

ship-board in foreign ports, reflected great honor on our navy. Distinguished visitors ever found his ship in most perfect order, and left her with exalted opinions of his graceful and dignified manners, and of the strict discipline prevailing among his officers and men.

I feel grateful to my audience for their patient attention.— Nearly forty years have rolled away, since Perry gained the memorable victory,—the first one ever gained over a squadron by this country, and, with the lapse of time, have passed away most of those who were with him. Of the nine commanders of vessels, only one survives ; and of the fifteen officers of the *Lawrence*, only Capt. Taylor and myself remain. The thought reminds me, as it should do, that my own summons cannot be far distant. Entertaining the opinions I honestly do of the incidents and events of the battle, and of the chief actors in it,—opinions which were formed on the spot at the time ; and also of the controversy that long after ensued, I have for years felt it an imperative duty to present those opinions to the citizens of this State on some appropriate occasion. That duty, by your appointment is now performed, so far as the brief time allotted would permit, and with it has been offered a tribute of respect due to the character of the illustrious son of Rhode Island.— Ever may his memory remain enshrined in the hearts of the people of his native State and of a grateful nation !