

artillery and leaving all their wounded and 200 prisoners in the hands of the British. The loss of the latter was 1 general and 45 officers and men killed and 300 wounded; the Americans acknowledge a loss of twenty killed and ninety wounded. Early on the morning of the 15th the British army moved forward to within two miles of Baltimore and occupied a favorable position with the intention of storming the works which protected it on the ensuing night. An attempt to bombard Fort McHenry having failed to produce the necessary effect, and on an intimation having arrived from Vice Admiral Cochrane that the cooperation of the fleet could not be reckoned on as the entrance of the harbor was obstructed by a barrier of sunken vessels; consequently on the 14th at 1a. 30m. a.m. the British troops commenced to retreat, which they did in a leisurely manner and without molestation their opponents probably thinking a "bridge of gold should be made for a retreating foe." On the 15th they re-embarked at North Point.

It is very evident that this *raid* was mismanaged from the commencement, it should have been a part of the expedition to Washington, and even when the blunder which cost the General in command his life was made, it should have been persisted in to the extent of at least causing the destruction of the vessels in the harbor—the frigates could have been boarded, Fort McHenry and the harbor could be entered by a division of boats, while a smart attack on the intrenched camp would have undoubtedly resulted in the retreat of its defenders which were neither numerous nor well disciplined. After a few more senseless demonstrations in the Potomac, the fleet sailed for Nigril bay in Jamaica to await "ulterior operations."

The powerful naval force concentrated on the American coasts compelled the Government of the United States to dismantle and lay up their frigates and larger ships, while their crews were sent to re-inforce the squadrons on the Lakes, where, if ordinary talent had been exercised or even ordinary industry, very serious damage to British interests might have ensued, but Commodore Chauncey was only a respectable *noodle*, not a self-opinionated, irascible and obstinately stupid mischief-maker like Sir James L. Yeo, in other respects their professional talents were on a par, they knew neither when to fight nor when to run away, although nearly all their manoeuvres culminated in that interesting operation.

On the 7th April the Hon. T. B. Capel, commanding the 74 gun ship *Hague* and a small British squadron consisting of the *Endymion* and *Maidstone* frigates with the 14 gun brig *Brier*, despatched six boats containing 156 men to capture some American vessels at Pettipague Point, about 15 miles up Connecticut River. On the 8th, after a slight skirmish, all the vessels, 27 in number of aggregate burden of upwards of 5000

tons, were destroyed, and the expedition rejoined their ship with a loss of two killed and two wounded; three of the vessels destroyed were large privateers ready for sea.

On the 14th June an expedition in boats was detached from the squadron under the command of the Hon. Charles Paget to destroy some newly built ships at a place called Wareham at the head of Buzzard's Bay in the State of Connecticut, it was completely successful without incurring the slightest loss; Lieut. Garland, in command, destroyed as many ships, brigs, schooners and sloops on the stocks and afloat as measured 2522 tons, also a large cotton factory valued at half a million dollars. The extreme intricacy of the navigation compelled this enterprise to be undertaken in daylight, and as there was great danger of the expedition being cut off by the militia on its return down a narrow stream, the officer in command seized the principal inhabitants and secured them as hostages until the boats were out of danger.

The American frigate *Congress* was laid up under repairs, the *Macedonian* was lying in the mud of New London river, the *Constellation* was at Norfolk, and the *Constitution* ready for sea had been lying in President Road, Boston, awaiting an opportunity to escape from the blockade of the British 38 gun frigate *Nymphé*; on the 1st January she effected that desirable manoeuvre, and on the 14th February captured and destroyed the British 14 gun schooner *Picton*; on the 23rd when running through the *Mona Passage* on her way homewards the *Constitution* fell in with the British 18-pounder 36 gun frigate *Pique*, at that time commanded by the Hon. Anthony Maitland, this vessel (late French *Pallas*) was a fine frigate measuring 1029 tons, and mounted with her 26 long 18-pounders on the main deck, 16 carronades 32-pounders, and 4 long 9-pounders on her quarter-deck and fore-castle, total 46 guns, with a compliment of 284 men and boys; the *Constitution's* force has been already described in her action with the *Guerriere*, she measured 1533 tons, mounting 30 long 24-pounders on the main deck, 18 carronades 52 pounders on the quarter deck, 6 carronades 42 pounders, and 2 long 24-pdrs. on the fore-castle, total 56 guns. When they first discovered each other the two ships were steering to the North West with a light wind right aft, the *Pique* immediately bracing her yards, lay to, to allow the stranger who was astern under a crowd of sail to come up. At 4h. 30m. p.m., the *Constitution* took in her studding sails—observing this the *Pique* hauled to the wind on the port tack and hoisting her colors made all sail to close—almost immediately afterwards and when bearing from the *Pique* South East by South distant three miles, the *Constitution* took a reef in her topsails, hoisted her colors and hauled to the wind on the starboard tack; this change of position afforded to each ship a tolerable view of the force to be opposed

to her—the *Constitution* counted 13 ports and a bridle on the *Pique's* main-deck, and saw at once she was of a class inferior to the *Guerriere* and *Java*—the *Pique* counted 15 ports and a bridle on the *Constitution's* main deck and therefore knew she was one of the large class of American frigates. Directions had been given by the British Admiralty that the 18 pounder frigates were not to seek to engage the American 44-gun frigates, and in obedience to those instructions Captain Maitland proceeded to resume his course; his crew seeing this went aft in a body and requested him to bring the American frigate to action, he was obliged in consequence to read his instructions to them but totally failed in persuading them of their necessity, and they exhibited their annoyance by refusing to take their evening allowance of grog, alleging that they did not want "Dutch courage to fight a Yankee frigate." Owing to thick squally weather the vessels lost sight of each other, but at 2 a.m., on the 24th the *Pique* tacked to the South East and crossing the bows of the *Constitution* again descried her at a distance of two miles on her lee beam; as both ships stood on their respective courses the *Pique* to the South East, the *Constitution* to the North by West the two ships by 3 a.m. had run each other out of sight. On the 3rd April, having arrived off the port of Marblehead in Massachusetts, the *Constitution* fell in with the two British 38-gun frigates *Junon* and *Tenedos*, the American frigate was standing to the Westward with the wind about North by West and bore from the English frigates Northwest by West. The *Junon* and *Tenedos* hauled up in chase while the *Constitution* crowded sail in the direction of Marblehead; at 9h. 30m. finding the *Tenedos* gaining on her the *Constitution* started her water and threw overboard a quantity of provisions, spars, and other articles; at 11h. 30m. she hoisted her colors, the British frigates did the same, and at 1h. 30m. p.m. the *Constitution* came to anchor at Marblehead. The *Tenedos* now off Cape Ann, which bore from the ship North North East distant nine miles, wished to follow her into port but was recalled by a signal from the *Junon*; a shift of wind enabled the *Constitution* to remove to Salem, and a short time afterwards she escaped to Boston. It is solely owing to the want of energy or incapacity of the commander of the *Junon* that this ship escaped being captured, if followed by these vessels into Marblehead, where there were no defences, there can be no doubt that she would be obliged to surrender.

On the 26th August an expedition under the joint command of Lieut. Gen. Sir J. C. Sherbrooke, Governor of the Province of Nova Scotia, and Rear Admiral Griffith, consisting of 74 gun ship *Dragon*, frigates *Endymion* and *Bacchante*, 18-gun sloop *Sylph*, and ten sail of transports with troops, sailed from Halifax to the Penobscot River. On