

commenced, the vessels steering about east by north with the wind at north-west by north. At 6h 30m a. m. the *Majestic* fired three shots at the *President*, but owing to the distance without effect. Towards noon the wind decreased and the *Endymion* in consequence began to leave the *Majestic* and gain on the *President*. At 1h. 15m. p.m. the latter commenced to lighten herself by starting her water, cutting away her anchors, throwing overboard provisions, spare spars, boats, and every article which could be got at of that description; she also kept her sails wet from the royals down. At 2 p.m. she opened fire from her stern guns, which at 2h. 30m. the *Endymion* returned with her bow chasers, evidently doing much mischief to her antagonist. The chase continued till 5 p.m., the *President* no longer able to withstand the severe cannonading from the bow chasers of the *Endymion* occasionally luffed to bring her broadside guns to bear, thereby losing way and doing little damage, as most of her shot flew over the latter, who was enabled by her loss of way and falling off to gradually gain a position on her weather quarter within half point blank shot. At 5h. 30m. the *President* hauled up her spanker and bore away south to bring her antagonist on her beam and endeavor to escape to leeward. Putting her helm hard a weather the *Endymion* met this manoeuvre, and the two frigates came to close action in a parallel line of sailing. At 6h. 46m. p.m. the *President* commenced firing muskets from her tops, which was returned by the *Endymion*, the latter vessel hauling up occasionally to close her antagonist without losing the bearing of her broadsides. The two ships were not more than a half musket shot apart, the *Endymion* with her rigging and sails much cut, and the *President's* hull showing unmistakable signs of the accuracy of her antagonist's gunnery, which was also evidenced by the slackened state of her fire. At 6h. 46m. the *President* hauled up to avoid her opponent's fire. Taking advantage of her position the *Endymion* poured in two raking broadsides, hauled up also and again placed herself on the *President's* starboard quarter. From this period till 53 minutes past seven the *President* only fired at intervals, damaging the rigging and sails of her opponent to some extent. She then showed a light in token of surrender, when the *Endymion* ceased firing and began to bend new sails. The *President* continued her course to the coastward, till 11h. 15m. p.m., when the *Pomare* having gained a position on her larboard quarter luffed up and fired her starboard broadsides into her. The *President* luffed up and hailed that she had surrendered, hoisting a light in her mizzen rigging.

The loss sustained by the *Endymion* out of her crew of 319 men and 27 boys was 11 killed and 14 wounded, beside the loss of her studding sails and courses her fore top

mast was badly struck. The loss of the *President* out of a crew of 465 men and 4 boys was 35 killed and 70 wounded, her starboard broadside was riddled with shot from stem to stern, particularly near the quarter, almost every port sill and port timber on the main and quarter deck exhibited marks of shot—three shot had entered the buttock, one of which passed into the after magazine—several had entered below wind and water, and some under water which had cut the knees and timbers very much; she had six feet of water in the hold, and six of her guns were disabled. The *Endymion* mounted 26 long 24-pounders on the main deck, 16 carronades 32 pounders on the quarter deck, 6 carronades 32 pounders on the fore-castle, and one long 18 pounder as a bow-chaser; total, 49 guns.

The *President* mounted 28 guns long 24-pounders on her main deck, 18 carronades 42 pounders on her quarter deck, and 6 carronades 42 pounders on her fore-castle, and one 8 inch howitzer on a traversing carriage, total, 53 guns. She also carried two brass 4-pounders in her fore-top, the same in her maintop and one in her mizzen top. The comparative force of the combatants was as follows:—

ENDYMION.

Broadside guns	26
Weight of broadside	624 lbs.
Crew (men only)	319
Tonnage	1,277

PRESIDENT.

Broadside guns	28
Weight of broadside	852 lbs.
Crew (men only)	456
Tonnage	1,533

It was owing to the superior gunnery and manoeuvring of the *Endymion* that this action terminated so successfully. It is evident enough that the *President* would have escaped from the rest of the squadron. In action her rapidity of firing did not tell in her favor, she managed to discharge three shots to her enemy's two. So thoroughly disabled was she by the well directed fire of the *Endymion* that when taken to England, she had to be broken up, being totally unserviceable.

The lesson unmistakably taught by the result of this action was that whenever any thing like an equality of force was encountered, enterprise and skill in the British commanding officers were sure to secure victory, and that the self-glorification of American historians has in reality no basis to rest on. As to the action itself nothing could exceed the skill displayed in the handling of the *Endymion*,—the rates of sailing of both vessels appears to have been nearly equal, and it is evident that the *President* did not improve hers by cutting away her boats, starting water or any other effort, and her gunnery practice was decidedly inferior to that of her conqueror. This then was an American ship, manned by an American crew, fought under circumstances most favorable for developing the qualities in which her class were superior to British

vessels of the same rate, and captured by one her inferior by one-third her weight of broadside, tonnage and crew—so much for American naval prowess and supremacy. The action undoubtedly proves that British seamen properly led have neither equals or superiors on their own proper element.

A good deal of discussion has arisen on the result of this action, American historians stating that the presence of the squadron was the cause of the capture, and that she did not surrender to the *Endymion*, but the facts are patent to every professional seaman, her reason for making sail was simply that she might keep afloat, she could not lie to nor go on the starboard tack without danger of foundering. She could easily outsail the *Pomare*, to whose broadside she made no reply, and she was fired into by the *Tenedos* with the *Pomare's* prize crew on board, whose manoeuvre was answered by a hail to "know why they had fired into King's ship." The *President* was to all intents and purposes the prize of the *Endymion*.

ARMY PUNISHMENTS.

The royal commission on courts martial and the punishment of soldiers' offences presented in July their first report, and it has now been laid before Parliament. They recommend that sentences of penal servitude be confined to crimes involving dismissal from the army. With regard to sentences of imprisonment, they recommend that a central military prison be established, supplying the means of separating the prisoners, and employing them at hard labor in their several cells, and that the imprisonment should be made as severe and deterrent as a due regard for health and the laws of humanity will permit. Drunkenness in the army is declared to form a disgraceful blot on the military character. There were 9,736 trials in the army in 1868 for habitual drunkenness. A committee of officers, appointed by the commander-in-chief, has recommended a complete alteration in the punishment of this crime, and these royal commissioners concur in that report, and in the propriety of substituting a different punishment, at least by way of experiment. A punishment by fine will thus be added, the fines to form a fund for increasing the amount voted for rewards to well-conducted men, or for other subjects for the general improvement of the soldier's condition. The royal commissioners suggest some relaxation of the rule that no non-commissioned officer can be subjected to any punishment by courts martial without incurring reduction to the ranks, involving a much greater punishment than can be inflicted for equal crimes in other ranks. It is recommended that, where a non-commissioned officer has been thus reduced, and is subsequently restored, he should be enabled to regain any former distinction he possessed by good service, the length of which might be determined by regulation.

Colonel Anderson, Canadian Militia, was presented at the Queen's levée, on April 3, by Earl Granville, K. G.

The Channel Squadron, under the command of Vice Admiral Sir Thomas Symonds, may be expected in England from their somewhat lengthened cruise on or about the 3rd of May.