

always beat the British. They know that in two out of three of the contests which have taken place, the superiority of force on our side was such that while it would have been disgraceful for our officers to have been beaten, no degree of reproach could attach to the foe whom they subdued for yielding to the most powerful single decked ships in the world.

We feel a perfect confidence, that such men as Decatur, Hull, and Jones will agree with us in every proposition we shall advance.

The opinions and sentiments to which we allude, and which we think reprehensible, are those of hasty men, who draw inferences from single examples which they certainly do not warrant.

You hear them every day declaring that one of our large frigates would capture a British 74—that we have wrested the trident of Neptune from Great-Britain—that we shall always be superior to them in single ships.

To hear such persons discourse, one would imagine that they were astonished to find we could beat even an inferior British ship—that they had believed us incapable of meeting the Europeans in equal conflict, and that they were so transported and surprised by the unexpected success, that they now believed the age of miracles had returned, and that the British banner was no longer to float upon the ocean.

Enthusiasm has its uses, but it may produce its evils. Little as they may believe it, the chances of war may turn, and the mortification and chagrin is always in proportion to the previous exultation. We had a recent and terrible example in the case of general SMYTHE. The man who presented himself as a conqueror, with such a ridiculous gasconade, three weeks since, is now exhibiting his excuses to an unauthorized association on the frontiers of New-York. His soldiers are breaking their muskets in pure mortification, and his officers their swords.

If indeed success should *always* follow our navy, still one evil would result from this boasting spirit, it would diminish the glory of victory.

We trust, however, and believe that this extravagant and bombastick spirit is not a very general one. That while we cherish and honour and reward the gallantry of our navy, we shall and do imitate their modesty, and their justice towards the vanquished.

The foible which we have first been considering, is only a small blemish, and would not be productive of any serious consequences.

The other opinion advanced by Mr. Madison is a serious one, and deserves a thorough consideration.

Is it true “that the capture of five or even ten British frigates will dispose *Great-Britain to peace*, and does this sort of contest “accelerate our prosperity,” as Mr. Madison says?

If these successes will dispose her to peace, it must be on the ground upon which Mr. Madison seems to have rested his hopes, and that is that it will satisfy her that we are a more formidable nation on the ocean than she thought us, and that if the war is continued we can wrest from her the trident of Neptune.

Now let us consider this point—Great-Britain has a territory