

Fred Maitland Portsmouth Dock. 3rd Oct^r 1833~~E 49~~

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Sir

I beg to forward for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a few observations I was enabled to make on the state of Cherbourg when I visited that Port.

The Port of Cherbourg is still in its infancy but gradually advancing to be of great importance as a Naval Arsenal. The Centre of the Breakwater has long been in state for receiving about 20 Guns, though none have yet been placed there, about 40 Guns to the bastion of the B^{attery} is finished, being a parapet of brown granite placed upon a mound of large loose stones extending one hundred fathoms on an inclined plane towards the sea; on the top of this mound they lay three tiers of wooden cases, one without the other, of about 14 feet long, and 6 or 7 wide, which are filled with loose stones and then a cement of burnt clay is poured on which makes a solid Mass weighing 18 Tons, when the cases are deposited in their places the intervening spaces are filled with stones drove light in, upon these cases is placed the parapet of Granite and there is no appearance of any part of it having sunk. - The Breakwater is about two miles in length, and has 12 fathoms at low water on each side of it, there may be nearly a hundred fathoms so far advanced as to be above water at all times of tide and the greater part of

of the remainder is even with the waters edge at low
water - Spring tides, there has been about three Million
Sterling expended on it, and the Estimate to complete
it is about One Million more; the annual sum
at present expended on it is about £10,000

The Basin at the Royal Arsenal is an magnificent
work, consisting of two parts, the inner Basin is capable
of containing 16 Ships of the Line, and 4 Frigates, and
communicates with the outer by a gate, which is
between 60 & 70 feet wide, and has a depth of 50 feet
water. The outer Basin is more capacious, but
having a wide entrance to enable ships to enter and
go out with facility, and the Break water not being
sufficiently advanced to protect it, so much sea
comes in with a Northerly Wind as to render it
disagreeable, if not dangerous for ships to lie there.
The tide rises 20 feet, and there is 30 feet at low water
in it. The plan or Model which I saw comprises
a third Basin, to extend the whole length of the other
two, which would probably contain 30 Ships of the Line,
but no steps have been taken for commencing it. - At
the south end of the outer Basin are four slips for
building ships, and one dock, the former having
wooden roofs over them, supported by stone piers. The
Dock is open, if the plan is completed there will be three
Docks in the large Basin.

On the slips are the following ships

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Greyhound. 126 Guns, has been 20 Years on the stocks
~~E 49.~~ the same length as the Ocean and other French
Deckships, with six inches more beam; the decks
relain) and she could be ready to launch in two
three months, her total complement is 1070 men, stores
for 8 months provisions and 4 months water

	Henry 4 th 100 Guns - 2 Decker	English
	Length of Loadline ^{metres} 62 - nearly -	206. 8
	Breadth ^{metres} 16. 20 -	54. 2
	Depth in Hold ^{metres} 8. 23 -	27. 6

Displacement 2452 Tons. War complement 900 men,
stores 8 months provisions & 4 months water, is to
carry French 30 8^{pr} equal to 32 8^{pr} English on all her
decks, has a lower deck on which she stores her cables,
stores &c.

	Agate. 90 Guns - 2 Deckers	English
	Length at load line ^{metres - cm} 60. 17 - equal to ^{about} 3	200. 6
	Breadth ^{metres} 15. 75	52. 6
	Depth ^{metres} 8. 0	26. 8

Displacement 4076 Tons. War complement 804 men, stores
8 months provisions & 4 months water, all her guns 30 8^{pr}

Diomedes. 84 Guns

Same description of ship as the Casopus all her guns
to be 30 8^{pr}

Two frigates of 60 Guns. Forte & Bellepoule

Dimensions given me in French feet

	Length. 166 1/2	equal to	178. 4	English
	Breadth. 43 1/2		46. 4	

Complement 500 men, all their guns 30 8^{pr}

Carries 10 months provisions & 4 1/2 months water. there

There are also on the Stocks two Frigates of 52
24 Guns each and another. They have in the Dock
the *Jupiter* a ship of 84 Guns of the same Dimensions
the *Diomede*, and to carry the same metal, launched
a few months since; she has her lower Masts in,
is in every respect fit to receive Men; and the General
a new 74 Gunship of the class common to the French
There is also the *Calypso* Frigate which got on board
of the *Palavera* last winter, she is to be hoisted up
to repair on the slip now occupied by the *Bellepouce*
as soon as that ship is launched. These three ships
are roofed over in a peculiar manner, a frame is put
up of light rafters, which over hang the ship's Gunwall
about 6 feet. Supported by stanchions and a fore and
aft piece at the top, as well as others at different
distances, to all of which the rafters are secured by
hooks, the rafters are at the distance from each other
of a breadth of Canvas so that the seams pass along
the rafters, to which they are secured by nails passing
through abroad plait of Rope Carries the width of the
seams, the whole costs about 15,000 Francs or £630
and can be taken to pieces and fitted to any ship with
a Nail being drawn, except those that secure the Canvas
the advantage of this independent of the facility of taking
it to pieces and adapting it to other ships, is the power
it gives of taking off any part of the Canvas and by the
means admitting air to the ship. There is very little

line in the Arsenal towards preparing Storehouses
 and work shops, of the first, there is only a large Store
 for Timber, over which is a sail loft, Black shop,
 and Model loft, a new Blacksmiths shop has
 been erected, containing 14 double Forges, and
 they are preparing a Foundry under the same
 roof. Whilst at Cherbourg I visited the Delaware,
 an American ship of the Line, which had arrived
 with Mr Livingston as Ambassador to France,
 commanded by Captain Ballaid, and bound to the
 Mediterranean where she is to hoist the Broad
 Pendant of Commodore Patterson, now in a Frigate,
 the first Lieutenant gave me the following as her
 dimensions, though I doubt their being quite correct,
 several of the questions I put to him he was
 obliged to refer to others for an answer to.

Dimensions of the Delaware
 American Line of Battle ship being at Cherbourg
 Sept. 22nd 1833.

Length of Gun Deck	-	207 feet
Breadth extreme	-	55 "
Carries 94 Guns	----	but 90 lbs
Lower deck	32, 42	pts of 70. 0. 10
Main deck	32, 32	" Common Guns
Quarter deck &c	30, 42	" Carronades

has onboard a complement of 900 men, all young
 and

and most of them Merchant Seamen - carried
Guns about six feet out of the water, and
shows 427 tons of Water;

I am

Sir

Yours most humble servant

(Signed) F. L. Maitland

The Honorable Elliot Esq.