In January 1813, Dolphin of Baltimore encountered Hebe, of 16 guns, and the 10-gun brig Three Brothers off the coast of Spain. Against the odds, Stafford pressed the attack on both vessels. Hebe’s losses forced her to surrender, and the brig followed soon after. Success was short-lived—both prizes were soon recaptured. Dolphin’s career as a privateer ended soon after as well. On April 10, Niles reported that the British had captured Dolphin and three Baltimore traders in the Rappahannock, after “stout resistance.” Dolphin was taken into the blockade squadron as a tender, and was active in raids on the Upper Chesapeake later that summer.

“he did not expect to find a d—d Yankee privateer in that part of the world”  
- Hebe’s Captain, as quoted in the Weekly Register

Surprise 1813 - 1814

Surprise captures the Star, January 28, 1814. Surprise was one of the largest of the Baltimore based privateers. 110’ long, she carried 10 –18 pounder carronades and a crew of 120 men. During three cruises under captains Cathell, Barnes and Barstow, she captured 45 vessels before being wrecked on the New Jersey coast. After the war, Niles rated Surprise as the most successful of all the American privateers.

The Weekly Register, February 20, 1813: “The cartel ship Bostwick arrived in New York from Bermuda with 480 American prisoners on board. We hail their restoration. Among them are officers and crew of the Highflyer and Teaser privateers, famous for their successes, but at last overtaken by superior force”.

Next: Thomas Boyle and Comet