

ment, occasioned by what he deemed an insult offered by his Marine Officer, Captain Heath, gave him a blow with his fist, in atonement for which, and because he had violated the rules of the service, he exposed his life to a shot from Heath without raising his own pistol in return. Cooper insinuates that in this instance of giving a blow, Perry was intoxicated. The insinuation is groundless. I was in the ship at the time, and knew all the particulars. The act proceeded from a sudden burst of passion under what seemed to him a great provocation. Perry although he habitually strove to control his temper, was not always successful, and it was the only fault I ever found in him. But what shall be said of Mr. Cooper, who, because McKenzie criticised his naval history and exposed its unfairness, sought revenge by aspersing the fame of a deceased hero, who had never injured him, and whose fame was among the precious jewels, not only of Rhode Island but of the nation, and to throw his barbed arrows into the hearts of a bereaved family.

If you ask for further probable motives that actuated Mr. Cooper in making his attack upon the character of Perry, a passage taken from his strange pamphlet, printed not long before his decease, and distributed by Captain Elliot among the members of Congress, may assist in the disentanglement of his motives. "He has seen his own work," he says, (referring to his Naval History) "condemned, and, so far as the public authorities were concerned, excluded from the district school libraries, and all on account of its supposed frauds in relation to the battle on Lake Erie; while on the other hand he has heard Captain McKenzie's Biography of Perry, lauded from one end of the Union to the other, and preferred to that place in the libraries mentioned, from which his own work has been excluded."—This fact was too much for his arrogant spirit to bear; it rankled in his bosom until his spleen found vent in this pamphlet.

I can conceive of no other motive for his conduct, unless it were the promise of a silver medal from Elliot, which he is known to have received, and which bore on one side the head of Cooper surrounded by these words, "*The personification of Honor, Truth and Justice.*"

Elliot had the impudence to send one of these medals to this