

Detroit, one mile distant. It was like an electric shock, and was soon followed by another. The two gun-boats ahead of us now fired one or two long guns. At this time the Ariel, Scorpion, Lawrence, Caledonia and Niagara were all in their respective stations in the order they are named, distant from each other about half a cable's length. The other vessels, not sailing quite so well, were a little out of their stations astern. At ten minutes before twelve, fire was opened from all the long guns of the enemy. At five minutes before the meridian, the Lawrence beginning to suffer, returned the fire from her long bow gun, a twelve pounder, when the two gun boats ahead were ordered by trumpet, to commence the action, and the Caledonia and Niagara astern, opened their fire with their long guns, The sternmost vessels soon after opened also, but at too great a distance to do much injury. Perry finding himself not sufficiently near to do execution with his carronades, made all sail again, and ordered the word to be passed by trumpet to the vessels astern. The order was responded to and transmitted along the line by Captain Elliot of the Niagara, whose vessel was stationed next but one astern of the Lawrence. But the Niagara did not make sail with the Lawrence, and accompany her down into close action as ordered, but continued her long shot with two bow guns, (having shifted the left one over to the starboard side.) Perry pressed on, and supposing himself near enough, fired his forward carronades, but finding they did not tell, he pressed on still nearer, suffering terribly, and getting near enough for execution he opened a rapid and most destructive fire upon the Detroit. The Scorpion and Ariel ahead were not deemed worthy of the enemy's aim, yet those small vessels having heavy cannon fought nobly and with great effect. The Caledonia astern followed the Lawrence into close action against her antagonist the Hunter. But the Niagara, which, when the battle began was within hail of the Lawrence, did not follow her down toward the enemy's line, so as to encounter her antagonist the Queen Charlotte. The Niagara, I say, did not make sail when the Lawrence did, but hung back for two hours, when she should have followed the example of the Lawrence, and grappled with the Queen Charlotte at the same time that vessel did the Detroit. The