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Niagara's officers is equally unreliable from partisan feeling, and thus balancing one against the other so as to neutralize both, and how then stands the evidence? The commanders of the other vessels of the squadron testify that Elliot did not sustain his part in the action, that he held back from engaging his antagonist two hours. If said in reply, and Cooper has said it, that these officers were partial to Perry, then refer the question to other arbitrators, who were entire strangers to both Perry and Elliot, who were eye-witnesses of the battle, and Cooper was not one,—to the British officers, who could have felt no interest on either side, for no controversy had yet commenced,—consider too that Barclay had the strongest possible motives to describe the battle accurately, since the least deviation from truth from whatever influence, must place his honor and reputation ever after at the mercy of his officers, and then ask what was their decided opinion on this important subject. Commodore Barclay says in his official report,—

"About 10 o'clock the enemy had cleared the Islands,—and immediately bore up, under easy sail, in a line abreast, each brig being also supported by the small vessels. At a quarter before 12, I commenced the action by a few long guns; about a quarter past 12, the American Commodore, also supported by two schooners, came close to action with the Detroit; the other brig of the enemy," (the Niagara,) "apparently destined to engage the Queen Charlotte, kept so far to windward as to render the Queen Charlotte's carronades useless, while she was with the Lady Prevost, exposed to the destructive fire of the Caledonia and four other schooners armed with heavy long guns." \* \* \*

"The action continued with great fury until half past two, when I perceived my opponent drop astern, and a boat passing from him to the Niagara, (which vessel was at this time perfectly fresh;) the American Commodore seeing that as yet the day was against him, (his vessel having struck soon after he left her) and also the very defenceless state of the Detroit, which ship was now a perfect wreck, principally from the raking fire of the gun-boats, and also that the Queen Charlotte was in such a situation, that I could receive very little assistance from her, and the Lady Prevost being at this time too far to leeward, from her rudder being injured, he" (that is Perry,) "made a noble, and alas! too successful effort to regain the day, for he bore up, and supported by his small vessels, passed within pistol-shot, and took a raking position on our bow; nor could I prevent it, as the unfortunate situation of the Queen prevented our wearing; in attempting it we fell on board her. My gallant first Lieutenant, Garland, was now mortally wounded, and myself so severely that I was obliged to quit the deck. \* \* \* Every officer, commanding vessels, and their seconds, was either killed or wounded." \* \* \* In conclusion, he adds: "Captain Perry has behaved in a humane and most attentive manner, not only to myself and officers, but to all the wounded."

Barclay, you perceive, tells the whole story, in all that is material to the controversy, just as Perry told it in *his* official report, with the exception of that part wherein Perry tries to save