

and truly it was such, for if engaged in a lawful and unprohibited trade, they did not require that monstrous iron warrior. Those proceedings in the Admiralty Court continued, with much the same vigor and results, for several years, and there can be little doubt, but what the great injury thus inflicted on the foreign commerce of the United States, was one of the *provocations* to the war they declared against Great Britain a few years after. Such proceedings, and numerous others of an unrighteous character, often lead to further contentions, or open hostilities between nations; and serve to show the wicked and ruinous nature of all national wars. Judge Croke held the office,—then of such great importance,—for a number of years, and with most distinguished ability; and on his return to England was Knighted. His arguments, in the decision of any specially important case would afford intellectual enjoyment to all who could duly appreciate them, for the orderly arrangements of the various points, the precision and soundness of logical argument, chasteness of language, dignity and attractiveness of address, and all the other qualities which constitute the highest style of judicial skill, eloquence, and ability. I remember one instance, especially, in which I experienced a degree of that enjoyment, in hearing his eloquent and powerful argument, in a decision on one of those prize cases.

There are no other subjects or events, of a legal nature, in those early years, within my recollection at present, of sufficient importance to require mention or remark, and therefore I will here close this portion of my work.