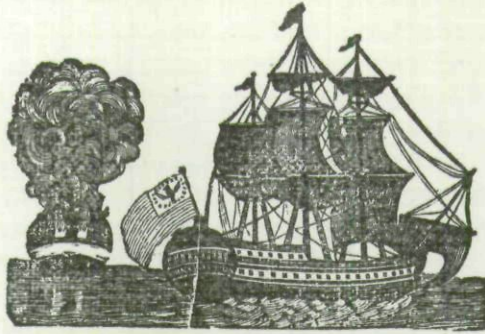
* England is fam'd for perry and beer,
 * Which quickly bewilders the brain, sir,
 * But such PERRY as she's taken here,
 * She never will wish for again, sir.

stirred by these feats of naval arms and that the songs and ballads inspired by repeated victories were the spontaneous utterance of genuine feeling rather than propaganda instigated by Anti-Federalists for the purpose of influencing public opinion.

Nearly forty of the naval ballads in the Thomas collection, so far as a somewhat careful search would indicate, have never been reprinted from the original broadsides, unless some of them might be discovered in contemporary newspapers. This would not remove their ephemeral character. It is believed, at least, that they are not to be found in the popular song-books published since that day.¹

The naval and patriotic song-books published during the War of 1812 and subsequently, down to the period of the Civil War, form an interesting series. Most of them are small volumes. Some are well printed on the best paper; in others the workmanship is poor and the general appearance coarse and cheap. The average of literary merit in the best of these publications, notably in Holland's little book, is superior to the broadside poems, while in the case of the poorer specimens there is little to choose between the two forms of printing. Doggerel naval rhymes, in these cheap books, are scattered among a larger number of sentimental ballads on all sorts of subjects and of a style of versification suited to the most indiscriminating taste.

¹The following have been examined: "Odes, Naval Songs, and other Occasional Poems" By Edwin C. Holland. Charleston, S. C., 1813; "The Columbian Naval Melody." Boston, 1813; "The Columbian Naval Songster." Compiled by Edward Gillespy. New York, 1813; "Columbia's Naval Triumphs." New York, 1813; "The American Muse: or Songster's Companion." New York, 1814; "American Patriotic and Comic Modern Songs commemorative of Naval Victories, etc." Newburyport, 1814; "The American Song Book." New York and Boston, 1815; "The Naval Songster." Charlestown, 1815; "The Naval Temple," Boston, 1816; "The American Star." Richmond, 1817; "Songs: Naval, Patriotic, and Miscellaneous," New York, 1818; "The American Songster." New York, n. d.; "American Naval and Patriotic Songster." Baltimore, 1836; "The Sailor's Song Book." By Uncle Sam. Boston, 1842; "Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution." By Frank Moore. New York, 1856; "Poems relating to the American Revolution." By Philip Freneau. New York, 1865; "American War Ballads and Lyrics." Edited by G. C. Eggleston. New York, 1889; "Naval Songs." Compiled by Admiral S. B. Luce. New York, 1902; also the "Analectic Magazine" and the "Port Folio," 1813-1816. Special acknowledgment is due to the Brown University Library and the Library of Congress for sending rare books for examination.



BAINBRIDGE'S VICTORY :

OR

HUZZA FOR THE CONSTITUTION, ONCE MORE !

Engagement between the UNITED STATES Frigate CONSTITUTION, and the BRITISH Frigate JAVA.

WHEN our good Constitution was last moor'd in port,
 After having a round of American sport ;
 After shewing the British we never knew fear,
 And dispatching to Davy proud Madam Guerriere,
 CHORUS.
*Our cans with good liquor were flowing quite full,
 And we toss'd off a health to the brave Captain Hull.*

We sung and we frolick'd with humor and glee,
 OUR MONEY we spent like true lads of the sea ;
 And when we were tir'd of rambling on shore,
 We merrily went to the ocean for more.
*Our cans with good liquor were flowing quite full,
 And we toss'd off a health to the brave Captain Hull.*

Our captain so brave to another gave place,
 And BAINBRIDGE the noble, now join'd in the chace,
 As gallant a hero as e'er took his turn,
 Or stepp'd on our frigate between stem and stern.
*So our cans with good liquor were flowing quite full,
 And we toss'd off a health unto Bainbridge and Hull.*

Now sailing the ocean we heard of the fray,
 Which the Wasp and the Frolic box'd out 'tother day,
 While fall peals of joy round our Frigate now rang,
 And the praise of the heroes each jolly tar sung.
*So our cans with good liquor were flowing quite full,
 And a health we toss'd off to brave Jones and brave Hull.*

Not many days pass'd ere further good news,
 Come whistling thro' port-holes to true yankee blues,
 For we heard that DECATUR, the noble and brave,
 Had the fam'd Macedonian, beat on the wave.
*So our cans with good liquor were flowing quite full,
 And we toss'd off to Jones and Decatur and Hull.*

But now it was thought by each jolly bold heart,
 That 'twas time for our Frigate to play her next part,
 So be sure while we travers'd the ocean about,
 The men at mast-head kept the sharpest look-out.
*So our cans we toss'd off with good liquor quite full,
 To Bainbridge, and Jones, and Decatur, and Hull.*

At length through the wave as she plow'd in her pride,
 The JAVA our seamen exultingly spied,
 And as usual, all strangers to cowardly fear,
 To the brazen-fac'd hussey, we quickly drew near.
*So our cans with good liquor were flowing quite full,
 To Bainbridge, and Jones, and Decatur, and Hull.*

And now did our bull-dogs most merrily bark,
 Sure Miss JAVA ne'er met such a deuced rough spark ;
 For we tore her fine rigging, and cut up her dress,
 Till she'd not a spar standing her carcass to bless.
*So our cans we toss'd off with good liquor quite full,
 To Bainbridge, and Jones, and Decatur, and Hull.*

Now the battle was done, and she wish'd for no more,
 For her decks were all cover'd with corpses and gore,
 So their ren-cous the Britons were glad to haul down,
 And to yield to Co'umbia their naval renown.
*So our cans we toss'd off with good liquor quite full,
 To Bainbridge, and Jones, and Decatur, and Hull.*

The Revolution is represented in the Thomas collection by two ballads, both of which have been repeatedly reprinted. "Paul Jones's Victory," written in 1813, has appeared in several versions, of which this is perhaps the original. It begins: "An American frigate, a frigate of fame." The "Battle of the Kegs," by Francis Hopkinson, is a humorous account of the attempt of David Bushnell, in December 1777, to blow up the British fleet in the Delaware River by floating torpedoes in the form of kegs filled with gunpowder and set adrift up the river on the ebb tide.

The capture of the French frigate *L'Insurgente* by Captain Truxtun in the *Constellation* in 1799 is the theme of two songs, while another tells of the engagement between the *Boston* and *Berceau* in 1800. Belonging chronologically in the same period are "The Siege of Tripoli" and "Sterret's Sea Fight" with a Tripolitan polacca, the latter printed on the same broadside with "Paul Jones's Victory."

Coming to the War of 1812, the popularity of Commodore Rodgers is noticeable. Although fortune never allowed him the opportunity of engaging a British frigate, his ship, the *President*, did good service and his praises are sung in seven of these ballads. The *Constitution's* fights with the enemy's frigates also form the subjects of seven poems in this collection, four of them concerning the *Guerriere* and three the *Java*. Four ballads tell of the Battle of Lake Erie, three of the famous action between the *Chesapeake* and *Shannon*, and two of the capture of the British frigate *Macedonian* by Decatur in the *United States*. The early date at which the Thomas collection was made, August 1814, accounts for the absence of poems relating to the Battle of Lake Champlain and the last great exploit of the *Constitution* when, in February, 1815, she took the British ships *Cyane* and *Levant* in a single engagement. We miss also a number of the later sloop actions. Of this latter class of events the contests of the *Wasp* and *Frolic*, the *Hornet* and *Pea-*



BRILLIANT VICTORY,

Obtained by Commodore DECATUR, of the "UNITED STATES," Frigate, over the British Frigate
"MACEDONIAN." Commanded by Capt. Carden, which battle was decided in 17 minutes.

Hark how the church-bell's thundering harmony
Stuns the glad ear!—Tidings of joy have come—
Good tidings of great joy!—Two gallant ships
Met on the element.—they fought
A desperate fight.—Good tidings of great joy!
They fought a desperate fight.—The American guns
Plough'd up the hostile deck—they shatter'd her,
Columbia's sons have triumph'd.

.... And mark amidst the splendid band
That guards Columbia's boundless straad,
The youthful hero of the wave,
DECATUR, bravest of the brave!

COLUMBIA'S streamers sweep the main,
To let the Britons know,
We boldly will our rights maintain,
And make the Lion bow.

Our HULL'S withstand the cannon's roar,
DECATUR rules the main,
Above our rights they must not soar,
But treat for Peace again.

Once more the glorious tidings come,
Of triumph to our arms:
Columbia's sons are all at home,
When foes excite alarms.

No fears are theirs, when danger's near,
But cool and brave they are,
They love to see a foe appear,
For guns their souls can't scare.

Our country has not yet forgot,
DECATUR'S deeds of old,
One laurel more he now has got,
Of greater worth than gold,

Our CONSTITUTION yet is sound,
So may it ever be!
UNITED STATES now keep their ground,
Both on the land and sea.

Not only Frigates are destroy'd,
And men kill'd off like fleas,
But "MACEDONIANS" are annoy'd
And driven from the seas.

What fools the British all must be,
To think we shoud'at beat,

When from their yoke we once got free,
By what we now repeat.

The MACEDONIANS crew I guess,
Wish they'd never seen,
That plagny ship, they meant to press,
Just as they do our men.

For we have taught them what our guns
When loaded well can do,
And made them feel Columbia's sons
Know how to load them too.

But there's no rose without its thorn,
No sweet without its sour,
So even now we have to mourn
In this triumphant hour.

For see! that fatal shaft is wing'd
With death for gallant FURK,
Swift through the air the bullets ring'd
And quench'd his fire and spunk.

Arise, Columbia's sons, arise,
And joyfully maintain
Though many noble sailor dies,
That we'll net quit the main.

Let *Jenny Bull* no longer boast,
He lords it o'er the seas,
We'll make his blood-hounds leave the coast,
When their our cannons see.

The GUERRIERA brave Hull has marr'd,
And laid her streamers low,
Our WASP has stung the FROLIC hard,
And thus our laurels grow

cock, and the *Enterprise* and *Boxer* are each celebrated in one ballad. Four songs deal with the adventures of privateersmen. A dozen or more are of a miscellaneous character, either concerned with affairs of minor importance or more nautical, or political, than strictly naval. One of these, with a good, swinging metre, is called "America, Commerce and Freedom" and begins: "How blest a life a sailor leads."

How many of these ballads were set to music and sung on public or social occasions is disclosed by evidence appearing on the broadsides in less than half the number; but it seems probable that most of them, and perhaps nearly all, were so employed during the period of their greatest popularity.

Some verses selected from these naval songs and ballads, virtually lost to the world as they are, will illustrate the general character of this sort of literature. Of the several ballads and songs commemorating the first capture of a British frigate, one bears the title: "CAPTAIN HULL'S VICTORY. Captain Hull, Commander of the Frigate *Constitution*, took after a short engagement, the British Frigate *Guerriere*, mounting 49 guns." Of the twelve verses of this poem we may quote the first and two later ones:

Ye brave seamen all, where'ere you be,
Come hear of a battle late fought on the sea,
To all true friends to our country we greet,
Like us, may you beat all foes that you meet.

Ev'ry shot that we fir'd did very well tell,
Their masts shot away and overboard fell;
Their firing then ceas'd, no longer could fight,
In forty minutes time were put in this plight.

To us they did strike, her colours pull'd down,
Captain Dacres was beat he fairly did own.
Her decks they presented a horrible sight,
Fifteen brave seamen was killed outright.

James Campbell, a boatswain's mate on the *Constitution*, wrote "A NEW SONG," in nine verses and chorus commemorating the same battle:

Come all ye yankee heroes, come listen to my song,
I'll tell you of a bloody fight before that it be long,
It was of the CONSTITUTION from Boston she set sail,
To cruise along the coast, my boys, our rights for to maintain.

*So come rouze ye yankee tars, let it never be said,
That the sons of America should ever be afraid.*

We had laid along-side thirty minutes or little more,
When the blood from the scuppers in a scarlet stream did pour,
We engag'd them full hot, my boys, and made them quake for
fear,

And when her yards and masts came down, she prov'd the
Guerriere.

*Now come rouze ye yankee boys, united let us be,
Resolved to fight or perish, for the rights of America.*

Now to conclude, my boys, and finish with my song,
I was a boatswain's mate, unto said ship I do belong,
I wrote these lines to let you know how yankees they can fight,
When their officers give command, and men of courage bright.

*Come rouze ye yankee tars, firm united let us be,
Resolv'd to fight and conquer for the rights of America.*

Campbell narrated the next great exploit of his beloved ship in fifteen verses, under the heading: "GLORIOUS NAVAL VICTORY, OBTAINED BY COMMODORE BAINBRIDGE, OF THE UNITED STATES FRIGATE CONSTITUTION, OVER HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S FRIGATE JAVA."

Come listen to my story the truth I will unfold,
Concerning of a frigate, she was man'd with hearts of gold,
We took a cruize from Boston, as you shall understand,
For to maintain the freedom of our own native land.

It was at two o'clock the bloody fray begun,
Each hardy tar and son of Mars was active at his gun,

Until their fore and mizen-mast was fairly shot away,
And with redoubled courage, we gave them three huzzas.

.....
Two hours and three quarters, we engaged very hot,
Until one hundred and four poor Britons lay dead upon the spot,
Which made them think the Yankees could shew them fair
play,
And made them strike the union, on the close of that great
day.

.....
Another broadside tells in ten verses of the first sloop
action of the war, and is entitled: "WASP STING-
ING FROLICK, or *Engagement between the American
Sloop of War WASP of 18 guns, and the British Sloop of
War FROLICK, of 20 guns.*" The Wasp was commanded
by Captain Jacob Jones and the battle was fought
October 18, 1812. The ballad begins:

A fine little sloop from the Delaware came,
To cruise on the seas, and the *Wasp* was her name.
With a noble commander, who fear'd not the foe,
And a crew who'd stand fast, let it blow high or low.

CHORUS

*Then fill up your glasses, let's laugh, drink, and sing
And toast the brave Wasp, which the British did sting.*

.....
Then broadside and broadside, full at it they went,
The WASP stung the FROLICK unto her content,
Till dismasted and shatter'd, quite passive she lay,
And found with reluctance, the devil to pay.

.....
From the deck of the *Wasp* five seamen so brave,
With sorrow were launch'd to a watery grave,
But their comrads so bold, had the pleasure to know,
That sixty poor Britons went with them below.

.....
Ten verses likewise relate the story of the next sloop
contest, February 24, 1813. "THE PEACOCK STUNG

BY THE HORNET, or *Engagement between the United States Ship HORNET, Captain LAWRENCE, of 16 Guns, and his Britannic Majesty's Brig PEACOCK, Captain PEAKE, of 19 Guns.*"

.....

And now o'er ocean's heaving breast,
 Encircled with her sea-green vest,
 The gallant HORNET plows the main,
 Columbia's freedom to maintain.
*For courage fires each noble tar,
 And honor loudly calls to war.*

But see! the foe now heaves in sight,
 To quarters quick the seamen run,
 Each heart beats high for glory's fight,
 Firm stands each hero to his gun.
*And honor prompts each noble tar,
 To thunder in the watery war.*

.....

We may conclude with a verse from a broadside celebrating one of our brilliant fleet actions, September 10, 1813. "EIGHTH NAVAL VICTORY: LINES, *Composed on the Capture of his Britannic Majesty's Squadron on LAKE ERIE, by Commodore PERRY. Columbia's Ships triumphant ride, And humble haughty Briton's Pride.*"

.....

With *boldness Perry* strides the Lakes,
 His *Foe* in daring *Combat* stakes,
 While courage aids his bold design,
 He breaks the *British Squadron's* Line,
 His cannon makes *Queen Charlotte* crack,
 And lays her prostrate on her back.
 The *humbled flags* of British *pride*,
 No more around *Lake Erie* ride.

.....

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