

Portsmouth & Fort Nelson, from which it is
very evident that the Navy Yard & Gosport may
with a little more labour and trifling expense
be made perfectly secure from any force.

Our Fort commands a plain of one mile ex-
tent in every direction, and the heads of the
two Creeks, within close musket-shot, which com-
pletely embrace the Yard & Gosport — a redoubt
of two or three Guns upon each of these Creeks, with
the Ditches already contemplated is all I conceive
necessary for its defence, provided the Officer
of the Yard will take care always to be prepared
to line his Wharves well with Gun to oppose any
force in front of the Yard on the opposite side
of the river, which is narrow and would enable
them to take a position to throw Rockets across.

A Survey of the whole with the positions of
the Fort shall be forwarded for your Satis-
faction —

As the Flotilla is now nearly destitute of men
& no Marines to man the Fort, except a small
Guard of 25 men detail'd from the Constitution

I have offered to enlist any number of the
Carolina Militia who will enter as Flotilla men
for two years. And drill them as marines for the
Fort or, to act in Gun Boats as circumstances
may require. Should I succeed in procuring