

P R E F A C E .

N offering this pamphlet to the public, it may be deemed necessary to offer some apology. There have been many accounts of Perry's Victory, Sept. 10th, 1813, published. Yet in consequence of the unfortunate feud existing between Perry and Elliott and their friends, the accounts partook somewhat of an *ex parte* character. This is not a correct way to hand down passing events to posterity. In writing history, facts should be given as nearly as possible, not fiction.

My father, Sailing Master Daniel Dobbins, was a pioneer in the construction of the squadron, and served actively upon the upper lakes during the war. From conversations during his lifetime, as also memoranda and other papers left by him—in connection with the accounts given by McKenzie, Cooper and Lossing, I have compiled this little book.

I hope the reader will excuse the commonplace style of composition, as it is the effort of an illiterate sailor.

W. W. DOBBINS.