

same superiority, little, comparatively speaking would have been thought of it. Uncle Sam had entirely succeeded in persuading himself, and more than half convincing such of our countrymen as were ignorant of naval affairs, that at sea his prowess was unequalled. It was therefore that such gratulation was expressed when the first action of nearly equal ships, set the question so effectually at rest.

As to the capture of a solitary frigate, it was a matter of no importance to England, and the loss could be but slightly felt by the United States; but morally considered it was a conquest. The rulers of the infant republic could only hope to console their country for the total destruction of her foreign commerce, which their navy was unable to protect, by triumphs in single actions of equal ships, and hitherto their rulers and press had furnished the people with an abundant harvest of "glorious news," rating sloops of 10 and 18 guns, as "fine frigates," when taken from us, and glorifying the readers of their "naval chronicles," by similar Yankee tricks. The respective forces of the Chesapeake and the Shannon were,

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