

Before the general court martial, of which captain Stephen Decatur, of the United States Navy, is president, and "Thos. O. Selfridge, Esquire, judge advocate, held on board the United States frigate "United States," in the Harbour of New London in the state of Connecticut, on the 15th day of April, 1814 and continued by adjournments to the 5th of May following, Lieutenant M^o H. Cox, of the Navy of the United States, was tried on the following charges and Specifications thereof viz

Charge 1.

Cowardice.
Specification. In that he deserted his station, in time of action with the enemy, and continued absent therefrom.

Charge 2.

Disobedience of orders.
Specification. In that having been charged with the command of the second division of the gun deck he left his station in time of action with the enemy, and, after having so left it, was seen by his commanding officer James Lawrence, Esquire, in the cockpit of the said frigate (Chesapeake) who ordered him to return to his quarters, which order he did not execute.

Charge 3.
Desertion from his quarters, and neglect of duty.

Specification the first. In that, he was charged with the command of the second division of the gun deck, from which he withdrew, in time of action with the enemy, without orders while men of said division remained at their quarters."

Specification the second. In that, he did not do his utmost to aid and assist to take, or destroy, the enemy's vessel the "Shannon" by animating and encouraging, in his own person, conduct and example, the inferior officers and men to fight courageously; but did contrary to orders and his duty as an officer, leave his station in time of action, and deny to midshipman Higinbotham the use of coercive means to prevent the men from deserting their quarters, running or jumping below, and thereby compel them to return to their duty, and repel the boarders of the enemy.

Charge 4.
Unofficer like conduct.

Specification the first. In that he quitted his station designated in the foregoing specifications, in time of action, and proceeded to the upper deck, and