



Texas Navy Association

Historical Article



These late or rather early hours prevented my going as early as I could have wished on the morn to see the Texian Navy. This consists of 1 Corvette 20 guns 2 Man o' War Brig of 18 guns, 3 Armed Schooners & a Man of War Steamer. The Schooners are pretty vessels, but I can't say the same for the others neither can I for the officers of the Texian Navy generally speaking. These take a delight, after the effeminate fashion of the France, in allowing the hair to grow down the back, w of all the damnable fooleries ever introduced is the most damnable. It is neither cleanly or becoming, & is infinitely more ridiculous then if they were to turn it up behind & stick a large tortoise shell comb with gold knobs into it, after the manner of women. But if it's bad when there is no curl at all & when their hair hangs down like the matted ends of a wet swab- and this is generally the case with these officers. But this is not the only eccentricity which marks some of 'em as the following circumstance will demonstrate, wh occurred during our stay on the coast.

All the vessels are showy & sports spars that reach the Seventh Heaven-Point & taper- indeed so very taper, that a Yankee (one of the most amusing men I ever met) once said to me, as we were looking at the Shipping- "well now I guess Mr S. the sticks thar are cruel thin- they look like the little end of nothing whittled down."

Certainly it was rather a strong practical joke. A great deal of discontent reigns among the officers & men of the Texian Navy & certainly not without cause. The principal grounds of discontent are first the intention of the Govt to lay up the ships with one or two excepted, instead of sending them to cruise off the coast of Mexico for fame & booty, and the second arises from the irregularity as to their pay. As most of the officers were originally in the American Navy and quitted that service, where at least they were certain of good pay, for the inducements held out by the Texians, it certainly dos appear most unjust to turn them adrift in the cavalier way proposed, but when the wretched poverty of the Republic is taken into consideration a Treasury without a shilling & the country without credit the keeping up a naval armament in active service even if in the power of Govt which I doubt, would be a farce.

GALVESTON ISLAND: OR, A FEW MONTHS OFF THE COAST OF TEXAS: THE JOURNAL OF FRANCIS C. SHERIDAN, 1839-1840

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