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From Saturday, December 26, to Tuesday, December 29, 1812.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, December 28, 1812.

NOTICE is hereby given, that a Drawing-Room will be held at St. James's, on the 4th of February next, for the celebration of Her Majesty's birth-day.

Admiralty-Office, December 29, 1812.

Copy of a Letter from Captain John Surman Carden, late Commander of His Majesty's Ship the Macedonian, to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated on board the American Ship United States, at Sea, the 28th October 1812.

SIR,

IT is with the deepest regret I have to acquaint you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that His Majesty's late ship Macedonian was captured on the 25th instant by the United States ship United States, Commodore Decatur, Commander; the detail is as follows:

A short time after daylight, steering N. W. by W. with the wind from the southward, in latitude 29 deg. N. and longitude 29 deg. 30 min. W. in the execution of their Lordships orders, a sail was seen on the lee beam, which I immediately stood for and made her out to be a large frigate under American colours: at nine o'clock I closed with her, and she commenced the action, which we returned, but from the enemy keeping two points off the wind I was not enabled to get as close to her as I could have wished. After an hour's action the enemy backed and came to the wind, and I was then enabled to bring her to close battle; in this situation I soon found the enemy's force too superior to expect success, unless some very fortunate chance occurred in our favour, and with this hope I continued the battle to two hours and ten minutes, when having the mizen-mast shot away by the board, topmasts shot away by the caps, main-yard shot in pieces, lower masts badly wounded, lower rigging all cut to pieces, a small proportion only of the foresail left to the fore-yard, all the guns on the quarter-deck and fore-castle disabled! but two, and filled with wreck, two also on the main-deck disabled, and several shot between wind and water, a very great proportion of the crew killed and

wounded, and the enemy comparatively in good order, who had now shot ahead and was about to place himself in a raking position, without our being enabled to return the fire, being a perfect wreck and unmanageable log; I deemed it prudent, though a painful extremity, to surrender His Majesty's ship, nor was this dreadful alternative resorted to till every hope of success was removed, even beyond the reach of chance, nor till, I trust, their Lordships will be aware every effort had been made against the enemy by myself, my brave officers and men, nor should she have been surrendered whilst a man lived on board, had she been manageable. I am sorry to say our loss is very severe; I find by this day's muster thirty-six killed, three of whom lingered a short time after the battle, thirty-six severely wounded, many of whom cannot recover, and thirty-two slightly wounded, who may all do well; total one hundred and four.

The truly noble and animating conduct of my officers, and the steady bravery of my crew, to the last moment of the battle, must ever render them dear to their country.

My first lieutenant, David Hope, was severely wounded in the head towards the close of the battle, and taken below; but was soon again on deck, displaying that greatness of mind and exertion, which, though it may be equalled, can never be excelled; the third lieutenant, John Bulford, was also wounded, but not obliged to quit his quarters; second lieutenant Samuel Mottley and he deserve my highest acknowledgments. The cool and steady conduct of Mr. Walker the master was very great during the battle, as also that of Lieutenants Wilson and Magill of the Marines.

On being taken on board the enemy's ship I ceased to wonder at the result of the battle. The United States is built with the scantling of a seventy-four gun ship, mounting thirty long twenty-four pounders (English ship guns) on her main deck, and twenty-two forty-two pounders carronades, with two long twenty-four pounders on her quarter-deck and fore-castle, howitzer guns in her tops, and a travelling carronade on her upper deck, with a complement of four hundred and seventy-eight picked men.

The enemy has suffered much in masts, rigging, and hull above and below water; her loss in killed