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CONDITIONS.

The *American Patriot* shall be published every Saturday, and forwarded to subscribers by the earliest opportunities. The price is two dollars per annum, exclusive of postage; one half to be paid at the time of subscribing, and the residue at the expiration of six months.

No subscription shall be taken for less than a half year; nor shall any subscriber be at liberty to discontinue his paper until all arrearages are paid off. The failure of any subscriber to notify a discontinuance of his paper, will be considered as a new engagement.

Those who subscribe but for six months, must pay the whole in advance; otherwise they will be continued for the year.

Advertisements, not exceeding a square shall be inserted three times for one dollar, and for every subsequent insertion, twenty five cents; those of greater length in proportion.

The official letter of Captain Porter (CONCLUDED.)

I cannot speak in sufficiently high terms of the conduct of those engaged for such an unparalleled length of time (under such circumstances) with me in the arduous and unequal contest. Let it suffice to say that more bravery, skill, patriotism and zeal were never displayed on any occasion. Every one seemed determined to die in defence of their much loved country's cause, and nothing but views to humanity could have ever reconciled them to the surrender of the ship—they remembered their wounded and helpless shipmates below. Two acting lieutenants M-Knight and Odenheimer, I feel much indebted for their great exertions and bravery throughout the action in fighting and encouraging the men at their divisions, for the dextrous management of the long guns, and for their promptness in re-manning their guns as their crews were slaughtered. The conduct of that brave and heroic officer, acting lieut. John G. Cowell, who lost his leg in the latter part of the action, excited the admiration of every man in the ship, and after being wounded would not consent to be taken below until loss of blood rendered him insensible. Mr. Edward Barnewell, acting sailing master, whose activity and courage was equally conspicuous, returned on deck after his first wound, and remained after receiving his second until fainting with loss of blood. Mr. Samuel B. Johnson who had joined me the day before, and acted as marine officer, conducted himself with great valour, and exerted himself in assisting at the long guns; the musketry after the first half hour being useless, (from our long distance.)

Mr. M. W. Bostwick, whom I had appointed acting purser of the *Essex Junior*, and who was on board my ship, did the duties of aid in a manner which reflects the highest honor on him, and Midshipmen Isaacs, Farragut and Ogden, as well as acting midshipmen James Terry, James R. Lyman and Samuel Duzenbury, and master's mate William Pierce exerted themselves in the performance of their several duties, and gave an earnest of their value to the service; the three first are too young to recommend for promotion, the latter I beg leave to recommend for confirmation, as well as the acting lieuts. and Messrs. Barnewell, Johnston and Bostwick.

We have been unfortunate, but not disgraced—the defence of the *Essex* has not been less honorable to her officers and crew than the capture of an equal force, and now I consider my situation less unpleasant, than that of commodore Hillyar, who in violation of every principle of honor and generosity, and regardless of the rights of nations, attacked the *Essex* in her crippled state within pistol shot of a neutral shore; when for six weeks I had offered him fair and honorable combat, on terms greatly to his advantage; the blood of the slain must be on his head, and he has yet to reconcile his conduct to Heaven, to his conscience and to the world. The annexed extract of a letter from Commodore Hillyar, which was written previous to his returning me my sword, will show his opinion of our conduct.

My loss has been dreadfully severe, 58 killed or have since died of their wounds, and a among them lieut. Cowell; twenty nine severely wounded, 27 slightly, and 31 are missing; making in all 154, killed wounded and missing, a list of whose names is annexed.

The professional knowledge of Doctor Richard Hoffman, acting surgeon, and Dr. Alexander Montgomery, acting surgeon's mate, added to their assiduity and the benevolent attentions and assistance of Mr. D. P. Adams, the Chaplain, saved the lives of many of the wounded; those gentlemen have been indefatigable in their attentions to them; the two first I beg leave to recommend for confirmation, and the latter to the notice of the department.

I must in justification of myself observe, that with our six twelve pounders only we fought this action, our carronades being almost useless.

The loss in killed and wounded has been great with the enemy; among the former is the lieut. of the *Phoebe*, and of the latter capt. Tucker of the *Cherib*, whose wounds are severe. Both the *Essex* and the *Phoebe* were in a sinking state, and it was with difficulty they could be kept afloat until they anchored in Valparaiso next morning. The battered state of the *Essex* will, I believe, prevent her ever reaching England, and I also think it will be out of their power ever to repair the damages of the *Phoebe*, so as to enable her to double Cape Horn. All the masts and yards of the *Phoebe* and *Cherib* are badly crippled, and their hulls much cut up; the former had 18 twelve pound shot through her below her water line, some three feet under water. Nothing but the smoothness of the water saved both the *Phoebe* and the *Essex*.

I hope sir, our conduct may prove satisfactory to our country, and that it will testify it by obtaining our speedy exchange, that we may again have it in our power to prove our zeal.

Commodore Hillyar, (I am informed) has thought proper to state to his government, that the action only lasted 45 minutes; should he have done so the motive may be easily discovered—but the thousands of disinterested witnesses, who covered the surrounding hills can testify that we fought his ships near two hours and an half; upwards of 50 broadsides were fired by the enemy agreeable to their own accounts, and

upwards of seventy-five by ours; except the few minutes they were repairing damages, the firing was incessant.

Soon after my capture, I entered into an arrangement with com. Hillyar to disarm my prize the *Essex Junior*, and proceed with the survivors of my officers and crew in her to the United States, taking with me all her officers and crew. He consented to grant her a passport to secure her from recapture. The ship was small and we knew we had much to suffer, yet we hoped soon to reach our country in safety, that we might again have it in our power to serve it. This arrangement was attended with no additional expense, as she was abundantly supplied with provisions and stores for the voyage.

In justice to commodore Hillyar, I must observe, that, (although I never can be reconciled to the manner of his attack on the *Essex*, or to his conduct previous to the action) he has since our capture, shewn the greatest humanity to my wounded (whom he permitted me to land on condition that the United States should bear their expenses,) and has endeavored as much as lay in his power to alleviate the distresses of the war by the most generous and delicate deportment towards myself, my officers and crew; he gave orders that the property of every person should be respected—his orders however were not so strictly attended to as might have been expected; besides being deprived of books, charts, &c. &c. both myself and officers lost many articles of clothing, some to a considerable amount. I should not have considered this last circumstance of sufficient importance to notice, did it not mark a striking difference between the Navy of Great Britain and that of the United States, highly creditable to the latter.

By the arrival of the *Tagus*, a few days after my capture, I was informed that besides the ships which had arrived in the Pacific in pursuit of me, and those still expected, others were sent to cruise for me in the China seas, off New Zealand, Timor, and New Holland, and that another frigate was sent to the river la Plate.

To possess the *Essex* it has now cost the British Government near six millions of dollars, and yet, sir, her capture was owing entirely to accident; and if we consider the expedition with which naval contests are now decided, the action is a dishonor to them. Had they brought their ships boldly into the action with a force so very superior, and having the choice of position, they should either have captured or destroyed us in one fourth the time they were about it.

During the action, our consul Mr. Pointsett called on the Governor of Valparaiso, and requested that the batteries might protect the *Essex*. This request was refused, but he promised that if she should succeed in fighting her way to the common anchorage, he would send an officer to the British commander and request him to cease firing, but declined using force under any circumstances, and there is no doubt of a perfect understanding existing between them; this conduct added to the assistance given, & their friendly reception after the action, and the strong bias of

the faction which govern Chili in favor of the English, as well as their hostility to the Americans, induced Mr. Pointsett to leave the country. Under such circumstances, I did not conceive it would be proper for me to claim the restoration of my ship, confident that the claim would be made by the Government to better effect. Finding some difficulty in the sale of my prizes, I had taken the *Hector* and *Catharine* to sea and burnt them with their cargoes.

I exchanged Lieut. M-Knight, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Lyman and eleven seamen for part of the crew of the *Andrew Hammond*, and sailed from Valparaiso on the 27th April where the enemy were still patching up their ships to put them in a state for proceeding to Rio de Janeiro previous to going to England.

Annexed is a list of the remains of my crew to be exchanged, as also a copy of the correspondence between com. Hillyar and myself on that subject. I also send you a list of the prisoners I have taken during my cruise, amounting to 340.

I have the honor to be, &c.

D. PORTER.

The Hon. Secretary of the Navy
of the U. S. Washington.

Extract of a letter from com. Hillyar to
Captain Porter.

PHOEBE, April 4, 1814.

"MY DEAR SIR—Neither in our conversations nor in the accompanying letter, have I mentioned your sword. Ascribe my remissness in the first instance to forgetfulness. I consider it only in my servant's possession with my own, until the master may please to call for it; and although I omitted at the moment of presentation, from my mind being much engrossed in attending to professional duties, to offer its restoration, the hand that received, will be most gladly extended, to put it in possession of him who wore it so honorably in defending his country's cause.

"Believe me my dear sir, very faithfully yours.
(Signed) JAMES HILLYAR.
Captain PORTER.

BATTLE OF CHIPPEWA.

Copy of a letter from Major General
Brown to the Secretary of War, dated
Head-Quarters, (Chippewa Plains)
July 7th, 1814.

Dear Sir—On the second inst. I issued my orders for crossing the Niagara river, and made the arrangements deemed necessary for securing the garrison of Fort Erie. On the 3d that post surrendered at 5 P. M. Our loss in this affair was 4 of the 25th regiment under major Jessup, of brigadier general Scott's brigade, wounded.—I have enclosed a return of the prisoners, of the ordnance and ordnance stores captured.

To secure my rear, I have placed a garrison in this fort, and requested captain Kennedy to station his vessels near the post.

On the morning of the 4th, brigadier general Scott, with his brigade and a corps of artillery, was ordered to advance towards Chippewa, and be governed by circumstances; taking care to secure a good military position for the night. After some skir-