

pursuance of the policy of conciliation inculcated by the Government, released several coasting vessels taken by ships of his squadron, and, on the whole, seems to have discouraged privateering. The seamen of the Bahamas were subjected to less restraint, for no less than eight privateers had sailed from Nassau prior to the 1st of September, and seventeen prizes taken by them had arrived, six having been taken by the schooner *Caledonia*.

During the last half of the year 1812, the British cruisers on the Halifax station took more than thirty American privateers, several of which are large and swift-sailing schooners of the *Baltimore Clipper* type, specially built for the purpose, generally mounting sixteen or eighteen guns, and manned with 150 or 200 men. One of the finest of these, the *Thorn*, of Marblehead, captured by the *Shannon* on the last day of October, was commissioned as the *Sir John Sherbrooke*, and sailed from Halifax on her first cruise early in March, 1813. On the 16th she fell in with a fleet of small vessels, bound from Carolina to Boston, and took two schooners and three sloops with valuable cargoes, and, before returning to port, had manned fourteen prizes. As soon as her crew was recruited, she reappeared on the New England coast and, on the night of the 31st of March, a smack, taken and manned by her, cut a schooner and a sloop out of Tarpaulin Cove. Cruising afterwards in company with H. B. M. *Rattler* and *Bream*, eleven vessels were taken between the 5th and 7th April, and, a few days later, the boats of the *Sherbrooke* cut two sloops out of Holmes' Hole. Her third cruise was attended with equal success. On the 18th May she re-took the *Gen. Hodgson* and *Hetty*, prizes to the Boston privateer *Alexander*, and the *Paragon*, a prize of the *America*, and captured the brig *Columbia*. Having patrolled the coast of Massachusetts for two weeks, on the 26th of the month she fell in with and recaptured the ship *Duck*, of Waterford, a prize to the *Governor Plumer*, of Portsmouth, N.H., a powerful privateer, carrying six guns and a