

parative force of the two vessels, been blazoned on the walls of that festive hall, we scarcely think that there would have been found cause for such extravagant demonstrations of joy, or room, on the part of the press, for such vain-glorious paragraphs. Justice and truth would rather have awakened a feeling of admiration, at the bravery with which British sailors had contended against such unequal and fearful odds.

Another action, the result of which was even more disastrous to the British, yet remains to be chronicled, before closing the list of naval battles, for the year, on the ocean.

The Java, Captain Lambert, on her outward-bound voyage to the East Indies, with a number of passengers on board, besides a large body of recruits, on the 29th December, some forty miles from St. Salvador, in lat. 13° N. and long. 36° W., encountered, and was captured by, the American frigate Constitution. "The Java," according to Commodore Bainbridge's testimony, in a letter to a friend, bearing date January 29th, 1813, "was exceedingly well fought. Poor Lambert, who died, six days after the action, was a distinguished and gallant officer."

One can hardly credit that so much indifference could have been manifested by Government, as was shown in the case of preparing the Java for a voyage, in which the chances were so great that an enemy's vessel would be encountered. A little of the previous history of the Java will, however, place

But the time will come when he shall reap a rich harvest of glory.

Bainbridge, in the Constitution, with the sloop Hornet, commanded by the excellent Lawrence, was near the middle of the Atlantic, hunting British frigates, at the date of our last accounts from him.

Porter, in the little frigate Essex is,—we know not where; but doubtless desirous of paying his respects to Sir James Yeo, of the Southampton; who, dubbed a knight by a king, wants to be dubbed into a gentleman by a Porter; and we venture to say that if they meet, the knight will get a lesson on good manners.

The Constitution, Captain Stewart, will soon be at sea, to claim her portion of the laurels; and the Adams frigate, nearly fitted out at Washington city, will bring to the recollection of our aged patriots the ardent zeal that distinguished her namesake in "the times that tried men's souls." —*Niles' Weekly Register.*

the affair pretty clearly before the reader. The late French frigate Renommée, newly christened the Java, was under orders to carry out to Bombay the newly appointed Governor, Lieutenant-General Hilslop, and suite, with a number of supernumeraries,—Marine Society boys. Finding, on joining, that out of a complement of two hundred and ninety-two, the whole number of petty officers and men, who had ever trod a deck or been present at an action, amounted to less than fifty, Captain Lambert loudly remonstrated against the inefficiency of such a ship's company. The only reply was, that a voyage to the East Indies and back would make sailors of them. It was in vain to urge the matter further, but as some slight amendment to the Java's crew, eight men were allowed to volunteer. Manned in this way, with sixty Irishmen, who had never smelt salt water, except in crossing the channel—the rest of her complement made up from prison ships, Captain Lambert was despatched to sea. Is there room for wonder that with such a crew he and his vessel should have succumbed to a superior, unprepared as he was for a contest even with an equal, force? The great cause for astonishment is that, with such a crew, the Java should have maintained a fight from a little past two till six, and that the colors should have been lowered from the stump of the mizen mast only when the Constitution had taken up a raking position athwart the bows of her then defenceless antagonist. The Java lost her masts and bowsprit, had upwards of twenty guns disabled, her boats shot to pieces, and her hull so shattered, that it was found necessary to burn her. Twenty-two were killed, and ninety-two wounded on board the Java, in this murderous conflict; and the American loss, though trifling in comparison, was yet severe—ten killed and forty-eight wounded. This victory added no glory to the American flag, as, with the same difference of force as in the instance of the Guerrière, the crew, although nominally stronger, was in reality not half as effective: indeed, Mr. James remarks on this head: "The Constitution captured the Java certainly, but in so discreditable a manner that, had the latter been manned with a well trained crew of three hundred and twenty men, no doubt remains in our mind, and we have con-