

APPENDIX K.

THE SHANNON AND THE CHESAPEAKE

The capture of the *Guerriere*, *Macedonian*, *Java*, etc., while they encouraged the Americans to boast of naval prowess, created, naturally enough, an indignant feeling among the officers of the British Navy. The prestige acquired by so many victories achieved by Howe, Duncan, Nelson, Cochrane and others, in the contests with the French, were in danger of being overshadowed by the successes of the Americans. The British naval officers felt that this was unfair. In all the encounters they had with United States ships, the balance as to weight of metal, size of vessels, number of crews, etc., had been in favor of their adversaries. Yet, the current of events was dimming their laurels, and injuring the confidence of victory, which had done so much for the red cross banner on the Atlantic. Among those who felt excited to redeem British naval honor from this temporary eclipse, was an English gentleman, Philip Bowes Vere Broke, commanding the *Shannon*, frigate (rated 38 guns), on the Halifax station. He had been cruising in the neighborhood of Boston harbour, in company with the frigate *Tenedos*, 38 guns, in the latter part of May. The American frigate *Chesapeake* then lay in that harbour, and Broke, desiring a combat with her, directed the *Tenedos* to leave the harbour, with a view of inducing the *Chesapeake* to venture out. It is also said he sent a written challenge to Lawrence. Captain Lawrence, a gallant young officer, lately promoted from the U. S. sloop *Hornet*, in which he had taken H. M. sloop *Peacock*, commanded the *Chesapeake*, and having manned her with picked seamen, the vessel being completely fitted for action, he quitted the roads and put to sea on Monday, June 1st. In expectation of seeing a combat, and the almost assurance of a victory on their side, some of the gentlemen and ladies of Boston went out in sail boats to view the contest. Broke, in the *Shannon*, being close in with the Boston light house, says he had the pleasure of seeing that the U. S. frigate *Chesapeake*, which he had been long watching, was coming out of the harbor to engage him. He proceeds thus: "I took a position between Cape Ann and Cape Cod, and then hove to for him to join us. The enemy came down in a very handsome manner, having three American ensigns flying: when, closing with