

40121 - 2 in my plans respecting Naval matters

Although I have not been so fortunate (in the opinions of those who have had the honor of starting upon my ideas) as to be successful in seeing them carried into execution, yet I am by no means convinced that they would not have done some good, especially as no other modes have been substituted in their places.

Yet at a time like the present it behoves every man in the station of life in which I have the honor of being placed to submit his ideas upon maritime subjects, and surely never a more important one presented itself than the defence of our native land. I am not one of those who hold the french in contempt as an enemy, I know them to be indefatigable in their pursuits and by no means

deficient in courage & carry their schemes into
execution, I am one of the last men to believe
that the french cannot be beat by an equal
number of English, I have seen the contrary
both at shore and at sea, but I am satisfied
you cannot make a french man surrender
without fighting him, and that sometimes
very hard.

Therefore it is not for want
of a thorough conviction that if the whole
french army was landed in England but
that ^{it} they would be beat.

My Ideas extend farther, that
we should be able to say to france, and not
as a Gasconade, but be able to carry what we
about into effect, you cannot land in our
Country, if there is a breeze our ships of war

shall annihilate your embarkation, if it
is a (alm our flotilla,

It is a common fact and if not
known I venture to assert it, that
nothing but a first Rate is fit to go alongside
a first Rate, and that nothing but a gun
boat is fit to fight a gun boat, the chances
of fortunate events does not take away from
the principle there laid down.

It therefore in very humble
opinion without in any manner lifting
the objections in our naval yards for the
equipment of our fleets, becomes a very
material object to have a flotilla to a
certain extent, I will say one hundred gun
brigs or Schooners. and 50 gun mortar
boats

It may be said what a time these Vessels will
take to build, where is the Wood, where are the
Shipwrights &c. My answer would be this,
Shall it be admitted that at a time when our
enraged foe is using every exertion to destroy
us that Britons are incapable of as great
exertion or even ^{than Frenchmen} greater. I am sure the exertions
of my Countrymen in every department only
requires to be called forth, and they will exceed
those of France for I should consider it as
disgraceful to be outdone in exertion in defence
of our Country as I should be defeated in
battle, with much deference I merely submit
my idea of the mode of getting in six weeks or
two months the 150 Vessels which I have
thought absolutely necessary.

The Gun Brigs for the present Service are not wanted to be built of such stout materials as those formerly, for the service being temporary if they last a little longer than the former flotilla it is all that is required, of course the vessels can be run up in a much shorter time than hitherto, and being lighter will both row and sail better, I do not speak of the less cost because I consider the dirty consideration of a few Pounds more all is at stake as unworthy the thought of a Englishman a man should be given in the City from not only our Surveyors but should be requested from other Builders or gentlemen who have turned their thoughts to this subject.

The Builders of London Bristol Liverpool Glasgow Liph Newcastle Whitby Lynn Yarmouth and every Port on the North Coast for the Channel should be desired to say how many they can procure

wood for building.

The time necessary must depend upon the number of Workmen employ'd, therefore the greatest possible number should be employ'd upon each Vessel, and throughout the Kingdom (if necessary) every man who can be made useful in building these Vessels should be called forth. True Patriotism will show itself and as many as are wanted will come forth, they should be carried free of expense to the place they are wanted at and their families not ^{to be deprived of} suffer any comforts in their absence.

The Shipbuilders of Great Britain are such a truly respectable set of men that every reliance may be fairly placed upon their exertions in sending such an important

service to their country, masts, sails and
 shipping may be procured & fitted in a week
 at farthest.

It may now be said were all
 the men to man them we want men for
 the feet and cannot get them from
 home should reply when the enemy are
 at our door can it be supposed that no
 man or set of men will step forth when
 we see so many volunteers on shore to counter
 their services in these vessels forbid it heaven
 that it should be said that the seafaring
 people of Great Britain are the only class
 who will not volunteer their services.
 many many plans could be hit upon
 to man these vessels. These are parts of the
 sea services which might go in these
~~vessels~~ they would never be sent out of

the Kingdom, a good Lieutenant ought to
Command and 20 men ought to regularly
belong to them who would know every thing
relative to their management of fighting, then
30 Sea Volunteers would naturally fall into
their places and the vessels would be fit for
any service, in Winter they could be secured in the
Port of White-Bologne such as Swan, Orze, Has-
tins, Shouham &c. I would have every 20 Sea
Vessels under the Command of a Master of
Swander, and over each fifty I would place
a Port-Captain with a broad Pendant, and further
if necessary an Admiral to Command and
keep in order the whole of them, which Com-
mand should ascertain degree be inde-
pendent of any other Admiral for the mana-
gement of these Vessels must be attended to in a
uniform manner, and as an inducement
amongst many others which could be brought

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I would call them by the names of the Places
were they were built viz: Whitby, No: 1-2. 3-4
the Lieut. I would appoint ^{if possible} of that Country and
the Sea Volunteers from that place & environs
should go on board those Vessels, the Corporate
Bodies might be induced to grant certain little
privileges ^{such} as Volunteered their services
such as Porters, unloading ships, water men &
in short as every man in the Kingdoms must
have an interest in not allowing the Enemy
to set foot upon British Soil many induc-
ements would naturally be held forth to
Sea Volunteers.

I would send a Master of the Navy and a
Boatman to see their Shipping Stairs fitted at the
different building places the Order for Shipping
and Canvas for their Sails can be there
purchased and the old Seamen of the place
and Sailmakers would fit them very
easily:-

— with respect to arming them that
must depend upon how the Enemy are
armed

Months when
Small repairs for
the defence of our
Coast April 1804