

**PROPOSED PLAN FOR IMPROVING
DOVER HARBOUR, BY AN
EXTENSION OF THE SOUTH PIER
HEAD, TOGETHER WITH PRACTICAL
OBSERVATIONS & ILLUSTRATIONS**

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Proposed Plan for Improving Dover Harbour, by an Extension of the South Pier Head, Together with Practical Observations & Illustrations by B. Worthington

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B. WORTHINGTON

PROPOSED PLAN FOR IMPROVING DOVER HARBOUR, BY AN EXTENSION OF THE SOUTH PIER HEAD, TOGETHER WITH PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS & ILLUSTRATIONS

PROPOSED PLAN
FOR
IMPROVING
DOVER HARBOUR,

(BY AN
EXTENSION OF THE SOUTH PIER HEAD, &c.

ALSO, COPIOUS EXTRACTS FROM VARIOUS AUTHORS IN
SUPPORT OF THE PLAN, AND SHEWING THE IMPORTANCE
OF DOVER HARBOUR FROM THE TIME OF ITS FIRST
CONSTRUCTION.

TOGETHER WITH
PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS & ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY
LIEUT. B. WORTHINGTON, R. N.

" Nothing extenuate,
" Nor set down aught in malice."

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ADDRESS.

IN offering the following observations to the notice of the public, I feel that it is necessary to explain some of the motives which have induced me to do so; as well as the cause of my coming forward thus publicly, partly, it may be said, in opposition to the present plans of the Honorable Commissioners of Dover Harbour and their advisers; and also the reason of my doing so at the present time.

1st, then, I declare that my motives are entirely uninfluenced by the most remote views of personal advantage; for, under any circumstances, I should decline the acceptance of profit or emolument of any kind, supposing the plans which I propose for the improvement of Dover harbour, should be adopted—This pledge I make without the slightest reservation.

2nd. The cause of my seeking the improvement of Dover harbour arises from a sincere desire to have it effected. I am also fully persuaded that this *can* be accomplished; and whether we look upon the port in a national or local point of view—at its importance as a packet station, as a harbour of refuge, as a port of communication with the continent in times of peace, or as a rendezvous for armed vessels in times of war, surely, to accomplish such an object, as its improvement, must be acknowledged by all to be highly desirable for the prosperity of the town, and the advantage of the country at large.

3rd. The reason of my coming forward at this time, is, more particularly to draw the public attention to the fact, that it is still contemplated by the Commissioners of the harbour to rebuild Cheeseman's Head, and to

extend the present apron farther seaward, (at least it is generally believed that this is their intention,) and as in doing this they must, of necessity, lay out a considerable sum of money in securing the land between Cheeseman's head, and the South Pier, I shall endeavour to shew, that by extending the said head, not one single advantage would be derived, over that which I propose by a breakwater; and that the principal advantages to be gained by the breakwater, would be entirely lost in consequence.

But perhaps it may be supposed by some, that I am travelling out of my course, by my endeavours to improve the state of Dover harbour; whilst others may imagine that I am merely exercising a professional privilege: but whatever opinions may be formed in these respects, I trust I shall be able fully to exonerate myself from any charge of obtrusive interference, when I state that the first impulse to do so was given by my being called upon to give evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to enquire into the state of Dover harbour; and that I never sought or expected to be called upon to give an opinion on the subject, having considered that my opinion would not have been thought of the least value in so high a quarter. The time, however, that elapsed between my receiving my summons, and that of my being called upon to attend, gave me some opportunity to direct my attention to a plan of improvement; and, by the time I was directed to appear, I had partially developed the one which I have since had modelled in an improved form, and which I have submitted to the inspection of many scientific gentlemen, naval and military officers, engineers, &c. many of whom have voluntarily sent me their testimonials in its favor. In the following pages I shall endeavour to give an explanation of these improvements, whilst I invite a further knowledge of them by an inspection of the model itself.

On being called upon to give my evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, I considered that it would be very unfair and unbecoming in me to find fault with the state of Dover harbour, or the works then in progress, without being able to suggest what I might think a remedy. The question having been put to me by the Committee, as to whether I had any plan to propose, in order to meet the evils