

from the American navy. You know that in every action that has taken place we have been fairly beaten. Some people say it was because the American ships had heavier ordnance and better gunners. My opinion is, that as all the actions took place at a distance, the heavy ordnance of the Americans gave them the advantage.

"Now, I tell you I am determined to engage the American frigate 'Chesapeake,' one of the finest ships in their navy—one superior to my own, and that the action shall be at close quarters and decided by the sword. I want your help to enable me to do so," he continued, saying, "Benning, I have noticed in my different calls to this port, its fine robust population; and I wish to know if you think we could prevail on the young fellows—sons of the sea as they are—to join my ship." He added: "Before leaving England we had some difficulty in making up our crew; many of them are the sweepings of the gutters of Plymouth, and Falmouth, and unable to perform the work I am undertaking." I said "certainly, my dear sir, I shall do all I can, and I think we shall succeed." So I called a public meeting, made known to the men the captain's desire; and he spoke to them himself of its danger and its glory. The result was that forty-two of the finest of our young men became part of the crew of the famous ship "Shannon."

In a few days after this he sailed away. I never saw the gallant Captain Brooke again, and we wondered what had become of him and our forty-two brave fellows who had joined his ship. Reports came to us of the action that had taken place, but nothing certain, nothing to be relied on until some part of the crew returned home, then I had a full account of all that had taken place from the time our fellows joined the "Shannon," to the time of their return.

Captain Brooke drilled these fellows himself every morning in the broad sword exercise. The Newfoundlanders became strongly attached to the captain. He told of the dangerous encounter they were about entering upon and asked them if they were willing to join, when our fellows answered, "lead us on, sir, and you will see."

So the sailors said, "We sailed into Boston Bay, when our