

leave the ~~ship~~ from Portsmouth to Report, and contemplated to
taken the ~~Marines~~, with what little force I have in the ~~ships~~, to be
defended it, after moving all the stores on board the Gun boats, and
for want of men, and moved them up the river to some point where
they could be sunk provided the enemy pursued them, being satisfied
Captain Gordon could not render me much assistance from his weak
force, afloat, which does not amount to more than five hundred
thirty, for Frigate Gunboats &c.

Since fixing my battery, Captain Gordon
wrote me the enclosed, which I have pointed to, and procured
volunteers from Portsmouth to assist; the breast work is commenced
about two hundred yards in the rear of the yards, and in front
of my works, under the direction of Captain Thayer, Engineer,
with about one hundred and twenty or thirty men, Marines,
and Captain Tabb's company, the work being extensive in nature,
spanion will not be finished in four weeks, every thing required
for this breast work, is required from the yards, such as timber,
platforms, Guns and every thing appertaining to them, by request
of Captain Gordon, and the Engineer, the timber I shall
procure of the inferior kind, when finished I know not how
to be made. — I do not know what the War Department would