

Thus, by decision and firmness, justified by the advantages gained and at command, Decatur, in the space of twenty-four hours from his arrival, had in his hands a treaty such as had never been obtained from any of the Barbary powers by any of the great nations of Europe. This had been accomplished in forty days from the time of his departure from New York. In the close of their dispatch to the government, transmitting the treaty, Decatur and Shaler say,—“As this treaty appears to us to secure every interest within the contemplation of the government, and as it really places the United States on higher grounds than any other nation, we have no hesitation, on our part, in fulfilling such of its provisions as are within our power, in the firm belief that it will receive the ratification of the President and Senate.”

Decatur deemed it advisable to send home one of his vessels with the treaty, and an account of his cruise thus far. He selected the brig *Epervier* for this service, and gave the command of her to John Templer Shubrick, the first lieutenant of the *Guerriere*. Captain Lewis was desirous of returning home, and obtained leave. This left a vacancy in Decatur's own ship, to fill which he transferred Captain Downes from the *Epervier*. The latter vessel sailed immediately on these changes, and the termination of her voyage is, up to the present time, wrapt in mystery. She passed Gibraltar about the 12th of July. A brig, resembling her, was seen by a British West-India fleet, during a very heavy gale, and in a position where she might have been; but no distinct information has ever been gained respecting her. In her were lost, Captain Lewis, Lieutenant Neale, Lieut. Yarnall, Lieut. Drury, and other officers, and also the captives who had been just rescued from Algerine servitude, and were embracing this early opportunity to return home. Lieut. Shubrick's appointment to this command was an evidence of Decatur's high appreciation of his character as an officer. He had served much under Decatur, having now been steadily with him on board the *United States*, the President during the cruise in which she was taken by the British, and the *Guerriere* during the present cruise. With him an untimely end terminated a highly honorable career.

With the prestige of this complete and rapid success, Decatur now proceeded to visit the other Barbary states, in order to apply the same effectual remedy to certain evils and wrongs, which had arisen in their relations to Americans. He appeared in the Bay of Tunis on the 26th of July. Here the American consul, M. M. Noah, Esq., laid before him an account of certain wrongs, and requested his interposition for their redress. It appears that during the war with Great Britain, an American armed brig, the *Abellino*, had captured an English merchant brig and schooner, which she carried as prizes into the neutral port of Tunis. While they were lying in this port, and under the protection of the cannon of the Bey of Tunis, the English brig of war *Lyra* ran in, cut them out, and carried them to Malta, thus boldly violating the neutrality of the port. The Bey took no measures to resist this aggression, but quietly suffered it, undoubtedly receiving in some form an adequate remuneration for his indifference to his own rights, and to the insult offered to his own independence. The influence of British agents near his person was felt here also, as well as at Algiers.