

navy, and gave lessons to the world of which they knew nothing either from theory or experience. The names of Ericsson and Ellet, the inventors respectfully of the monitor and the ram, have already passed into history. The attacks upon Vicksburg, Mobile and Fort Fisher—the plunging, crashing onset of our rams upon the rebel boats in the Mississippi, when the bold shores at Memphis were thronged by eager men and women, anxious to witness the promised sinking of our fleet—the daring passage of the Yazoo river, crowded with obstructions, under the powerful siege guns of Hains' bluff—are events unsurpassed in the annals of naval warfare, of which you, as the representatives of the department directing these grand movements may feel justly proud.

The return of the naval school (now under your direction) to its old haunts, is a subject of general congratulation throughout the State, and the day will, I trust, be far distant when it shall be deemed advisable to transfer it from a point so centrally located and surrounded by so many advantages adapted to the purposes of its establishment. Indeed, having already exercised a fostering care, by contributing to the support of the academy, our State has superior claims to be heard in the question of its possible removal. Whilst strolling through the beautiful enclosure, on the banks of the Severn, it is grateful to note the change, so suddenly wrought from hospitals crowded with diseased and mangled soldiers to the scenes of energy, cheerfulness and hope witnessed within its walls. Thus fade from our midst, everywhere the traces of that melancholy contest in which those of the same blood bravely fought and fell! Let us all recognize that the strife of arms is over, and, having manfully contended for the flag in the hour of the nation's peril, endeavor now, by discarding all distracting topics, to bring back to the whole land, north and south, east and west, the substantial peace so essential to our future stability and prosperity as a people.

To which Admiral Porter responded as follows:

*Gentlemen of the Maryland Assembly:*—I take great pleasure in expressing my thanks and that of the officers of the Naval Academy, for the honor you have conferred on us, and for the kind greeting you have given us to-day. I should consider myself deficient in common intelligence if I could not find language to express what is due to you on this occasion. I trust, though that you will take the will for the deed, and not expect me to express what I feel in a very lengthy speech. Speechmaking is not my vocation, and I very much fear that if I attempted any extended remarks, I should subject myself to the criticism of the intelligent gentlemen who