## MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Annapolis, Thursday, April 16,

REPORTS Of Mr. Latrobe to the Chairman of the Committee of the City Council of Baltimore, on the subject of a Naval Depot.

R. B. MAGRUDER, Esq. Chairman of a Committee of the Council of Baltimore City.

I have great pleasure in giving you the information you desire on the result of the survey which I lately made of the harbour of Annapolis, at the instance- of the corparation of that city, and on the other points; contained in your inquiry. Igregret that a copy of myreport, in part, to the committee of that corporation, is not at present in my hands, that I might furnish you therewith; but shall herein repeat its substance, and I accompany it with a sketch of my map as far as it is completed.

Inquiry 1st. As to the advantages offered by the port of Annapolis to the establishment of a Naval Depot at that place; and in what points, if any, it may, in my opinion, be an improper or inconvenient situation for such establishment.

Answer. On inspection of the map herewith sent to you, the following points will be evident: That the inner harbour of Annapolis is completely land-locked, and as perfeetly sheltered against every wind, as any harbour in the world. It extende-from a line drawn from Horn to Greenberry Point, up the Severn as far as a bay, eleven miles distant, called the Round Bay. I have not as yet sounded the harbour higher up than the Horseshoe, situated about a mile above the town: up to that point from the inner part of the bar, there is at least twenty-four feet of water in mid charnel, in a great part of it from twenty eight-to thirty feet, and in many places from seven to eight and a half fathoms. I have been informed by respectable and intelligent men, residing on the spot, that from twenty one to twenty-four feet of water can be carried up to Round Bay. Round Bay is a circular basin, said to be three miles in diameter, and to have in great part of its extent from six to seven fathoms of water. As far as I have sounded the harbour, it is capable of containing a very large fleet with convenience. In many places, as at Brice's Point, there are twenty-rour feet of water within one hundreds yards of the shore, and at the Horseshoe, a biscuit may be chacked from three feet into twenty-four feet water.

The United States own a large extent of ground on the Severa, north-westward from the port, and along the south side, along which wharves may be conveniently projucted into eighteen and twenty feet of water. In fact the choice of sites for buildings and wharves, such as are required by the proposed escaplishment, is so great, that it is unnecessary to point out any particular spot as more convenient

This is the present state of the inner harbour, secure, extensive & deep. But it remains to be inquired whether, as almost all our harbours within fifty years, have been gradually rendered more and more shoul by the alluvion brought down by the rivers which discharge themselves into them, the same may not, in a shore time, occur to the harbour of Annapoless To this very important inquiry, I answer, that it appears from a chart in the council chamber, made in the year 1776, by a Mr. Garreston, and which I have proved, by my own survey, to be extremely correct, that there is now more water upon the bar, as well as in the inner harbour, than is set down in his chart, even ailowing that he has made the deduction from the neat soundings, which is usually made in sea charts by rea others, in order to give a due allowance for the trough of the sea in boisterous weather, and thus to avoid the danger arising from a dep ndance upon soundings aken

dep ndance upon soundings then in a calm.

Thus it appears that the water is now at least as good a lit was forty-two years ago, if the better, which fact is easily explained by considering the circumstances attending this very similar harbour.

The Severy, notwithstanding its extending the extra-

the south and southwest, is South tiver. The dividing ridge of those wa ters is extremely narrow, on the principal part of the land fall runs into South river. Between South river & the Severn, Carroll's of Spacreekar. tends for two miles, and receives the principal part of the water which falls in that extent upon the ridge. On the north-east side of the Severn, the head waters of Curtis' and Bodkin creek, carries the water into the bay of Baltimore, from a short distance from the Severn. The Severn itself, above the tide, is a mere rivulet, to that at the Indian Landing, which is at the head of the tide: and three or four miles above the Round Bay, there is still said to be good water, and formerly heavy ships loaded there. Under these cifcumstances, the Severn has a great advantage over any of our great rivers that extend into the country, and drain hilly lands. The alluvion that can possibly find its way into the Severn, is so very trifling, comparatively speaking, that many generations must pass away before it can produce any pernicious effect within many miles of Annapolis. And on this head it is important further to observe, that, as far as I have sounded, the bot-

tom consists of a soft impalpable blue mud. The surface of the country is almost invariably a sand or sandy loam. It is, therefore, evident that the present bottom of the river and harbour is not alluvion of the present soil. On the other hand, all the spits and shoals along the margin of the river, which have heen produced by the ruins of the head lands and high banks consist of sand, and are steep, (up and down.) This would not be the case if they were produced by the deposite of alluvion from muddy water.

The increased depth of the water in the channel, naturally proceeds from the nature of this estuary. The tide rises about two feet six inches at every flood; therefore, the whole extent of the Severn, with the Basin of Round bay, is filled with tide water to that heighth. The average width of the river may be very moderately assumed at half a mile, which including the surface of Round bay, gives a total of twelve to thirteen square miles. This immense mass of water returns to the bay through the channel between Greenberry and Horn points, in the course of seven hours. The waste of these points, since 1776, is very considerable, and is laid down in the map hereto annexed. The ruins of the land have contracted the channel in width, and rendered a greater depth necessary to the

discharge of the ebb. I now come to the second head of your first inquiry, as to any points of inconvenience attending the situation of Annapolis.

The only inconvenience attending this situation is the bar, which covers the outer harbour.

The extent of the bar along the usual ship channel, will depend upon the ideas of the Navy Commissioners of the United States, as to the depth of water which shall be considered as essentially necessary, at the entrance of the harbour.

Into the principal naval port of Great Britain, (Portsmouth) there is, as I am informed by Captains of three fathoms (eighteen feet) of water, nor can any ship drawing more water, go in or out with her full armament, or at least without bringing herself upon an even keel. If this depth is satisfactory, then

t will appear that the bar offers no obstruction whatever, because there was at an uncommonly low tide (February 7, 1818) nineteen and a half feet of water on the shoalest part of the bar, extending four hundred yards. But if twenty-four feet be necessary, then it will be found, that the distance between that depth without and the same depth within the bar will be twentysix hundred and forty yards, or one mile and a half. But no ship of war draws, I presume, that depth of

The question, however, arises whether the bar may not be removed.

The bar consists of a mud so soft that a pole twenty-eight feet long. shod with iron, went, by its own weight, to the depth of twenty-seven feet. Seamen have informed me that any vessel under good way could without possible injury sail through it. It is, probably, either tively very little land water. Al most parallel with the Severa, to the water; or, it is the product of the mouth the water; or, it is the product of the same depth by the attrition of the water; or, it is the product of the water; or, it is the

salt water of the bay abiling on ma. | ed of the toundings and rino vegetable matter, as L presume all marsh mud and dose to be, and has been hove in from the bay. This is the more probable, because the edge of the bar within the harbour is steep and gradually slopes outwards to the bay.

On four fifths of the bar there is from twenty-two to twenty-three feet of water, and on this part, therefore, the work of removal would be inconsiderable. On the other fifth from three to four and a half feet must be taken out. Mr. Eveleth, who has been long and successfully engaged in removing bars, estimates the expense of making a channel sixty feet wide, including the sum of ten thousand dollars for the machine, at twenty five thousand dollars. Through such a channel the heaviest ship could warp in, against the wind, even if pursued by an enemy, for the wind would keep the enemy at a distance.

Second inquiry. What in your opinion are the comparative advantages of Annapolis over the other situations recommended for the Naval Depot, or of those other situations over Annapolis?

Answer. On this head I should fear to give an opinion, if Annapo lis had at all fallen within the view of the Commiss oners of the Navy. who have reported on the three dif ferent sites of Norfolk, York river. & St. Mary's. And I beg leave, on the main points of the question, to refer to a very able report, written by Mr. Jeremiah Hughes of Annapolis, and printed by order of that corporation.

The principal advantage of situation is the security of the position against the attack of an enemy. The harbour may be admirably protected by forts ashore, and closed by a boom between Greenberry and Horn points, and the vicinity of this position to the population of Baltimore, and of the upper country, and to the seat of government, together with the ease with which the place may be fortified, renders it safe against an army that may land in the Patukent, and attempt the place in the rear.

To this it is answered, that Annapolis is seated so far up the bay, that no security whatever is afforded to the commerce of the Chesapeake by the works which may be erected for its defence; and that an enemy may enter and possess the whole bay, undisturbed by any resistance that can be afforded by a torce embodied at Annapolis.

This objection would indeed be fatal, if the object for which the Naval Depot is to be established, were necessarily connected with the defence of the Chesapeake; but in fact as the works erected for the defence of the Chesapeake, wherever it may be found best to place them, are the points to which the enemy will direct his first and fiercest attack-it appears to me plain, that of all situations they would be the most improper, at which to accumulate the incalculable value of artillery, and stores, and ships, and timber, and buildings, which constitute a Naval Depot. If we must suppose the enemy to be superior at sea, to be able to insult us in our own waters, and to land, where he leases a considerable military force, then no situation in the rear of which troops can be landed, and from which the mass of the population is distant, and the country around which is poor, thinly inhabited, and unable to subsist an army, can be a good situation for a Naval Depot.

But if the situation itself is secure from attack by sea and land, if the establishment is such in point of magnitude as is consistent with the necessary defence of the country, and is provided with the means of large and rapid equipments, and if, at the same time, it is so immediately in the vicinity of the waters to be defended, that a formidable force, prepared in security at the depot, can in a few hours proceed to the attack of the invaders, then I should respectfully presume, that the situation would be the best that could possibly be chosen.

I do, therefore, with great submission to the judgment of the high characters who have recommended other situations, conceive that situation more eligible, and that one so secure as that of Annapolis could not easily be found.

Third inquiry. Whether in your

cumstances of the bay and The elevated waters of the la-tapace and of Gwin a falls, pharing deed great natural, facilities docks, both wet and dre, which at Annapolis, and at the three other positions, can be only obtained by steam engines: but'then the alluvi, al deposits, brought down into the harbour by the several considers ble streams that discharge sthems selves into it, are an objection, which deserves serious considera-

With great respect, yours, &c. B. H. LATROBE, Civil Engineer.

March 13, 1818. P. S. I beg leave respectfully to observe, that I feel some delicacy. perhaps unnecessarily, in disposing of the information, obtained at the expense of the corporation of Annapolis, in the manner I have done. But the friendly use to which it is to be applied by you, and the impossibility of obtaining an answer from Annapolis in time, will, I am sure, sanction the communication.

R. B. MAGRUDER, Esq. Chairman of a Committee of the Council of Baltimore City,

I herewith transmit to you the chart mentioned in my report. It is a slight copy, but will fully explain those points in the report which require it.

Captain Brame has done me the favour to exhibit to me his chart of the Parapsco Bay, and of the Bay of Chesapeake as far as Sandy Point, the situation of which point is laid down in the chart which I send you. I cannot sufficiently express the obligation which I feel towards Captain Brantz, not only for the pleasure which I have derived from a survey, conducted and executed with such very unusual ability and accuracy, and the instruction which I have derived therefrom, but for the strong support, which the facts collected by him, and his opinion thereon, afford to my own surmises, as expressed in my report to you.

The concise result of these facts, which bear principally and conclusively upon the question of establishing a naval depot in this part of the bay, are as follows:

1. That the mud shoal which extends along the west side of the ship channel of the Chesapeake, and passes across the mouths of the rivers Patansco and Severn, in the form of a bar, is an original stratum, belonging essentially to the formation of the country below the granite ridge, and is not an alluvial bar

of the present soil. For, all the hard shouls, knobs. and knobls, which are so numerous in Front of the Patapsco, (and of which I know of at least one pro minent instance in the bay of the Severn,) are composed of hard sand, gravel, and shelly matter, and are pierced by holes, deepening suddenly from five, eight, ten or twelve feet upon the hard shoul, into twenty, twenty-four, thirty feet, and upwards, into the blue mud. This formation extends across the Potomac, below Washington, where I have found under an apparently solid bottom of hard gravel and sand, into which a pile could not easily be driven, a substratum of blue mud, nto which it sunk as soon as it reached it.

2. That all the sand, gravel, and shelly shouls and knobs, in these rivers, and in the bay, may and must be considered to be either remains of the present alluvial surface of the land, or to be alluvion brought down and lodged upon the original muddy bottom of our waters, by the rivers that discharge themselves into the bay.

3. This being the case, it follows irresistibly, that if this stratum of blue mud be removed by art, it will not be again lodged, but that the channel will remain open:-for it is a generally known fact, that the channels and holes of muddy bottoms do not easily fill up, the tenacity of the clay resisting the attrition and abrasion of the water: a fact exemplified in the blue clay sides of the Bayous of the Mississippi, and of the Mississippi itself, which, with an astonishing depth, are almost perpendicular; and, (as I know from much personal experience,) in the cozy shores of the east coast of England. Ghannels, on the contra ry, that are cut through alluvion, brought down by the freshes of existing rivers, are liable sooner or

CONGRESS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

Monday, April 6 The House proceeds to the spanished by the naval committee atte

The committee on Naval Affin to whom were referred recipled instructing them to enginte whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary and proper to be made in the several laws relating to the government of, the pary also, the proceeding of certain courts mini al lately held in the Mediterranen for the trials of captain Oliver I. Perry, captain John Healt, al captain John O. Creigton; also no memorial of certain midshipmen longing to the Mediterrange squadron, addressed to the pres dent of the United States, report The committee have examined

the several subjects referred to the

and are of opinion, that the general

regulations for the government d

whether the circumstances which lately transpired in the Meditem nean, have grown out of a defect the law, or the administrations the law, the committee, after an attertive consideration of thelaw, and the several cases determined undq it, think the defect is not in the land Their attention, has been particularly drawn to the 3d, 14th, pd 30th sections of the act "forth better government of the navy'd the United States. The sd seffe ing words: "Any officer, or other person in the navy, who shall be guilty of oppression, cruelty, to, shall, if an officer, be cashiered, if suffer such other punishment na court martial shall adjudge," &c. The 14th section of the said at, is in the following words: "Nooficer or private in the navy, shall disology the lawful orders of his superior of cer or strike him, or draw, or offer to draw, or raise any weaponaguest him, while in the execution of the duties of his office, on pain ofderth, or such other punishment as a cost martial shall inflict." The 30h section of said act is in the following words: "No commanding said shall of his own authority, dischift a commissioned or warrant office, nor strike, nor punish himotherwise than by suspension or confinement &c. any commanding officer offent ing herein, shall be punished at the discretion of a court martial." It will be observed, that the punished at denounced against an inferior of for striking, &c. his superior, and be death or such other punishest be death or such other punished as a court martial may adjust whilst for a similar offence committed by a superior officer sgaint inferior, the punishment is such the discretion of a court mind may award. In these two simples are such an inequality of personners, is supposed by may a mishment, is supposed by may a mishment. nishment, is suppose exist, as to call for a change of the law. This impression did the cape the attention of the competer tee; but on mature reflection, were led to doubt the propriet the opinion—striking, drawis pons, &c. on the part of incompanies a paint superiors, in military to a paint superiors, in military to a parties along which is the ideal. against superiors, in military to carries along with it the idea subordination and mutiny; such circumstances no military can exist, or if it exist at all, it be to purposes worse than the in all nations, who had correctly of military discipline, the party of military discipline, the past punish mutiny with death, his wested in their military that nor do they think it could be pensed with in this government, they believe the principle take. rect, that in free governments rigour of military discipline necessary, perhaps more so, little governments of a different class ter; and it is a circumstante understood, that persons goiss military service; part for the with a portion of their civil of the committee are of opinion; it would be inexpedient to the this pare of the naval regulated.

Their attention was next of the committee are of the committee are of the committee.

on of the committee They exasuch as a suspension for a certain leigth of time, below which in court martial should be at liberty so go, in adjudging the penalty to be awarded for a commission of the offence. But, on mature considerati on, difficulties, which the committee considered as great, if not insuperable, were believed to attend such a provision. Let us suppose that such is the law; when the case comes to be examined, it is found that a number of circumstances exist, which reduce the offence to almost nothing; or on the other hand, circumatances are discovered of a character so aggravated, as to give it a very different complexion. Let us take, by way of illustration, the two cases of captain Perry and caps tain Creighton, both now under the consideration of the committee; in the former, the committee see cir cumstances of a character, which in their opinion, would have justified a much more rigorous sentence of the court martial towards that officer. as high and deserved a favourite of no small regret, that the committee teel it their duty to express the opithe navy do not require to be changed. With a view of ascertaining nion. On the other hand, for a charge in part of a similar character, the charge of striking midshipman Marston by capt. Creighton, hey see nothing of sufficient imporrance to have attracted attention. Thus situated, numberless shades of difference attending almost every ase which can be supposed to occur, he committee believe that fixing by aw a minimum punishment, if it vere of sufficient magnitude to have ny effect, would be improper The committee think a reference to our ivil trials will illustrate this part f the subject. Thus in the trial y jury, that body exercise an entire iscretion, in all actions of assault ind battery, &c. and graduate the enalty to the offence, according to he circumstances of each case. It s also in accordance with the mild haracter of the criminal codes of sost of the states composing this Inion, in which a scale of punishent is graduated according to the egree of the offence. The comlittee know, that where the law en be defined with propriety, the iscretion of no tribunal whatever ught to be as much relied on, as roper legal definitions. They have ated the difficulties which presentthemselves, and which they find such a character as to induce em to consider a change unadvisle. The committee also state,

at it would be with much refuc-ace they would relinquish their nfidence in courts martial, com-sed of those officers whose conct has so justly merited the confi-nce of their country. The committee are aware, that examining the conduct of the orts-martial referred to them, the th of their duty led over very de the explosion that law which they could recommod would operate otherwise than the dwellings. e no power to reverse or unsetthe decisions, but these proceed s have been referred to them, as nected with the subject of the airy, that inquiry, having in grown out of them, they have ight it right to express the opithey have done. Indeed, the My to which the committee bes, and who have charged them the inquiry, constitute the d inquest of the nation, whose it is, on proper occasions, to ire into the conduct of the est officers of the government. e committee, then, taking into letation all the circumstances cases referred to them, trushat the officers of the navy, to n are confided the important entrusted to courts-martial; due regard to the laws of

country, ever to be held sacred ose entrusted with their exen, and constituting the only on between free and despotic ments, will exert themselves the wounds, with which the ine of the navy has been at hteatened; a discipline so adle in itself, and which was nown to exist till its effects witnessed by the world; and once, lost, the navy itself be a useless burden on the mity. The committee trushat these highly important erations will have, their due

vernment. States,' (2 as to subi who shall draw any w or officer, t

This mo decision, A much eart length in a motion bein committee ther considcordingly.

Marshal

These disti on a visit to tor Dupont. go out on : the late aw! der-works o rushed out to afford w cumstances just crossed magazine b struction in man at the was killed they appea men, that which they window, th quantity of

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ROI

Will stand to son at Mr. H. derate price per Mare, the first day of Jul dollars will be ed sufficient to derives his ped line, from Col. by the paternal celebrated hor turage will be cents per week for escapes or c