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In a few days they both reached Havana, the American frigates some twelve hours in advance. When the British vessel got out her anchor, she was saluted by the American, and the complement returned. In the evening the two commanders supped together, and communicated to each other the inaccuracy of the intelligence which had, by singular coincidence, been conveyed to both. "You had fired a single gun," said the American commander, "I would have fired a broadside into you. My crew, said the British commander, were at the guns, and prepared on the first hostile demonstration to engage with you. What a bloody engagement would not that have been? I send hardly a word of this to the public, but I am glad that the two commanders made such light of it, and parted good friends in the morning."

— The only way to be permanently safe, is habitually honest.