

Elliot's reputation ; for which friendly act Elliot never forgave him, and Perry had reason never to forgive himself.

In addition to all this, the officers of the *Queen Charlotte* did, in my hearing, and as Chaplain Breese testifies, did in the hearing of himself and others, when they were asked why their ship did not engage their antagonist the *Niagara*, instead of firing upon the *Lawrence*, state again and again that the *Niagara* kept so far astern and off to the windward that their guns could not reach her.

Let us glance then at the prominent points in the case. 1st, Elliot had his station and duty assigned him, to fight the *Queer Charlotte*. Did he perform that duty faithfully? Commodore Perry says *no* :—Commodore Barclay says *no* :—The officers of the *Queen* say *no* :—The commanders of the small vessels say *no* :—The wounded of the *Lawrence*, while weltering in their blood said *no* :—But J. Fenimore Cooper, who was not in the action, says *yes*, and from the obliquity that marks what he has written on the subject, his mistakes, misstatements, and false assumptions, such a decision is perfectly in keeping with his character. 2nd : If Elliot was in his place, and performed his duty, and shared in the danger, how are we to account for the fact that he had only three men killed and wounded, when the *Lawrence* had eighty-three, each ship having one hundred and one men when the battle began? and how was it that the *Niagara* was a perfectly fresh ship (as the British Commodore states) after the *Lawrence* was a complete wreck?

Commodore Barclay on his return to England, after officially reporting his defeat and capture, was subjected to the customary ordeal of a Court of Inquiry, and was honorably acquitted.—The published report of proceedings stated that when Perry approached the *Niagara* in a boat, "she was making away" from the fight, and this was copied into some American papers. A Court of Inquiry was in session at the time in New York, on some captains who had lost American ships of war, and Elliot, unable to withstand this English version of the action, applied to the Secretary of the Navy to permit this Court to examine the evidence of his conduct, in order to decide, not whether he held back from his station in the action, as several affidavits