

THE CONSTITUTION AND *HMS GUERRIERE*

New York *Evening Post*
2 September 1812

After the gloomy accounts which have crowded upon us for some days past, we are happy to be able this day to give our readers something in favor of the courage and activity of our countrymen. We have always contended that our people would fight whenever they should have a chance, and that on an equal footing they would be beaten by no men on earth; the naval action, the particulars of which we publish this day, proves our assertion. Captain Hull, who has immortalized himself in the capture of the *GUERRIERE*, is a relation of General Hull, who has been sacrificed by an imbecile Administration on the borders of Canada. We have no doubt that General Hull would have fought as manfully as his kinsman, and that the result would have been as favorable, had he been placed in a situation where there had been the least chance of success; but without provisions or munitions of war, what could be done against a veteran and well-appointed army?

Though very little present benefit is to be expected from the war, commenced as it *has been* and carried on as it *will be*, under the present Administration, yet it may have one good effect: it will prove that in a contest where the *freedom of the seas* is the object, a naval force is much superior to an army on the land. It will prove what the Federalists have always advocated, and what the present ruling party have always opposed, the necessity of a maritime force to a commercial people. It will in fact settle the question practically which has so often been debated in our councils, whether a nation can exist as a powerful maritime nation without a well-appointed navy?

We shall not attempt to heap applauses upon Captain Hull and his gallant crew; after what they have achieved, our approbation can be of but little use to them. The think shows for itself: it shows that man to man and gun to gun, even the veteran British tars can get no advantage over the Americans.