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UNITA ITALIA.

FROM THE ITALIAN, BY CARROLL RYAN.

"Twas rich red wine that our fathers quaffed
By the Arno's summer flood,
And long they drank and loud they laughed,
Like us:—and our swords drink blood,
Tis a glorious draught for it comes from out
The veins of a tyrant foe;
Then pass the maitling cup about,
And let the red life flow.
The toast shall be
Among the free;—
"To Italy

Union, Love and Liberty!"

Our fathers fought in the ancient days
For their gold, or faith, or fame,
But their children have no need of bays
Till they wipe away their shame.
Our swords shall drink of the cup of life,
And the draught will be a flood,
To bear from our land the wrecks of strife
And the footprints stained with blood,
The toast shall be
Among the free;—

"To Italy

Union, Love and Liberty.

Malta, 1853.

NAVAL OPERATIONS

OF THE
WAR OF 1812-14.

CHAPTER III.

On the 13th August, 1812, the United States Frigate Essex of 867 tons, carrying 24 thirty two pounder carronades and two long 12 pounders on the main deck, 16 thirty-two pounder carronades, and four long 12 pounders on the quarter deck and fore-castle, total 46 guns, commanded by Capt. David Porter, with a crew of 328 men, fell in with the British 16 gun ship-sloop Alert, Capt. T. L. P. Laugharne; this vessel had formerly been the Oxford Collier, and was purchased with eleven of her class in 1804; her tonnage was about 380 tons, and her armament 18 pounder carronades with a crew of 156 men and boys. Without hesitation the Alert bore down on the Frigate's weather quarter, opened her fire and in a quarter of an hour had seven feet of water in her hold, her colors down and had neither hurt a man nor damaged the Essex in any way—her officers and crew, with the exception of Johnson, Clearing-master, and William Haggerty,

who stood by their Captain, appear to have been a rare pack of scoundrels, they went aft in a body to the Captain requesting him to strike, only three men being wounded, of course, as they had forsaken their guns, there was no other alternative. The Court Martial which cashiered the first Lieutenant and reprimanded the crew would have done their duty to the country better if they had hanged the whole lot as mutineers.

At 2 a.m. on the morning of the 19th August, the 38 gun Frigate Guerriere, Capt. J. R. Dacres, cruising in lat. 40°.20' North, long. 65° West, standing by the wind on the starboard tack under easy sail with a fresh breeze from the North West, on her way to Halifax to refit, having nearly expended her water and provisions with her boatswain's, carpenter's and gunner's stores deficient, what remained of her powder damp from long keeping, her bowsprit badly sprung, her mainmast from being struck by lightning in a tottering state, and her hull from length of service scarcely seaworthy, discovered a large vessel on her weather beam. This was the United States 44 gun frigate Constitution, Capt. Isaac Hull, which had a few days before escaped from a British squadron after a long chase—she was only 17 days from port, and in size, tonnage, crew, weight of metal and guns, greatly superior to the Guerriere, which carried 30 long 18 pounders on the main deck, 16 thirty-two pounder carronades on the quarter deck and fore-castle, and two 18 pounder chase guns. Like most French ships of the period the Guerriere sailed very much by the head and to assist in trimming her as well as to obviate the inconvenience of a round house which was erected between the foremast and bridle ports and prevented the gun stationed at the latter being shifted to the former, the two guns last mentioned were shipped at Halifax as standing chase guns adding no force to her broadside in any case.

The Constitution mounted 56 guns viz: 30 long 24 pounders on the main deck, 18 carronades 32 pounders on the quarter deck, and on the fore-castle 6 carronades with 2 long 24 pounders. At the time the Guerriere discovered the United States frigate the

former was standing under topsail, foresail, jib, and spanker, at 3 a. m. each ship made out the other to be an enemy's man of war, at 4:30 a. m. the Guerriere laid her main top sail to the wind for the purpose of enabling the Constitution to close, the latter also hoisted, hauled up her courses, took a reef in her topsails and handed her top gallant sails, the Guerriere filled and stood on under the sail she had previously carried upon a wind, the Constitution bore down and at 10 minutes past four the Guerriere opened fire to try the range. At 15 minutes past four the American opened his fire hoisting his colors at the same time, the Guerriere now came round on the port tack firing her larboard guns her shot falling short. At this period of the action every shot from the American told and to avoid being raked the British frigate wore three or four times discharging her alternate broadsides with little or no effect owing to change of position and unskillfulness. At 45 minutes past five the Constitution, having satisfied herself of the character of the adversary with which she had to contend, set her main-top-gallant sail and in five minutes brought the Guerriere to close action on the larboard and weather beam, both ships steering with the wind on the larboard or port quarter. At 5 minutes past six a 24 pound shot carried away the Guerriere's mizen mast by the board, it fell over the starboard quarter knocking a large hole in the counter and by dragging in the water brought the ship up in the wind although her helm was kept hard a port, owing to this accident the Constitution would have ranged a head but bearing up she quickly placed herself in an admirable position on the Guerriere's larboard bow opening a sweeping and destructive fire of great guns and small arms on the British frigate's deck, the latter being only able to use her bow guns.

At 15 minutes past six the two ships fell on board each other, the Guerriere's bow sprit getting foul of the Constitution's mizen rigging, the crew of the latter now prepared to board but owing to the fall of their leader and the rolling of the ships in a heavy sea-way this could not be effected, in a few