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Admiralty-Office, July 10, 1813.

*Copy of a Letter from the Honourable Captain Capel, of His Majesty's Ship La Hogue, to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated at Halifax, June 11, 1813.*

SIR,

IT is with the greatest pleasure I transmit you a letter I have just received from Captain Broke, of His Majesty's ship Shannon, detailing a most brilliant achievement in the capture of the United States' frigate Chesapeake, in fifteen minutes. Captain Broke relates so fully the particulars of this gallant affair, that I feel it unnecessary to add much to his narrative; but I cannot forbear expressing the pleasure I feel in bearing testimony to the indefatigable exertions and persevering zeal of Captain Broke, during the time he has been under my orders: placing a firm reliance on the valour of his officers and crew, and a just confidence in his system of discipline, he sought every opportunity of meeting the enemy on fair terms, and I have to rejoice with his country, and his friends, at the glorious result of this contest: he gallantly headed his boarders in the assault, and carried all before him. His wounds are severe, but I trust his country will not be long deprived of his services.

I have the honour to be, &c.

THOS. BLADEN CAPEL, Captain,  
and Senior Officer at Halifax.

SIR, *Shannon, Halifax, June 6, 1813.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that being close in with Boston Light-House, in His Majesty's ship under my command, on the 1st instant, I had the pleasure of seeing that the United States' frigate Chesapeake (whom we had long been watching) was coming out of the harbour to engage the Shannon; 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 us he sent down his royal yards. I kept the Shannon's up, expecting the breeze would die away. At half past five P. M. the enemy hauled up within hail of us on the starboard side, and the battle

began, both ships steering full under the topsails; after exchanging between two and three broadsides, the enemy's ship fell on board of us, her mizen channels locking in with our fore-rigging. I went forward to ascertain her position, and observing that the enemy were finching from their guns, I gave orders to prepare for boarding. Our gallant bands appointed to that service immediately rushed in, under their respective officers, upon the enemy's decks, driving every thing before them with irresistible fury. The enemy made a desperate but disorderly resistance.

The firing continued at all the gangways and between the tops, but in two minutes time the enemy were driven sword in hand from every post. The American flag was hauled down, and the proud old British Union floated triumphant over it. In another minute they ceased firing from below and called for quarter. The whole of this service was achieved in fifteen minutes from the commencement of the action.

I have to lament the loss of many of my gallant shipmates, but they fell exulting in their conquest.

My brave First Lieutenant, Mr. Watt, was slain in the moment of victory, in the act of hoisting the British colours; his death is a severe loss to the service. Mr. Aldham, the Purser, who had spiritedly volunteered the charge of a party of small-arm men, was killed at his post on the gangway. My faithful old clerk, Mr. Dunn, was shot by his side; Mr. Aldham has left a widow to lament his loss. I request the Commander in Chief will recommend her to the protection of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My veteran boatswain, Mr. Stephens, has lost an arm. He fought under Lord Rodney on the 12th April. I trust his age and services will be duly rewarded.

I am happy to say, that Mr. Samwell, a midshipman of much merit, is the only other officer wounded besides myself, and he not dangerously. Of my gallant seamen and marines we had twenty-three slain and fifty-six wounded. I subjoin the names of the former. No expressions I can make use of can do justice to the merits of my valiant officers and crew; the calm courage they displayed