

“The first British flag that was struck to an American victor during the war was on the ocean on the thirteenth of August. It was the British war vessel, the *Alert*, that surrendered to Captain David Porter and the *Essex* on that day, but the news of the capture did not reach the United States until several weeks afterward, and Captain Hull's great victory over the *Guerriere* had drawn the additional enthusiasm of the belief that it was the first time a British war vessel had struck her colors to an American. The *Alert* was captured so easily by stratagem and a light skirmish on the part of Captain Porter and the *Essex*, and he and his crew were absent so long afterward that other and greater victories intervened and received the popular enthusiasm at its flood. * * * *

“Many parades and reviews of the militia took place in the city during the summer and autumn. The enemy made no demonstrations of attacking the city during the year and no attack was feared.

“The militia stationed there were in good spirits and had a sociable time among themselves. The calamities of war had not been felt by them or their families. * * * *

“The detached New York militia and volunteers called into service by requisition on the twenty-seventh of August were not liable to serve more than ninety days after arriving at the place of their destination. * * * *

“The most notable parade and review of the year was planned to take place on the anniversary of the evacuation of the city by the British on the twenty-fifth of November, 1783. It was celebrated with zeal and sincerity, increased by the incidental interest given by the hostile attitude of the country to the occasion.

“The city artillery not on actual duty paraded as usual, and, with the corps of veterans, joined the regiment of artillery and infantry [commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Swartwout] from Albany, Hudson, Catskill, Poughkeepsie, and Newburg (who had completed their three months' tour of duty at Staten Island), on the Battery.

“At noon the line was formed, and national salutes were fired from the new fort Gansevoort, the West and South Batteries, Castle Williams, Bedloe's Island, Fort Richmond, by the veteran corps on the Battery, the United States ship *John Adams*, and the privateer *Teazer*, which was handsomely dressed in honor of the day.

“At half-past twelve o'clock, the troops were reviewed by his excellency, Governor Tompkins and General Armstrong and General Morton, and with their suites, took up their line of march through the principal streets; and were [afterward] dismissed.

“The flag of the United States was displayed from the different public edifices and from the shipping in the harbor.