

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



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## 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 Tamaay 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 circumferibed 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 incontestible, unalienable 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

