

lymion's, and she
hold when taken
were very much
and, had the pre-
menced twelve
ould undoubtedly

to be, &c.

HAYES, captain.
H. Hotham."

ll descriptions on
ous to the action,

s made the most
in his attempts to
ase, he appears to
by his chaplain,
ady to swear to
f the chaplain of
minutely, however,
d the President,
contrary evidence
the circumstance
ntered the Presi-
one opposed to
ative evidence of
statement, "that
y the Pomone's
r's assertion con-
to the capture of

main-mast. From
resident's spars, I
t have saved her
rehensions for the
board.

o state, that every
to myself and
on board his ship,
ould dictate.

o be, &c.

EN DECATUR.

ield,

to in the letter.

Pomone, Tenedos,

led; 55 wounded.]

odore Decatur to
of the navy.

March 6, 1815.

the 18th of Jan-
at a considerable
ded was from the
the Endymion had

the President, Commodore Decatur had expressed an earnest desire to fall in with the Endymion, openly avowing his capability to capture an English line of battle ship with his frigate. Let us compare the respective sizes of the line of battle ship and the frigate:—

	Endymion.	President.
Weight of broadside, lbs.	676	916
Crew—Men	319	472
Boys	27	5
Tonnage	1277	1533

We have heard it stated by an old inhabitant of Bermuda, who saw the vessels a few days after the action, that the President, alongside of the Endymion, was "like a quart alongside of a pint bottle," and this difference in their size reflects the greater credit on Captain Hope, to whom it is a pity the opportunity was afforded of lowering, single-handed, the American mania for boasting.

Taking Commodore Decatur's whole mystification and false stating of this affair into consideration, and comparing his statements with extracts from logs of the British evidence, the conviction is forced upon us that the American commander resorted to subterfuges and misstatements to cover his defeat, unworthy both an officer and gentleman.

The next affair that comes before us for consideration is the capture, by the Constitution, of the Cyane, mounting thirty, and the Levant eighteen guns—the one manned by one hundred and fifty-six men and twenty-six boys; the other by one hundred and fifteen men and sixteen boys. The weight of metal thrown by the Constitution's broadside equalled that of her two antagonists put together, while the British vessels only mounted carronades, and the Constitution showed on her broadside seventeen long twenty-fours. Again, the Constitution had

on board, in addition to her own crew, one lieutenant, one master's mate, and fifty men belonging to the Saturn, and when the action ceased, was left motionless and unmanageable, until she bent new sails, rove new rigging, and fished her spars; nor did she rejoin the squadron for six hours after the action, and three hours after the surrender of the President. My sword was delivered to Captain Hayes, of the *Majestic*, the senior officer of the squadron, on his quarter-deck; which he, with great politeness, immediately returned. I have the honor to

four hundred and seventy-two men, her antagonists two hundred and sixty-one, exclusive of boys. The particulars of the action will be found in the appendix,* and we need only remark further that the officers and crews were honourably acquitted by a Court-Martial, and applauded for the gallant defence offered.

The commander of the *Constitution* laid claim to great credit for having captured two vessels, contending that "a divided force is better for action," the vain-glorious commander forgot, however, that, on a previous occasion, he had declared "that three large frigates, placed in the most favorable position would be compelled to yield to a seventy-four gun ship, owing to the latter being stronger in scantling and thicker in sides."

The *Constitution* was as strong in scantling and as thick in the sides as the *President*, and on the capture of that vessel it was found that she differed in no respect from the stoutest seventy-four in the British service, it is not wonderful then that her two pigmy opponents were compelled to yield to such decided superiority.

The *Constitution* with her two prizes arrived at Porto Praya, in the island of St. Jago on the 7th March, but on the 8th were compelled to stand out to sea to avoid capture by a British squadron. In the chase that ensued the *Levant* was recaptured, but strange to say the other two escaped unpursued. And we agree with James that, as this circumstance afforded the Americans grounds for asserting that the British vessels were unwilling to come to close quarters, although two of them threw a much heavier broadside than the *Constitution*, the suffering the larger vessels to escape reflected much discredit on the judgment of the British commanders.

enclose you my parole, by which you will perceive the British admit the *President* was captured by the squadron. I should have deemed it unnecessary to have drawn your attention to this document, had not the fact been stated differently in the *Bermuda Gazette*, on our arrival there; which statement, however, the editor was compelled to retract, through the interference of the governor, and some of the British officers of the squadron."

* See Appendix A and B.