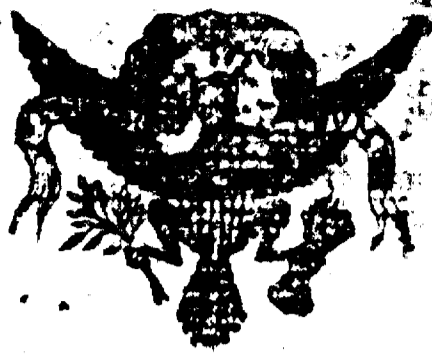


# W. John Fenno REPUBLICAN JOURNAL, And Dumsries Weekly Advertiser



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY, 11, 1796.

[No. XXXVIII. Vol. II.]

## Political Miscellany.

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 PORTS & HARBOURS of the United States.

#### State of Fortifications.

##### Portland, in the district of Maine.

The works consist 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 fort being of a bad quality with the necessary supports of stones and sods, is estimated at four hundred dollars. Levelling the earth round the works facing 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. They are all completed, excepting a little carpenters 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 include the fort towards the town, the estimate 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.

##### Machlishead.

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

##### New-Port, Rhode Island.

For the defence of this harbour, there have been erected on Goat Island a fort, a citadel and an air furnace. The expence and importance of this harbour at the time of war, recommended a further 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 Tamaany hill, back of the town Newport, for the protection of its inhabitants; and a battery and Guard-house at Howland's ferry, at the north-end of this Island, to keep open a communication with the main, in case of invasion. But to secure effectual communication a citadel should be erected on Butt's Hill, that position commanding Howland's and Butt's

ferry. The cost of it is estimated at eighteen hundred dollars.

##### New-London.

The works consisting of a fort and citadel on the Grotton 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 is completed.

##### Philadelphia.

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

##### Wilmington, Delaware.

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 barracks has been erected. But an examination of the works by an engineer, other than the one first employed, produced an unfavourable report of the plan of the works, and under actual circumstances induced a relinquishment of them.

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

##### Alexandria.

induced a like 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 barrack and a powder magazine, is completed. The other Fort Nelson on the Portsmouth side, is very far advanced, and powder magazine has been erected. The principal work remaining to be done, is the opening of seven embrasures, completing one ditch of three hundred and sixty feet long, cutting another eleven hundred long, completing the glacis, and removing the earth from within side of the fort where it is two feet and an half too high. The expence of doing this, and completing the fortification, may be estimated at five thousand dollars.

##### Ocracock, 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 many 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, 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 extensive 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.

These 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 destined only for six guns, made of timber filled with earth, inclosed 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, Georgia.

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

##### General Remark.

These few parts of the highest importance to the commerce of the United States, in situations to demand for their security, fortifications of such kinds and extent as cannot suddenly be erected, produce may require to have fortified in time of peace, and with durable materials.

### TIMOTHY PICKERING.

War-Office,  
Jan. 16, 1796.

## Massachusetts Legislature.

January 19.

Agreeable to assignment the two branches convened in the Representatives Chamber, and at 12 o'clock, his excellency the governor came in, and delivered the following:

### ADDRESS.

#### Fellow-Citizens,

I cannot but congratulate you upon the many blessings which the beautiful hand of providence has bestowed upon us since your adjournment.

We with our fellow citizens at large observed a day solemnly to recognize these blessings; and if sincere obedience to our gracious benefactor, shall accompany the gratitude which we then professed we may humbly rely upon him that he will continue his divine favours to the citizens at large, and direct the public councils of our nation and commonwealth to such measures as shall be productive of the safety and welfare of all.

In my former address to this General

Court I mentioned the duty required by the constitution frequently to revise the laws, and amend such of them as may still be necessary to secure the lives liberties and property of the citizens—The importance of civil commutative justice and the good policy of making adequate compensations to those who administer well—and the great advantages of cherishing the interests of literature and the sciences; and all femineries of them, among the body of the people. Upon these I shall not now enlarge.

Agriculture and commerce mutually depend upon each other. As foreign markets are supplied from our fields, it is an object of importance, that the transportation of heavy articles, and means of communication from one part of the State to the other, may be rendered as easy and cheap as the nature of the country will admit. By the spirit of enterprise, which so remarkably animates the citizens, countenanced by the Legislature, much has been done and is still doing in various parts of the commonwealth.

The improvement of arts and manufactures is of interesting moment. The encouragement of such manufactures in particular as will diminish the consumption of foreign articles and exhibit a real balance in our favour, is the common concern of the whole union. Such encouragement as will spread the spirit of industry individually through the body of the people, will tend to increase their happy feelings of independence, and give them an exalted idea of the truly noble character of Free-Citizens. Industry naturally leads to sobriety of sentiment, rectitude of manners, a due observance of wise & constitutional laws; and of course to public and private virtue.

#### Fellow Citizens.

It is wisdom often to recur to first principles. The people of this commonwealth, as well as those of the United States, have voluntarily formed such constitutions of government, as they have judged well adapted to secure their own political safety. These constitutions are founded upon the same principles; and they avow the great and fundamental political truth that all power is derived from the people. As these and all new forms of government which recognize principles, never reduced to practice until the period of our illustrious revolution must be in their nature experiments, the provision of a peaceable and a constitutional remedy for such defects as experience may point, is with propriety established in our State and national governments. The citizens of the commonwealth, have late discovered their acquiescence under their constitution as it now stands. But it still remains recorded in our declaration of rights, that the people alone have an inalienable and indefeasible right to institute government; and to reform, alter, or totally change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity and happiness require it. And the Federal constitution, according to the mode prescribed therein, has already undergone such amendments in several parts of it, as from experience has been judged necessary.

The Government of the United States is entrusted fully with such powers as regard our safety as a nation;—and all powers not given expressly by



Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary powers are conferred with the nature of their respective departments. If therefore it should be found that the constant and rights of our federal and local governments should on either side be infringed, or that either of the departments aforesaid should interfere with another, it will, if continued, essentially alter the constitution, and may in time, though far distant, be productive of such convulsions as may shake the political ground upon which we now happily stand.

Under these impressions, I cannot but mention to you a subject which has lately attracted the public attention and employed the pens of ingenious men of different sentiments concerning it. In discussing a subject so exceedingly momentous as a National Treaty, no personal attachment or prejudice, no private or selfish feeling, no arts of deception should be followed to intrigue. Truth should be the object and reason the guide.

By the Constitution of the United States, it is provided, that all legislative powers therein granted, shall be vested in a Congress, to consist of a Senate and House of Representatives. These several branches have, and exercise a positive negative upon each other: No legislative act, therefore, can pass without their joint concurrence. But in another part of the constitution, under the head of the executive, the President has the power with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, to make and all treaties which are made or shall be made under the authority of the United States, shall be among the supreme laws of the land. The Senate therefore partake with the Executive, so far as to advise and consent; but the most popular branch of Congress, has no concern therein. I do earnestly recommend to you to turn your attention to those parts of the Constitution, at least, which relate to the Legislative and Executive powers, and judge for yourselves, whether they may not be construed to militate with each other, and lead to an absurd conclusion—that there actually exists in the government of the United States, two distinct and decider Legatures.

I am far from being desirous that unnecessary alterations of our constitution, should be proposed: But it is of great consequence to the liberties of a nation, to review its civil Constitution and common practice of its administration, with the essential principles upon which it is founded. We, fellow-citizens, are under the strongest obligations, from the solemnity of our mutual compact, and each our sacred oath, with a watchful eye at every point to defend and support our Constitution; and to strengthen the essential principles upon which they are founded, when it shall become needful, falls in my opinion within those solemn obligations.

I hope, fellow-citizens, that what I am now about to say, will not be deemed improper.

I have been accustomed to speak my mind upon matters of great moment to you on every country with freedom; and every citizen of the United States has the same right that I have. I may never hereafter have an opportunity of publicly expressing my opinion on the Treaty lately made with the Court of London. I am therefore constrained with all due respect to our constituted authorities to declare, that the Treaty appears to me to be pregnant with evil. It controls some of the powers (partially vested in Congress) for the security of the people; and I fear that it may reduce to Great Britain such an influence over the government and people of this country as may not be consistent with the general welfare. This subject however it is expedient to come before the Congress, while they are here assembled, to discuss it, and to determine, so far as it may be in their power, so that they shall be able to take the welfare of the people into consideration.

From the Impartial Observer.

**SUMMARY.**

Reports are various respecting the armistice upon the Rhine. The measures in the Convention to arrest the minister lead us to believe that the French have been obliged to retreat; but the attempts of the Constitutional government to check the reports convinced us that the accounts have been aggravated. We cannot determine the position of Piegru. The last account place Jourdan at Mulheim opposite to Cologne. We have no doubt that the Austrians are strong upon the Neckar, and that there has been an action not far from Mannheim, and that the Austrians have invested that City. Upon the whole present accounts are unfavourable to the French. We have heard that the armies in Italy were inactive; but our last accounts were, that General Scherer had arrived at Albenza, in the Geneve territory, upon the Coast with part of the army of the Pyrenees, and had given the command to Kellerman, and that in consequence the Austrians retreated. At Paris the members of the Legislative Body under the New Convention had been reported, and met on the 27th of October. The Council of Ancients was then formed. The Executive Directory afterwards.

The Council of 500 have chosen Danton, their speaker. Regulations have been adopted in their assemblies. Heads of the various Departments have been chosen. The subject of Finance was before the Council, and a Commission of Finance has been already appointed. This attention to the subject of Finance has increased the public confidence in the government. In favour of the Dutch, we hear that eight of their Indes Ships had reached Norway. There are reports that French had captured several of the English Newfoundland Fleet.

**CONGRESS,**  
of the United States.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
January 28.

Mr. W. Smith from the Stenographic Committee, gave in a report, that they had conferred with Mr. David Robertson, of Petersburg, in the State of Virginia. They thought him qualified, his demand for a session, was to be four thousand dollars for preparing his reports for the press, exclusive of the expense of printing; and that Andrew Brown Printer of the Philadelphia Gazette, had offered to pay eleven hundred dollars for this session, so that there would remain two thousand and nine hundred dollars to be paid by government. The report is made the order of the day for tomorrow.

The petition of the Canadian refugees, presented last session, was called up, and referred to a select committee.

Mr. W. Smith moved, that the committee of the whole house should be discharged from further considering the bill from the Senate to amend an act to promote the useful arts. This passed; and it was then referred to a select committee.

Adjourned.

January 29.

The committee appointed on the subject of the frigates on the stocks, reported in favour of continuing to build and equip one of 24 guns and one of 36.

Sundry private petitions came under consideration and were disposed of.

The house went into a committee of the whole. Mr. Mulenburg in the chair on the report of the committee in favour of employing a stenographer to take the minutes of the house. In the debate on this subject great diversity of opinion prevailed, and the committee after much time spent in debate rose, reported progress and continued to sit again.

AMERICAN JOURNAL.  
BERMUDA, January 2.

**SPANISH WAR.**

Thursday arrived the Lord Hawkebury privateer with a Spanish ship, her prize taken a few days since. We are informed, that the Hawkebury fell in with a ship from Dublin, which had a paper on board giving an account of hostilities having commenced between Great Britain and Spain and the next day falling in with the Spaniard, took her.

In consequence of this information, a Spanish brig in Ligua had been taken possession of by the officers of his majesty's ships now here.

**PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 2.**

There is an arrival at Salem from Belfast bringing Irish accounts to the 19th. — Now, the extracts given are chiefly from the London Gazette of Nov. 12, giving an account of the operation on the Rhine from the 18th to the 30th October inclusive, all much to the disadvantage of the French but less so than the British Ministerial accounts heretofore received make it.

These accounts give a detail of a defeat of the French before Mannheim, in consequence of which they were driven into that place with considerable loss. — This happened on the 28th Oct. On the 29th Clairfayt detached the French army before Metz on the West side of the Rhine, with the loss of several thousand men, and with no trifling loss on his part, by his own account.

A letter from Frankfurt of the 31st mentions, that the Austrians had crossed the Rhine at Haeckheim, and possessed a line of territory on the West side of that river, from Binger to Gunte Solum. The same letter says, that Wurmer had taken the Fort du Rhin near Mannheim.

Dusseldorf is not in possession of the Austrians as had been asserted.

The extracts given in the Eastern papers under Irish heads, contain nothing respecting the state of that country, except notice of a meeting at Cork, to take into consideration the present alarming high price of provisions. The Boston Mercury gives the following paragraph as Irish affairs.

"This a revolution, is systematizing in Ireland; and a short period will discover it to the world. Commotions are frequent and every day more alarming."

Foreign papers mention that the Russian trade to Persia over Caspian Sea, has very much increased the last year particularly in the export of Russian cloths. The course of this trade is down the rivers of Russia, over the Caspian to Derbent or other places in Persia, and is the same as that destroyed by Termerlane.

The net revenue of the Post Office for the last year amounted to upwards of 40,000 dollars.

A public Library has been instituted at Baltimore—so dollars a share.

**BALTIMORE, Jan. 25.**

Extract of a letter from Capt. Richard O'Brien, who has been in Captivity in Algiers, above ten years—to a friend in Baltimore, dated Lisbon, Nov. 9.

"I have the pleasure of informing you and all friends, that on the 6th of September, Joseph Donalson esq. agent of the United States, concluded a peace with the Dey and Regency of Algiers, to the surprise and sorrow of our political enemies.

"On the 11th of September I sailed from Algiers, and arrived at Malaga on the 19th, and came by land to Lisbon charged with the despatches of Mr. De, saidon, to our esteemed countryman Colonel Humphreys, who I am sorry to inform you, was absent, having gone to Paris to solicit the influence of the Convention towards obtaining a peace with Algiers, not expecting Mr. Donaldson would succeed—But as Colonel Hoad-

Republican Journal.

**DU MURRAY, February 17.**

**APPOINTMENTS.**

The President of the United States, with the consent of the Senate, has appointed.

WILLIAM CUSHING, Chief Justice of the United States;  
SAMUEL CHASE, of Maryland Associate Judge, vice Blair, resigned; and  
JAMES M'HENRY, of Maryland, Secretary of War.

From NEW-PORT, (R. I.) Jan. 19

**PUBLIC UTILITY.**

*A new constructed Amphibious Carriage.*

The subscriber takes this method to inform his friends and the community at large that he has completed his experiment.

This carriage is of the full size, capable of accommodating three persons; and is impelled or impeded solely by the conductor, who rides in the carriage, which is turned to the right or left, fast or slow, at his opinion; and is turned about with as much ease, and in less time than is possible for a span of horses to do. The head stands on six arch posts which is shifted from its standing, with dispatch and ease, by a performance of the rider into a perpendicular fall which extends about two feet into the air, and is averted, in several directions, as occasion requires and is not detrimental to traveling against the wind. There is a front piece, extending from the front piece, the figure of Fame, which takes its flight with the movement of the carriage, and what causes the flight of the wings, or the movement of the carriage, is imperceptible to the spectators. To specify more particulars is superfluous, and too tedious to enumerate.

All persons desirous of seeing this extraordinary and singular piece of Mechanism, may have the satisfaction of seeing the same, and all its performances as above specified, for the acknowledgement of one quarter of a dollar each at the house of Gideon Badcock, in South Kingdon, on the 25th day of January 1796 if fair weather.

As the Proprietor has been at a very great expence in this experiment, he has been prevailed on, by a number of worthy citizens, who are ever ready to advance and promote any of the scientific branches, which may redound to the public weal, induces him to promulgate this work.

The highest price in cash given for clean Linen or Cotton Rags at the office of the Republican Journal, &c.

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Public Sale on Monday the 6th of March next, if fair weather, at the Court-House in London, on the 25th day of January 1796 if fair weather.

**To be Sold.**

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**2 LOTS,**

on the Hill adjoining Mr. THOMAS LEE'S new building—All to a Lease of a Lot of land formerly purchased of Michael Conn, lying on the main road near Blomds ford. Nine months credit will be given on Bond with approved security by the purchaser.

Rodman Blaneet, Admr. of W. Taylor, dec.

Feb. 9. 1796.

**LAND FOR SALE.**

Pursuant to a decree of the Worshipful Court of Prince William will be sold on Monday the 7th day of March next, at Mr. Smock's Tavern in Duffries, at twelve o'clock for Ready money, a parcel of Land containing Five hundred Acres situated in the said County about six or seven miles from Duffries and the same distance from the Ocean Mills—The tract is adjoining the Lands of Mr. James Peake who will be able to satisfy the equity of any Person respecting the lands, who wishes to become a purchaser.

J. LITHGOW, Comr.

Feb. 3. 96.

Serious attention requested.

Our patrons are earnestly requested to continue their contributions to the Republican Journal as first sent forward on the political stage. It is almost needless to repeat that a second payment is long since become due.

For the purpose of collecting this necessary "second requisition" the following gentlemen are appointed, and have obligingly agreed to receive payment in their respective situations—viz. These whose papers are left at Durrington's Tavern, are requested to make payment to

Major Burg Peyton, or  
Captain Charles Atwell,  
at Newgate or Centreville,  
Francis Adams, esq.  
Mr. John Ellis,  
New Market,  
Mr. Harris Howe,  
Red-Haule,  
Mr. William Tyler, )  
Greenwich,  
Captain Solomon-Ewell,  
Barnett's Tavern,  
Mr. Ambrose Barnett,  
Fauquier court  
Mr. John Turner,  
Elk run Church,  
Mrs Francis Boyle,  
Mr. William Gwynon,  
Charles County Maryland,  
Mr. William Millard.

Or, to the Editors, at the Printing Office.

**NOTICE.**

I SHALL on the first of April next care this country.—All persons having claims against me are requested to bring them in at the time they become due. All those indebted to me, either by bond or note, are for the last time desired to make immediate payment, otherwise suits will be brought without respect to persons.

I will sell on good terms, my

**HOUSES & LOTS**

at Aquia, and for the purpose of settling my estate I have a number of lots in the County of Stafford, and in the absence of Mr. J. C. Cook, who is authorized to sell on my behalf.

J. JOHNSTON

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