

a disgraceful character. Yet, neither these, nor any other scandalous acts of Elliot are even hinted at by "the personifier of honor, truth and justice."

Mr. Cooper remarks that a striking characteristic of the battle of the lake, is the bitter controversy that ensued in respect to the conduct of the two senior commanders. And who, let me ask, but himself is chargeable with blame for it? He was not a party interested. His meddling with it was gratuitous and un-called-for. With Elliot the case was different. The public believed him to have failed in his duty, and to have tarnished his character, and it was natural for him to plead *not guilty* before the bar of public opinion, to flounce and flounder, and strive to clear himself. But with Cooper the case was different. He seems to have entered the controversy purely from love of it.—He strives to save Elliot by disparaging Perry, and from his pen has flown more ink and bile than has been shed by all others. Much as Elliot's conduct deserves censure, Cooper's is more reprehensible. He enters the lists unnecessarily, and purely from love of paradox and thirst for notoriety, unless it were a prospect of gaining a medal.

I am well aware that there is little honor gained by striking at a dead man, and therefore wish that Mr. Cooper were living to hear me. But if he while living labored assiduously to create in the public mind false and injurious impressions against the illustrious dead, who had never given him provocation; if he strove to tarnish the pure character and fame of Commodore Perry, the rich but only legacy left to a bereaved family, and to rob this State and the nation of the glory gained for them on Lake Erie, then it is not only excusable but the bounden duty of one who was an eye-witness of the doings on the lake, to correct public opinion, by expunging from their minds the aspersions of a calumniator, whether he be dead or alive.

Am I accused of severity upon Mr. Cooper, in the foregoing strictures? Read his pamphlet,—his abuse of all who testify under oath concerning the relative conduct of the two commanders, favorably to Perry;—his vituperative attacks upon Capt. McKenzie and others who had reviewed the evidence, and placed the whole controversy in a fair light, and his impotent growls