

at this society, for rejecting the proffered medal of himself, and you will decide differently; for not a tithe of his offensive statements and perversions could receive notice in the brief hour allotted me on this occasion.

I know of nothing that should incline me to favor one Commander more than the other. Certainly there had been no reason to complain of ill-treatment from either, personally. Nor was there any professional jealousy existing among the medical officers of the squadron. The other two were ill, and under treatment, and I have never heard that either of them pretended to have rendered any assistance to the wounded after the battle closed. It was immaterial to me, therefore, who fought valiantly or who failed in his duty, as I was a non-combatant.—The care of ninety-six wounded devolved on me, and the honor or dishonor of performing my duty faithfully or otherwise, was the same, whether they were wounded in the Lawrence or Niagara,—under Perry or under Elliot.

A few remarks on the character of Commodore Perry must conclude this discourse, already too long. I have alluded to his being passionate under provocation, aside from which he was the most exemplary officer I ever knew. Possessed of high-toned moral feeling, he was above the low dissipation and sensuality that many officers of his day were prone to indulge in. His conversation was remarkably free from profanity and indelicacy, and in his domestic character he was a model of every domestic virtue and grace. His acquirements were respectable. On the subjects of history and the drama he was well read, and had formed opinions that evinced patient thought. He wrote with remarkable facility and in good taste. Trained under the experienced teachings of his father and Commodore Rodgers, he could not fail of perfection in seamanship and naval discipline. "Every germ of merit in his officers was sure to be discovered and encouraged by him, and no opportunity was ever lost of advancing those who performed their duty with cheerfulness and fidelity." He was the most remarkable man I ever saw for success in inspiring his officers with a reverential awe in his presence, and with a dread of giving him offence. Generous to the full extent of his means, his elegant hospitality especially on