

These officers were honorable, high-minded, and patriotic men; therefore, their statements should not, by any means, be ignored; and if treachery or cowardice was manifested by their commander, if for nothing else, for their *own* reputations, it is to be presumed, they would not have sanctioned or endeavored to *cover up* such manifestations of conduct. Some little excuse for these statements may be given thus wise, viz: To treat this *grave* question with a *lighter* hand and to some extent illustrate in accord with human nature, we will state that it is proverbial with the officer, as well as Jack, to regard the reputation of his ship, when assailed, with the same feeling, and defend her with the same spirit, he would his wife. But we will take leave of this unfortunate controversy and revert to more pleasant and interesting incidents of the action. Had all been like the noble and generous Perry this bad feeling would have been strangled in its infancy, and never have gone out to the public.

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## CHAPTER XVI.

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TO SHOW how raged the battle on board the "Lawrence," we will give some statements of Dr. Parsons, her surgeon:

"The wounded began to come down before the "Lawrence" opened her battery, and, for one, I felt impatient at the delay.