

## GENERAL HULL.

This character is now the subject of so much conversation, that a brief biographical sketch of him may not be uninteresting.

William Hull was born at Derby, in Connecticut, and received his education at Yale College, where he graduated about the commencement of the Revolutionary War. He then entered the army as a volunteer, occasionally served as aid-de-camp to different generals, but it is believed he never had any permanent command. At the close of the war he married a young lady of family and fortune, at Watertown, in Massachusetts, where he for some time resided. He was afterwards appointed governor of the Michigan Territory, and lately a brigadier-general in the army. He has ever held a high place in the opinion of the republican party. At college he was famed for his classical attainments, and has ever since been ranked high as a scholar. His late proclamation, unquestionably the product of his own pen, proves that he is a literary if not a military man. Captain Hull, of the Constitution, who lately distinguished himself in the action with the Guerriere, is his nephew, and was originally a lawyer. The general, we believe, was once destined for the profession of medicine.

*Raleigh Star.*

**Heroism.** Among the many interesting incidents in the late action between the Constitution and the Guerriere, the following will contribute to show the high spirit of our gallant tars. In the heat of the action, one of the crew of the Constitution, perceiving that the flag at the foretopmast head had been shot away, went up and lashed it in such a manner as to make it impossible for shot to take it away without taking the mast with it. We understand that the Secretary of the Navy intends taking suitable notice of this brilliant act.

*Nat. Intel.*

*Extract of a letter from Captain Hull, of the frigate Constitution, to the Secretary of the Navy.*

"I cannot but make you acquainted with the very great assistance I received from that valuable officer lieutenant Morris, in bringing the ship into action, and in working her whilst along side the enemy, and I am extremely sorry to state that he is badly wounded, being shot through the body; we have yet hopes of his recovery, when I am sure he will receive the thanks and gratitude of his country, for this and the many gallant acts he has done in its service. Were I to name any particular officer as having been more useful than the rest, I should do them great injustice; they all fought bravely, and gave me every possible assistance that I could wish. I am extremely sorry to state to you the loss of lieutenant Bush, of marines; he fell at the head of his men in getting ready to board the enemy. In him our country has lost a valuable and brave officer. After the fall of lieutenant Bush, lieutenant Contee, of the corps, took the command of the marines, and I have pleasure in saying that his conduct was that of a brave good officer, and the marines be-

haved with great coolness and courage during the action, and annoyed the enemy very much whilst she was under our stern."

The following is an extract of a letter from a gentleman of great respectability to his friend in this city, dated Boston, 25th August, 1812.

"The gallant Morris is now on his beam-ends—but he is convalescing—every noble hearted fellow must anxiously wish his speedy recovery. His many gallant acts, his great and distinguished worth, will, we all hope, be rewarded by promotion. There is not an officer in our navy who would do more honor to the commission of a captain, than would Morris; and our gratitude will not rest satisfied, short of such a commission. Be assured the conferring of such a commission upon Morris would be a wise and just measure. I have a brother who is senior to him,—and I love him because he is gallant and brave; but the deeds of Morris ought to ensure him a preference—and in behalf of my brother I would cheerfully accord such preference."

## LIEUTENANT MORRIS.

Lieut. Charles Morris entered the U. S. navy, about twelve years ago. He made his naval debut on the Mediterranean station, where he served several years. By his correct conduct, his gentlemanlike demeanor, and his unremitted attention to his duty, he obtained the confidence of all the commanders with whom he sailed, and the universal esteem of his brother officers. Among the chosen few, selected by lieutenant (now commodore) Decatur, to accompany him in his gallant expedition to burn the Philadelphia frigate, midshipman Morris was one. He followed lieutenant Decatur in boarding the ship, and during the conducting of that masterly achievement, manifested many proofs of the dauntless bravery and intrepid spirit, which he is well known to possess. For some time past Mr. Morris has had claims upon the navy department, which are enhanced ten-fold by his gallant conduct in the late engagement between the U. S. ship Constitution, of which he is first lieutenant, and his Britannic majesty's ship Guerriere. We sincerely hope that the reward to which modest merit is entitled, will not be withheld from this officer.

*Phil. Reg.*

*From the Norfolk Herald.*

A private in lieutenant Swift's corps of marines, stationed at the navy-yard, had been sentenced to be shot for deserting his post while on guard; and Saturday the 5th inst. was appointed the day of execution.

The awful moment was announced by the solemn roll of the drum; the delinquent was conducted from the prison with the ceremonies customary on such occasions, and led to the fatal spot where he was to suffer. The whole detachment were under arms, twelve of whom were selected to execute the sentence. When the procession halted, lieutenant Swift addressed them as nearly as we could recollect in the following terms:

"Soldiers—An awful scene is now presented for your contemplation. You behold before you one of your comrades, about to pay the forfeit of that crime which it has been my constant duty to warn you against; he enlisted to serve his country, and deserted. In peace this is a crime of the first magnitude, and its penalty, death; how enormous then is the transgression of this man, who has deserted his country in the hour of peril. But to the crime of desertion is superadded that of perjury. The sacred oath which binds a soldier to his duty and his country, is most shamefully violated, in the case of desertion. The punishment that follows, none of you can plead ignorance of. The Articles of War have been repeatedly read to you. You know the penalty attached to desertion, and all other crimes therein enumerated. You have voluntarily entered for the service of your country, and bound yourselves by the most solemn ties, to discharge your duty with fidelity. The unhappy object before you, was well aware of the consequences which have followed his crime, and has sinned with his eyes open! I beseech you, soldiers, to take warning from his fate; fulfil the solemn obligations enjoined upon you, and refrain from the guilty path into which he has wandered to his own destruction.

"You must be sensible how grateful it would be to my feelings, never to see or hear any cause of complaint against you. If any of you are illy treated by your commanding officer, or even by the high authorities under which he serves, it will not justify disobedience or desertion on your part. No, there is a tribunal to which you can appeal for redress, and obtain ample justice. Therefore let me admonish you once more to perform your duty to your country like good and faithful soldiers; so shall you gain the confidence and esteem of your commanding officer, and the thanks of your country."

At the conclusion of this speech, a solemn pause ensued—a signal was given, and immediately the engines of death were aimed at the devoted victim. Another pause—and the arm of death was arrested; an officer rushed through the crowd, holding a paper in his hand—it was a reprieve!

## ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

*Washington City, 5th Sept. 1812.*

The proceedings of General Courts Martial, which in time of peace are to be submitted to the President of the United States, before the same can be carried into execution, will, during the continuance of the war, be laid before the general officer having the command of the Department, within which such general courts martial may be held, for his confirmation or disapproval and orders in the case; agreeably to the provisions of the 55th article of the act entitled "An act for establishing Rules and Articles for the government of the Armies of the United States."

By order of the Secretary of War.

T. H. H. CUSHING, Adj. Gen.

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