

His present work is a needlessly extended biography of Captain Moses Brown, who commanded a privateer during the Revolution, fought two actions, came into the Navy in 1798, commanded the "Merrimac" during the quasi-war with France, did nothing in particular and after two years' naval service was mustered out. All this might justify a brief magazine sketch, but furnishes no sufficient reason for a book. It is to be regretted that Mr. Maclay should make it the means of reviewing and misstating a matter which the navy and every one interested therein earnestly desires forgotten. In a series of platitudes on "opportunity" he remarks that

"Commander Miller's fiery expostulations against Sampson's order depriving him of the command of the collier 'Merrimac' at a moment when opportunity was within reach bordered seriously on one of the gravest of military offenses."

This renders it necessary to say that the replacing of Commander Miller by Assistant Naval Constructor Hobson is now recognized in the navy as a wholly arbitrary proceeding, explicable only by Admiral Sampson's impaired mental condition at the time. The sole opportunity lost by Commander Miller consisted in not refusing to give up his ship. A mistaken, tho none the less high, sense of patriotism and self-abnegation obscured temporarily his perception of this plain duty, to his subsequent great regret. Mr. Maclay's perversion of the matter indicates that the somewhat severe lesson administered to him by the ejection of his "History of the Navy" from the Naval Academy has been little heeded.

Moses Brown, Captain, U. S. N. By Edgar Stanton Maclay. New York: The Baker & Taylor Co.

If absence of navy sentiment, apparent ignorance of its traditions and a provoking dullness of style fit a writer to be what his publishers call the "leading naval historian of the country," Mr. Maclay has pre-eminent qualifications.