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several affidavits

state, but whether he attempted to run away. Five witnesses were summoned from the Niagara, and two from the Lawrence. They all testified that he was not running away. But the attempt he then made to draw proofs from them that he did his duty in the action, was less successful. The two from the Lawrence testified adversely.

In the finding of the Court, it was regretted that contradictory testimony was given, but finally concluded that "the Niagara was not running away from her antagonist the Queen, but that she ran away from the Niagara," (*why didn't he run after her?*) "and that Commodore Perry's official report was correct." It is to be borne in mind that none of the commanders of the small vessels, nor the Commodore were summoned before the Court. The testimony of the two officers adverse to Elliot is disposed of by Cooper in a summary manner. "Mr. Forest," he says, "was a man of very feeble capacity, as was Mr. Yarnell, the other Lieutenant." Now, both were brave and intelligent officers, and had behaved gallantly in other actions; but being dead when Cooper wrote his pamphlet, he felt it safe to stultify them in order to prop the reputation of Elliot.

There is a singular perverseness in the course pursued by Mr. Cooper, in his assaults upon the memory and hard earned fame of the lamented Perry. The few pages of his naval history appropriated to this victory, contain many palpable errors. They however exhibit two prominent traits. 1st: the mistakes are all made to tell against Perry and in favor of Elliot: secondly, that their general aim is to diminish the glory reflected by the victory on American valor and naval skill, by making our fleet a vastly superior force to the enemy's. I have not time to exhibit the numerous instances showing this tendency, but you will find some of them stated in McKenzie's *Life of Perry*, one of the best pieces of biography ever written in this country.— But after a lapse of years, when McKenzie had exposed the unfairness of his naval history, Cooper writes in *Graham's Magazine* what he calls a *Life of Perry*, in which he aims his missiles at the character of that hero, not only in respect to Lake Erie matters, but to the subsequent events of his life, particularly in the Mediterranean, where Perry in a moment of excite-