

troit, which prevented her wearing, and exposed both ships to a raking fire from the thrity-two pound carronades of the Niagara, a fresh ship, and in prime order,—all helped to turn the day in our favor. To this it should be added that the enemy were just out of port, and had not been training their guns daily for weeks, as our men had done, which enabled them to load and fire with astonishing frequency.

Immediately after the battle, the Commodore despatched to General Harrison the following note : “ Dear General, We have met the enemy and they are ours, two ships, two brigs, one sloop and one schooner,” adding in a postscript, “ send us some soldiers to help take care of the prisoners, who are more numerous than ourselves.” At the same time he announced the victory to the Secretary of the Navy in the following words. “ It has pleased the Almighty to give to the arms of the United States a signal victory over their enemies on this lake. The British squadron, consisting of two ships, two brigs, one sloop and one schooner, have this moment surrendered to the force under my command after a sharp conflict.”

And now followed the more difficult task of making out a detailed report, in which Perry must speak of the conduct of the principal deck-officers of the fleet ; a task that was quite as perplexing to him as the fighting of the battle had been.

The officers of the small vessels came on board the Lawrence on the second evening from the battle, and all of them, without exception, expressed but one opinion of the conduct of Elliot, in keeping out of the battle, that he held back more than two hours from engaging his antagonist the Queen, that when the Lawrence was much crippled and began to drop astern, the Niagara then came up abreast of her, not between her and the enemy, but far away outside, much farther from the Lawrence than the Lawrence was from the enemy, that Perry at this moment having fought his own ship to the last, entered a boat with five men, and rowed to the Niagara, and by the time he reached her she was on the larboard bow of the Lawrence, from a third to half a mile distant. That he immediately despatched Captain Elliot to the stern vessels, and turned the Niagara's head toward the enemy, so as to make nearly a right angle with the