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FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1807. PAID IN ADVANCE.

Post Office, Washington, May 9th. 1807.

SUMMER ESTABLISHMENT, *to commence on Monday the 11th May 1807*

THE Mails for the main Southern route are to be closed at 6 o'clock, P. M. and are to arrive at half past 5 P. M.

The Eastern mail to be closed at half past 6 P. M. and arrive at half past 5 P. M.

The Annapolis and Eastern Shore route closes on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6 P. M and arrive Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 o'clock P. M.

The Clarksburg and Chilicothe route, via Fairfax c. h. Winchester &c close Fridays 11 o'clock A. M. and arrive Thursdays at noon.

The Leesburg mail, via Proip & Hil, &c. will close on Mondays at 1 o'clock P. M. and arrive same day at 11 A. M.

The general Western mail, via Frederick-town, Md. will be closed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays 6 o'clock P. M. and arrive at 5 P. M. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The mail for Brookville, Md will be closed every Wednesday at 6 P. M. & arrive Thursday's 6 P. M.

The New Orleans mail, via Athens, Georgia, will be closed every Saturday, 6 P. M. and arrive same day at 8 A M.

Do via Tennessee, Mississippi Territory, &c. will be closed every Monday 6 P. M. & arrive same day 5 1 2 P. M.

The mail to Ridge Md. via Piscataway, Port Tobacco St. Inigoes, &c will close every Thursday at 6 P. M. and arrive every Tuesday at 6 P. M.

May 3—3w

FOR SALE,

A valuable tract of land in Allegany county state of Maryland; it contains 474 acres of very rich Timber Land, and will be sold low for cash, or exchanged for Merchandise or improved property in the city of Washington—for further particulars apply to

WILLIAM WATERS.

☞ For Rent a HOUSE in Georgetown, near Mr. Holtzman's tavern. It will accommodate a large family comfortably, and may be had for a small rent—apply as above.

Washington city, May 13—3t&1aw

PUBLIC SALE.

ON the 6th day of June next, will be sold for cash, all the right and interest of John Coles in that valuable property known on the plat of the city of Washington, called Lots No. 3 and 4 in square No 9 with a large stone Warehouse, and Wharf and a large brick Dwelling House, or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy a writ of FIFA issued out of the circuit court at the suit of John Hay against John Coles—sale at the Union tavern in Georgetown at 4 P. M.

DANL BUSSARD, for
D. C. BRENT, marshal.

May 14—td

LAND FOR SALE.

The Subscriber offers for sale 780 acres of land on Bullskin run in Jefferson county Virginia about 10 miles from Harper's Ferry, and 4 miles from the Shenandoah river 400 acres of this land is cleared, the rest in woods, on it there is a valuable Mill seat with 22 feet fall, the stream affording a sufficiency of water to turn two pair of stones, 25 acres of watered meadow which produces abundant crops of Hay, and as much more may be made at a trifling expence the cleared land may be laid off into fields of 50 acres and each field have running water in it; there is generally sown on this farm 120 acres in wheat, which has not for some year past, produced less than 2500 bushels per annum the improvements are a stone Dwelling House and kitchen, a stone Dairy with a large never failing spring near the dwelling, a barn with stables under it for 30 horses, an apple orchard of 200 trees of choice fruit, and a variety of other fruit trees; on another part of this farm, there is a small frame Dwelling House, Kitchen and Dairy, Smoke house, Barn and Stables—this property will be shewn and the terms made known on application to the subscriber on the premises.

JOHN GANTT, Sen.

April 29—ep2m

This is to give notice, that the subscriber of the city of Washington in the district of Columbia, hath obtained from the Orphan's Court of Prince George's county in the state of Maryland, letters of administration on the personal estate of Thomas Ducket, late of said county deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber on or before the first day of October next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Those indebted to the deceased are desired to make immediate payment.

ALLEN B DUCKETT, Adm.

City of Washington March 18—tf

☞ All claims forwarded by mail must be post paid

The thorough Bred Horse MONTICELLO,

NOW IN HIGH ORDER.

WILL be Let to Mares the ensuing season, to commence the first of April, at my seat, near Georgetown at FIFTEEN DOLLARS, per Mare, for which a note must be sent payable the first of September, and one dollar to the groom; or in lieu thereof, ELEVEN DOLLARS in money

Good and extensive pasturage, well enclosed, at 50 cents per week, and the mare fed, if required, at the market price, for which the money must be sent The greatest care taken to prevent accidents or escapes, but will not be responsible for either.

JOHN THRELKELD.

March 23—tf

From the American.

The following interesting article, communicated for publication in the American, is from the pen of General Wilkinson. It has been on hand some time, and we embrace the opportunity of a supplement to give it publicity.—

Reflections on the fortifications and defence of the sea ports of the United States.

The geographical position of the U. States oppose strong obstacles to the rapacity and ambition of the old world; but it neither secures them against political casualties, nor exempts them from outrage and invasion; and if we are to estimate the future by the past, we may rationally conclude that our industry and enterprise, our progressive wealth and improvements, while they affect the fears of some nations, may excite the jealousy of others; and it is a military axiom, that precaution is the parent of safety, and security the precursor of misfortune.

Our natural indolence discourages abstract enquiry, and to save the labor of investigation, we two frequently, with blind confidence, adopt the opinion of others; hence general conclusions are deduced from solitary incidents. Fashion beguiles the understanding—names sanction errors—false ideas obtain, and the torrent of opinion bears down the judgment.

To exemplify these truths in their application to military life, we need but retrospect the conduct of the French & British engineers, pending the conflict of those nations on this continent, and review the systems of defence adapted not long since for the protection of our towns and harbors.

The first posts erected on the frontiers of the British colonies and of Canada, were calculated for defence against small arms merely, without other regard to ground than its proximity to running waters; and when armies were put in motion with artillery, and their arsenals, either defective knowledge or local attachments, decided in favor of the original occupancies, for the erection of regular fortifications, scientifically constructed, which were overlooked by heights, from whence men's feet might be reckoned on their parades. Such was Tyconderoga, built by the French, and such were Crown Point, Fort William Henry, Fort Edward, Fort Pitt, and others erected by the British. Immense sums were lavished, and great labor bestowed on works destined to impede armies and protract sieges—when in fact, the first glance of an invasion exposed to him a choice of ground, from whence a single battery piece might compel their garrisons to surrender at discretion. It is true general Abercrombie, morally as well as physically blind, declined to avail himself of those advantages, and preferred the assault of the French lines before Tyconderoga, where he was repulsed with slaughter—and yet general, Amherst afterwards followed his footsteps. Such is the influence of example—but fortunately for him, found the French two feeble to offer resistance against his superior force.

It would appear that our maritime defences have originated in grounds not less superficial and fallacious, and that the result of sir Hyde Parker's fruitless attack of Fort Moultrie, and that against Fort Mifflin, under the orders of lord Howe, left such impressions on the American mind in favor of fixed batteries, that we have deemed it prudent to commit to their protection exclusively, our most vulnerable points and important interests; whereas if we had taken the trouble of a moments consideration the delusion would have been dissipated, and we should have perceived that if sir Hyde's squadron could lay 10 hours before Fort Moultrie, and then sail away, he could have passed and repassed it with safety; and that the attack of lord Howe was confined to a narrow channel, obstructed by a cheveau de frise and the attacking ship Augusta took fire by accident from her own batteries, before the assault could have been pressed to one extremity. To these reflections we might have added the important fact, that on the 12th July 1776, two British frigates and three tenders passed all our batteries at New York, in the face of day, and in the presence of Gen. Washington, who observes on the occasion in his letter to the President of Congress, "They ran past our batteries up the North river without receiving any certain damage that I could perceive, notwithstanding a heavy and incessant cannonade was kept up from from several batteries here, as well as from Paulus Hook."

Thus much is premised to palliate past errors—to aid future enquiries, and illustrate the subject of these reflections, which may not I hope be deemed either presumptuous or affected.

In the course of duty some years since, I had occasion to direct my attention to several of our most important seaports, and their defences, which I found not only insufficient to resist invasions, but to repel predatory attacks. I will apply these observations particularly to New York and Newport, on whose fortifications the heaviest disbursements have been made—and I hazard nothing when I assert that they are insufficient to resist invasions; because landings may be effected beyond the range of their heaviest metal, and because their works are commanded by circumjacent heights; or to repel predatory attacks, because they cannot obstruct the passage of a vessel of war, and being erected in advance of the objects to be protected with their batteries to the front, when once passed they lose all power to annoy an invader, and of course our towns would be exposed to his depredations.

Struck by these reflections I was led to enquire minutely into the efficacy of the works I had surveyed, and of the merits of fixed batteries for the defence of our harbors in general; and after the most deliberate examination, I found the former to be injudiciously sited, badly planned, and constructed generally of defective materials; and the following objections against fixed batteries on the plan we have pursued, were suggested by the occasion:—1st. Their immobility destroy their utility, unless a narrow crooked channel should oblige vessels to approach them within point blank shot; which, if a 24 pounder may be estimated at 650 yards and render a change of wind necessary to carry such vessel beyond the reach of their gun.

2nd. They are generally so much elevated above the water, that when a vessel comes within point blank shot you are obliged to depress the muzzles of your guns to bring them to bear, which retards your fire, and renders it extremely precarious.

3rd. Because it is by accident only a cannon can be pointed to hit an object when in motion, and every moment changing its position.

4th. Because in unobstructed channels, no matter what their direction, a vessel with wind and tide, may not be exposed to your effectual fire more than ten minutes.

5th. Because optical delusions prevent us from ascertaining distances by the eye, with sufficient precision to regulate the aim of a cannon ball against any given object beyond point-blank range.

6th. Because it will require several shot even at a fixed object beyond point blank range, to give the proper elevation to a piece to strike such object successively.

7th. Because they cannot prevent a blockade; a vessel may find safe anchorage beyond the range of their guns.

8th. Because vessels of war may without extreme peril, lay before the heaviest and best constructed batteries a sufficient length of time to carry havock and distress to the centre of our most exposed cities—witness the late attack of Copenhagen. And,

9th. Because they operate defensively, and therefore lose the many obvious advantages of the attack.

It does not result from these facts that our commercial towns are insusceptible of defence by fortifications; on the contrary, it is acknowledged that by occupying the circumjacent heights with strong holds, and erecting heavy batteries on the wharves and approximate islands, to deliver cross fires from mortars as well as cannon, we may not only give them effectual protection against a coup de main, but may accomplish the original design of military fortresses, to enable weaker battalions to resist stronger until the natural or adventitious force of the country may be assembled and brought into operation; yet after all, it should be remembered that in general superior numbers, with equal skill and conduct must finally prevail.

But previously to the erection of fortifications, we should cautiously examine their utility, importance and expence; the number of troops requisite for their defence, and the capacities of the nation in men and money; and, it is also worthy of remark, that to render a work defensive, it must be equally strong in all its parts by nature and art.

Fortifications against predatory attacks are calculated for the immediate defence of places only, but against invasions these immediate defences must be secured by the occupancy of all high grounds which command them, otherwise you erect works for the enemy.

Low, flat grounds, partially surrounded by bays or rivers (such as the site of Charleston) should be environed on the land side with the utmost labor and skill, taking particular care to make every practicable application of water by canals and inundations, and on the water line heavy batteries of cannon & mortars, calculated to produce as many cross fires as possible, should be constructed; and it will also be found expedient to occupy the islands and opposite head lands from which the place might be annoyed; but in hilly countries, such as we find New York or Newport, in addition to the batteries for immediate defence, all the heights which surround the town or harbor must be fortified.

Defences erected on this scale, and agreeably to the rules of art, with durable materials, (and it is the excess of folly to build with others) would cost for the harbor of New York alone, at least one and a half million of dollars; and after their erection, unless suitably garrisoned, they would not answer the end of their esablishment, but would be exposed constantly to an enemy, and in the course of a long peace would moulder, decay and tumble to pieces. It may not be amiss to observe, in this place, that the wretched works heretofore erected in our harbors have never been adequately or judiciously garrisoned; and that at this moment those of Charleston, Cape Fear, Norfolk, or New York, might be carried by a coup-de main, and the guns be turned with effect against the very objects they are intended to defend.

Should the expence of putting up effectual defences and maintaining the necessary garrisons exceed the resources of the country, and clash with its true policy, it may be asked whether we are to rest the safety of our commercial towns and shipping, on the pasific disposition or good faith of foreign powers? To which we may reply in the negative, and add that it is certainly our duty to seek for these places of defence within the compass of our abilities which may be found most economical, most durable, and most effectual.

After as close a view of this question as can be expected from a man unskilled in naval affairs, I have formed the conclusion, that next to a superior navy, floating batteries will be found more effectual to the protection of our sea ports, and should therefore be preferred; but I speak with exception to long tide water rivers and narrow channels, because they may be commanded by fixed batteries and cheveaux de frize, yet cannot be secured by them against blockade.

In determining on the size, form and construction of such floating batteries, regard must be had to the services to be performed, and after due experiment, the best models may be adopted for tide water, and uniform currents, for bays and harbors, narrow, wide, open, or sheltered from particular winds.

The extent of our bays and inlets, the capacities of our harbors and the water-approaches to our great cities, have determined my judgement in favor of these vessels, calculated to be impelled with velocity, by the more powerful combination of oars and sails, to enable them to make rapid transitions, & to take any requisite station with promptitude.

In equipping armies, and manning these vessels, provision should be made to prevent their being boarded by light barges, and with submission, I would recommend that they should carry battering pieces of the largest calibre, and the lightest construction, on their bows and sterns. I have strong prejudices in favor of a proportion of 8 inch howitz because one shall which takes effect, will prove more destructive, generally speaking, than ten shot.

I feel confidence, that without extensive fortifications, and proportionable military forces to garrison them, that barges, gallies, or gun-boats, on the preceding or improved plan, with the co-operation of heavy moveable batteries, which may be expeditiously transferred from one part of a town or city to another, by means of horses will form one most economical, durable, and effectual means of defence, and afford the best security to the objects to be protected; and in support of this opinion, I beg leave to offer the following considerations:—

1st. Such vessels can either attack or defend, may prove as offensive in the retreat, as pursuits, and can approach or avoid an enemy at discretion.

2d In calms, their oars will enable them to take any station with safety, which may be found most advantageous.

3d. Their mobility will enable them in smooth water to hang on the bow or stern of a vessel, and avoid its batteries.

4th Their lowness in the water, will enable them to deliver their shot on a horizontal range, or at a small elevation which will give them more certainty and effect.

5th. In calm weather they may, without hazard, approach a vessel at anchor in a stream, to the point blank, fortice of a 24 pounder, 650 yards, or of a 32 pounder 850 yards, and preserving a steddy station, may give effect to every shot without fail.

6th. In light breezes, with sails and oars, they may preserve the same distance on the bow of a vessel, and if pursued, may deliver as destructive a fire, as if they were stationary.

7th. Should they be hard pressed, they may escape in shoal water and renew the action at discretion.

8th. In rough weather they may take station beyond the fortice of the the guns of a ship, from whence the superior elevation of their own pieces may enable them to deliver their fire with effect.

9th. Taking advantage of circumstances, they may drive intruders from our bay, roads, or rivers, and by forcing them to sea, may relieve a blockade, or render it less, close constant, or pernicious.

10th. They may be employed during the calm season, to transport stores or men from one port to another, with safety, even should an enemy be waiting; and lastly, in time of peace eight out of ten may be laid up under cover, & with due attention instead of injury may be improved by aid for a number of years.

But to insure these ends, it is absolutely indispensible that an officer of judgment, experiense, activity, zeal and courage should be appointed to the general command of the flotilla of each post. The immediate commanders of the vessels should be intrepid and perfectly acquainted with the conduct of them in all circumstances. The gunners and bombadiers should, be practically, and perfectly instructed in all their functions. The artillerists should be expert at their duty, and the oarsmen should be active and athletic.

I have professed my predilection for howitz, and hope they may be experimented to ascertain their worth; I am persuaded they may be employed to throw their shell with great effect point blank, or with an elevation; for we find at Gibraltar, in 1786, targets of 6 feet square, and of equal strength and resistence with the strongest part of the largest men of war, was fired at out of a 10 inch sea mortar, with a charge of 10 pounds of powder, the aim being point blank, and the distance 150 yards; the first shell touched the top of the target, and entered the bank behind, the second grazed shot 3 yards, and went through a lower corner of the object; the third took effect in the center of the target, passed through it, and entered the solid earth behind it 5 feet, and it was with much satisfaction observed, that in every instance the fuzes were not affected, and the shells exploded notwithstanding they had passed through such a mass of wood, and were lodged so deep in the earth—and in 1782, at the same place, the first observable effect on the Spanish Armada after it had been 10 times before the British batteries, were produced by shells thrown from howitz point blank, some of which stuck in the sides of the vessels, and exploded, while others entered their ports, and agreeably to the report of a Spanish officer and boat's crew, who were captured during the action, killed 30 or 40 men every explosion.

The distance taken for the experiment of the 10 inch sea mortar at Gibraltar, seems very short, and was intended to exemplify their application to naval conflicts. It is difficult, if not impossible, to reduce to a fixed rule the range of a shot or shell, either with a given elevation or point blank, because it does not depend merely on the calibre of the piece, or the weight of the ball, but is influenced by the length and weight of a gun, the construction of its chamber, the exact rotundity and smoothness of the ball, the weight and construction of the carriage, the state of the atmosphere, and the quality of the powder. But Tilke, an Austrian officer of repute, has, in a late work, given to an eight inch howitz, with a charge of 1 1 2 pound of powder, only 232 yards, for its point blank range, 414 for the visor shot equal to one degree elevation, and 580 yards for 4° 75 of elevation, which will give but a slight curvation to the flight of the shell, and of course will not sensibly affect its projectile force, or the certainty of its direction and its shock may be estimated from its weight, being when charged fifty pounds.

I submit these thoughts with great deference, being conscious of my incapacity to do justice to the subject, and in the hope their defect may be viewed with an indulgent eye; yet, am I so well assured of the soundness of my doctrine, that, with a suitable flotilla & the preparations premised, I would have no hesitation to hazard my reputation on the result,

(Signed) J. WILKINSON.

Fifty Dollars Reward.

FOR apprehending RICHARD GOTIER, who broke jail last night. He was committed on his confession of passing counterfeit checks; he is about 5 feet [illegible] inches high, fair complexion, light hair, grey eyes, very much pitted with the small pox, and pretty much round shouldered He was a sailor in the United States' service, had a blue sailor jacket and trowsers, a long blue coat, several white linen shirts, a pair of shoes and a very good black hat. The above reward will be given for apprehending and securing the said Gotier in any jail and giving me information thereof.

DANL. C. BRENT,
Marshal of the district of Columbia.

December 8—2awtf