

statement. The number of men who perished at these disastrous periods amounted to near four thousand.

It has appeared, from what has been stated in the preceding article of this volume, how greatly the health of the navy has improved since the period which is the subject of this article. While I was a medical commissioner of the navy, I compared the numbers admitted into Haslar and Plymouth hospitals during the five years of war with France in the American contest, with the first five years of the late revolutionary war. I found, that in the former the number admitted exceeded that in the latter by 27,000, though a greater naval force was kept up in the latter, and a greater proportion of it on home service, than in the like space of time in the preceding war; and in 1811, a still more advanced period of the late war, I was informed by Dr. Baird, inspector of naval hospitals, that on comparing the five years then elapsed with the first five years of the war which began in 1793, he found that the amount of sickness and mortality of the latter was four times that of the former.

The assignable causes of these mighty improvements, which, while they are so highly conducive to the vital interests of the nation, may be considered as proud triumphs achieved in the cause of humanity, have been—

1st. The manning of the navy at the com-