

and that passed a few inches over the surgeon's head as he sat in the cockpit. Our short guns lodged their shot in the bulwarks of the *Detroit*; where a number of them now remain. Her bulwarks, however, were vastly superior to ours, being of oak, and very thick. Many of their grape shot came through ours. They acknowledge that they threw combustible matter on board of us, which set our sails and rigging on fire in several places. I am clearly of opinion, that they were better manned than we were. They had a much greater number—they had veteran troops—their men were all well. We had as motley a crew as ever went into action; and our vessels looked like hospital ships."

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*Letter from Captain Elliot to Captain Perry. [No date.]*

SIR: Communications which have recently been made me, and exact copies of which I herewith enclose you, render it necessary that I should hear from you immediately. As soon as I heard of your late visit to Washington, I lost no time in hurrying off from this place, with a hope that we should meet and settle those differences which have so long existed; your sudden, and to me unexpected, departure from that city, prevented the contemplated meeting; and my orders to sit on a Court Martial, in Baltimore, which detained me from this place longer than I at first expected, has induced me to return to Virginia, and instead of the personal interview, which had alone carried me from home, and which I had so anxiously hoped for would take place, now compels me to address you at a mo-