

Historical Society, which was rejected, and returned with a preamble and resolutions expressed in the following words :

"Whereas, we honor the character and cherish the memory of Commodore Oliver H. Perry, and hold in high admiration, the professional skill, heroic valor and noble conduct, shown by him in the battle of Lake Erie, on the 10th of September, 1813, by which he achieved a victory glorious to the American arms, and gained a name which to us, as citizens of his native State, is a source of honest pride; and whereas, in the published writings of J. Fenimore Cooper, Esquire, relative to that event, he has labored to establish opinions which we can neither adopt nor sanction; and whereas justice requires that this body shall not do or participate in any act which may imply its acquiescence in the efforts which have been made in behalf of Commodore Elliot, to establish for him a reputation derogatory to the just fame of his deceased Commander :

It is therefore Resolved, that the Society declines accepting the medal which has been presented in the name of Commodore Elliot ;" and they ordered it to be returned through the channel by which it was received.

Fiction had employed so much of Mr. Cooper's time and attention, that he was unable to state matters of fact without drawing on his imagination in such a way as to distort them into a conformity to his prejudices. He early in life exhibited a dogged obstinacy of opinion, that made him appear absurd and paradoxical. Contradiction of his opinions, however wild, was not to be endured. Captain McKenzie exposed his errors and misstatements. He was responded to in the vituperative language contained in the abusive pamphlet before noticed. The pamphlet however fell still-born from the press. I never knew that such a piece of absurdity was in being until I commenced this discourse. In the first three pages I find six mistatements.— Yet it was for this pamphlet that Elliot presented the medal "*to the personifier of honor, truth and justice,*" and which this society rejected. In return, Cooper seeks revenge by a missile thrown at this society, inserted in the preface to one of the early volumes of his last edition, and published a few months before his death.

It is a curious fact that with all his assaults upon Perry, not a word is said to the disadvantage of Elliot, not an allusion is made to his misconduct in the Mediterranean and elsewhere.— On the contrary he is everywhere lauded as a paragon of noble qualities, as an immaculate hero, although at the very time Cooper was concocting this strange pamphlet, Elliot was undergoing a punishment of four years suspension without pay, under sentence of a Court Martial, on charges proved against him, of