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The following statements have been submitted to the house of representatives of the United States, by the secretary of war.

REPORT

From the Department of War, Relative to the FORTIFICATIONS of the PORTS and HARBOURS of the UNITED STATES.

STATE OF THE FORTIFICATIONS.

PORTLAND, in the District of Maine,

The work consists of a fort, a citadel, a battery for ten pieces of cannon, and artillery store, a guard house, an air furnace for heating shot, and a covered way from the fort to the battery.

The works are substantially executed, excepting the covered way; to complete this, the earth on the spot being of a bad quality with the necessary supports of stones and fods, is estimated at four hundred dollars. Leveling the earth around the works, fencing the land pertaining to them, a pump for the well, painting the wood work, and rendering the whole perfectly complete; the estimate is four hundred and seventy one dollars; in the whole eight hundred and seventy one dollars.

PORTSMOUTH, New-Hampshire.

The works consist of a fort, a citadel, an artillery store, and a reverberatory furnace. These are all completed, excepting a little carpenter's work, suspended to let the wood season, and which may cost about fifty dollars. But a small and unforeseen expence must be incurred for a drain to carry the water from the magazine, and may cost one hundred dollars.

GLOUCESTER, (Cape Ann.)

The works consist of a battery and a citadel. These are completed. But to enclose the fort towards the town, the cost is estimated at one thousand four hundred dollars. This however may be postponed till circumstances require it to be done.

SALEM.

The works consist of a fort and a citadel, have been erected. A gate remains to be made, and some repairs to the walls.

MARBLEHEAD.

A battery and a citadel have been erected. Any other works may be suspended until circumstances shall change.

NEW-PORT, in Rhode-Island.

For the defence of this harbour there have been erected on Goat Island, a fort, a citadel, and an air furnace. The excellency and importance of this harbour in the time of war, recommended a farther expenditure to render the defence complete. To finish the fort, erect an artillery store, and make a covered way round it, as in a regular fortification, the expence is estimated at about six thousand dollars.

There have also been erected a citadel on Tammy hill, back of the town of New-Port, for the protection of its inhabitants; and a battery and guard house at Hewland's ferry, at the northern end of the island, to keep open a communication with the main, in case of an invasion. But to secure effectually this communication, a citadel should be erected on But's-hill, that position commanding Howland's ferry and Bristol ferry. The cost is estimated at eighteen hundred dollars.

NEW-LONDON.

The works consisting of a fort and citadel on the Granton side of the harbour, and of a fort, a citadel and an air furnace on the New-London side. They remain incomplete. Under present circumstances a small expenditure may be proper merely to preserve what has been done.

NEW-YORK.

Governor's Island has been fortified with a fort made of earth, and two batteries under its protection, partly lined with brick masonry, two air furnaces, a large powder magazine, and a barrack for the garrison; the whole completed.

PHILADELPHIA.

A large pier, as the foundation for a battery on a sand bar opposite Mud Island to make a cross fire, has been completed. A fort on Mud-Island is about half done, and a citadel has been erected. To complete the fort, and on a plan much more circumscribed than was at first projected, the expence is estimated at fifteen thousand dollars.

WILMINGTON, in the Delaware state. Nothing has been done. The project of erecting a fort there has been abandoned as useless.

BALTIMORE.

A battery and barracks have been constructed, and some guns are mounted.

ANNAPOLIS.

Some progress had been made in the construction of a fort and battery, and a barrack has been erected. But an examination of the works by an engineer, other than the one first employed, produced an unfavorable report of the plan and of the works; and under actual circumstances induced a relinquishment of them.

A similar report as to the plan and situation of the work, at

ALEXANDRIA,

induced a relinquishment.

NORFOLK.

Two forts intended to cross their fire, are erected on the opposite sides of the harbour. The one on the Norfolk side, with barracks and a powder magazine, is completed. The other, Fort Nelson, on the Portsmouth side, is very far advanced, and a powder magazine has been erected. The principal work remaining to be done, is opening of seven embrasures, completing one ditch of three hundred and sixty feet long, completing the glacis, and removing the earth from within side of the fort, where it is two feet and a half too high. The expence of doing this, and completing the fortification, may be estimated at five thousand dollars.

OCCACOCK, in North-Carolina.

The defence proposed, was to erect a fort on Beacon Island. The foundation was laid in 1794. The situation is so far removed (about ninety miles,) from any inhabitants, and so exposes any works to injuries from storms, that nothing but an impending or actual war would seem to authorize the construction of a fort there, and furnishing it with a proper garrison.

WILMINGTON, in North-Carolina.

The battery on the whole front of the fort has been completed, and a barrack and powder magazine have been erected.

GEORGE-TOWN, South-Carolina.

A battery was begun, and materials collected, when the work was suspended, the owner of the land previously desiring to ascertain the terms on which it was to be occupied for the fortification, and for the road of communication with it. The unhealthiness of the situation, and other circumstances, authorize an abandonment of the work, until war, actual or impending, shall require it to be resumed.

CHARLESTON, South-Carolina.

The work planned for Sullivan's island, of which the foundation only was laid in 1794, being on a scale supposed too expensive for the funds destined to this service, was directed to be left as it was. For the same reason a new work proposed by the engineer, on a point on the opposite side of the harbour from Fort Johnson, was not attempted. A battery has been erected in the town by the mechanics.

There remained only Fort Johnson, on which directions were given to make such repairs as would preserve the works already constructed, and render them serviceable. The engineer omitted the work. The officer in command at the fort, has undertaken to make the necessary repair for the works and barrack; and his intelligence and experience leave no room to doubt but these will be done.

SAVANNAH, in Georgia.

The work consists of a battery, at present defined only for 9 guns, made of timber with earth, enclosed behind with pickets, with a guard house for the garrison, which were in train to be completed early in the last autumn.

St. MARY'S in Georgia.

The work consists of a battery made of timber filled with earth and enclosed with pickets. By the personal report of the superintendent it must have been completed.

GENERAL REMARK.

The few ports of the highest importance to the commerce of the United States, in situations to demand for their security, for-

tifications of such kinds and extent as cannot suddenly be erected, prudence may require to have fortified in time of peace, and with durable materials.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

WAR-OFFICE,

January 19, 1796.

Late and Important from Europe.

VIENNA, November 7.

We have the following authentic accounts from Turkey; "Agra Mahomed Khan, who for some time past usurped the provinces of Persia, according to the last accounts, made a sudden incursion, with a numerous army into Georgia, and subdued the capital of Teflis, and conducted prince Heraclius, with his adherents, into captivity; by so violent a step, and the continual views of aggrandizement of this Asiatic conqueror, the Turkish dominions upon the Tygris, and the Euphrates, are endangered; and the Southern Provinces of Russia, and those of her Vassals, disturbed.

"Even the European revolters give more uneasiness to the Porte, than ever Paswan Oghli, of Widden, who has openly revolted and although the governors of the adjacent provinces has been ordered to stop his progress, their endeavours have hitherto been frustrated. The said rebel has locked himself up in the fortress of Widden, and is making preparation for an obstinate resistance. At his desire the leaders of the Malecontents of the former garrison of Helgrade, endeavor to keep open the communication between that place and Widden. The Porte still flatters itself with hopes, by the prudent measures taken, and the good dispositions of the Pachas and Romelia and Belgrade, to bring him, by some means or other, to obedience in the course of the year."

LONDON, NOVEMBER 21.

Some papers from Holland were received on Thursday which contain an account of some disturbances having taken place at Amsterdam in consequence formed between the Dutch refugees at Osnaburg and the members of the ancient regency, for the purpose of producing a counter-revolution, and that the French republic was negotiating a peace with Great Britain, from the benefits of which the United Provinces were to be excluded. In consequence of this report several persons made themselves masters of the keys of the city-gates and of the barriers of the port, and committed other excesses. Strong parties were immediately ordered to parade the streets. A proclamation was published by commissioners appointed for the purpose of maintaining order, which, with a declaration of the French deputies in that city on the subject, produced the desired effect, and on the 6th inst. tranquility was perfectly restored.

November 30.

The Prince George, of 98 guns, having in the late gales lost her rudder, a mode of steering her was adopted, which differed from that suggested by Capt. Pakenham, but was successful. A topmast was pointed from the ward-room windows, to the end of which two sweeps (large oars) which went from the gun-room ports, were bolted, and the inner ends although strongly fastened, were allowed, of course, to traverse. The sides, being boarded, the ends were lowered a few feet into the water, and the ship was steered with great facility, by hawfers from each quarter, made fast to this rudder.

WORMS, November 11.

This morning the Austrians entered this place. Yesterday it was a most tremendous day, the battle which took place having lasted from ten in the morning to six in the evening. The French, though well fortified from Mollheim to Piederthum, were compelled to give way to the Imperial fire. The centre of the French army which was near Alzey, stood it longest, but was obliged to retreat after the left wing had been beaten. The Red Mantiers are said to have pushed forward as far as Lantern, and that others patrol even up to the gates of Treves. The