

French displayed there. But there is no record of a British vessel enduring the terrible blows inflicted on the *Essex* and the *President* before yielding, as I have been told by an American naval officer not given to vaunting. Men of all nations fight gallantly, bravely, even desperately, as long as there is any chance or hope of success; but few will persevere in braving death, when defeat is unavoidable. The misfortunes of the *Essex* and the *President* had that great alleviation. They established the title of the American mariners to passive as well as active courage in their highest attributes.

Sloops of war named the *Wasp*, and the *Frolic*, and the *Peacock*, (after two of our English prizes, the *Frolic* and the *Peacock*, and the *Wasp*, which was taken from us,) the new vessels, each of about 500 tons, which is much smaller than American sloops of war now, put to sea in 1814. The *Frolic*, Captain Joseph Bainbridge, soon after she got to sea, was captured on the 20th of April, 1814, by the frigate *Orpheus*, Captain Pigot, without any contest except endeavoring to escape, when the sloop threw most of her guns overboard. The *Peacock* sailed from New York in March, 1814, under Captain Louis Warrington, a gentleman understood to be the natural son of Count Rochambeau, who commanded the French army which, united with Washington's, forced Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown, and put an end to the war of the Revolution. It was said too, that when Captain Warrington made his way to promotion and distinction, Count Rochambeau sent and offered to own him as his son;—to which he made answer, that having dishonored his mother, and deserted him when he needed protection, Captain Warrington had neither occasion nor desire for Count Rochambeau's paternity. Besides fourteen merchant vessels, taken during his cruising, Warrington captured, on the 29th of April, 1814, the brig of war *Epervier*, Captain Wales, nearly, or quite equal in force to the *Peacock*, but obliged to strike after an action in which the superiority of the American was made every way obvious. The *Epervier* was sent into Savannah. The *Peacock* continued the cruise till October, when she returned to New York. The *Wasp*, Captain Johnson Blakely, put to sea from