

complement of men was 132, of whom 12 had been put on board her for the express purpose of engaging a very heavy American privateer called the *Young Wasp*, a fact that is known by a letter found in her, from the Admiral at the Cape of Good Hope, to which station the *Penguin* belonged. Captain Biddle stated the loss of his prize at 14 killed and 28 wounded. As respects the latter, there could be no mistake, though it was the opinion of the officer in charge of the English vessel, that more men had been slain. Some time previously to this capture, the enemy had ceased to publish the official accounts of his nautical defeats, but a letter purporting to be the one written on this occasion, has found its way before the world, in which the English loss is stated at only 10 killed and 28 wounded. The *Penguin* was completely riddled with the *Hornet's* shot, lost her foremast and bowsprit, and her mainmast was too much injured to be secured. Among her slain was her commander, Captain Dickenson, and the boatswain; and among the wounded a lieutenant, two midshipmen, and the purser.

The *Hornet* had but 1 man killed, and 10 wounded. Among the latter, in addition to Captain Biddle, was the first lieutenant, Mr. Conner,\* a young officer of high promise, whose life was considered in great danger for some time. Not a round shot touched the *Hornet's* hull, nor did her spars receive any material injury, though she was a good deal cut up in her rigging and sails.

The combat between the *Hornet* and the *Penguin* was one of the most creditable to the character of the American marine that occurred in the course of the war. The vessels were very fairly matched, and when it is remembered that an English flag-officer had sent the *Penguin* on especial service against a ship believed to be materially heavier than the vessel she actually encountered, it is fair to presume she was thought to be, in every respect, an efficient cruiser. Yet, with the advantage of the wind, this ship was taken in 22 minutes, including the time lost while she hung on the *Hornet's* quarter, and while the latter was waring. The neatness and despatch with which the American sloop did her work, the coolness with which she met the attempt to board, and the accuracy of her fire and handling, are all proofs of her having been a disciplined man-of-war, and of the high condition of that service in which she

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\* Now Captain Conner