

**www.e-rara.ch**

## **The naval dry docks of the United States**

**Stuart, Charles B.**

**New York, 1852**

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich**

Shelf Mark: 21512: ED.2 | Q

Persistent Link: <https://doi.org/10.3931/e-rara-23949>

Letters.

---

### **www.e-rara.ch**

Die Plattform e-rara.ch macht die in Schweizer Bibliotheken vorhandenen Drucke online verfügbar. Das Spektrum reicht von Büchern über Karten bis zu illustrierten Materialien – von den Anfängen des Buchdrucks bis ins 20. Jahrhundert.

e-rara.ch provides online access to rare books available in Swiss libraries. The holdings extend from books and maps to illustrated material – from the beginnings of printing to the 20th century.

e-rara.ch met en ligne des reproductions numériques d'imprimés conservés dans les bibliothèques de Suisse. L'éventail va des livres aux documents iconographiques en passant par les cartes – des débuts de l'imprimerie jusqu'au 20e siècle.

e-rara.ch mette a disposizione in rete le edizioni antiche conservate nelle biblioteche svizzere. La collezione comprende libri, carte geografiche e materiale illustrato che risalgono agli inizi della tipografia fino ad arrivare al XX secolo.

---

**Nutzungsbedingungen** Dieses Digitalisat kann kostenfrei heruntergeladen werden. Die Lizenzierungsart und die Nutzungsbedingungen sind individuell zu jedem Dokument in den Titelinformationen angegeben. Für weitere Informationen siehe auch [Link]

**Terms of Use** This digital copy can be downloaded free of charge. The type of licensing and the terms of use are indicated in the title information for each document individually. For further information please refer to the terms of use on [Link]

**Conditions d'utilisation** Ce document numérique peut être téléchargé gratuitement. Son statut juridique et ses conditions d'utilisation sont précisés dans sa notice détaillée. Pour de plus amples informations, voir [Link]

**Condizioni di utilizzo** Questo documento può essere scaricato gratuitamente. Il tipo di licenza e le condizioni di utilizzo sono indicate nella notizia bibliografica del singolo documento. Per ulteriori informazioni vedi anche [Link]

## LETTERS.

*Letter from his Excellency the President of the United States.*

WASHINGTON CITY, May 11, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Your favor of the 8th, together with a copy of your work on the Naval Dry Docks of the United States, came to hand yesterday, for which I beg you to accept my sincerest thanks. The work is much larger, more comprehensive and beautiful, than I anticipated. I have as yet only found time to glance at it, but I am gratified to see that the public press speaks of it in high commendation; and the typography, plates, and binding, are certainly deserving of all praise. This is truly a national work, and I shall be pleased to see Congress patronize it in the way you suggest.

I am your obedient servant,

MILLARD FILLMORE.

HON. C. B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief.*

~~~~~  
*From Hon. William A. Graham, Secretary of the Navy.*

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, May 10, 1852.

SIR,—

I hasten to express my acknowledgments and thanks for the very elegant copy of your work on the "Naval Dry Docks of the United States." From the examination I have been able to give to it, it impresses me as altogether worthy of the navy and the country.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM A. GRAHAM.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

~~~~~  
*From Commodore Charles Stewart, Senior Officer of U. S. Navy.*

HILL OF HEALTH, NEAR BORDENTOWN, N. J., June 6, 1852.

DEAR SIR,—

I received a letter from Mr. C. B. Norton a few days since, which enabled me to find at the dépôt of the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company the work you have compiled on the "Naval Dry Docks of the United States," a copy of which you have done me the honor to transmit for my acceptance. For this distinguished attention of the Engineer-in-Chief of the U. S. Navy, permit me to return you my sincere thanks, united to the hope that the demand for this splendid exhibit of the genius, science, and mechanical talent displayed throughout the work, will command the attention of all maritime nations, as well as all persons interested in the efficiency of naval preparations, for the promotion of naval success and national glory; through a sufficient exhibit whereof, commercial nations can only secure and enjoy peace, with its valuable effects—national security and prosperity.

The elaborate and masterly manner in which the drawings have been executed, and the descriptions have been given, as well as the interesting details which it contains,—all of which are so well sustained throughout the work, by a faithful execution in its

LETTERS.

letter-press and steel engravings,—will, in all future time, render it, no doubt, a valuable book of reference to whomsoever may be engaged or interested in similar scientific and mechanical undertakings.

With grateful thanks for your kindness, I beg to unite the distinguished respect and regard of

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES STEWART.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

~~~~~  
*From the Chief Naval Constructor of the U. S. Navy.*

SIR,—

WASHINGTON, June 5, 1852.

I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter, together with your work on the "Naval Dry Docks," which exceeds in beauty and execution any thing of the kind I have seen

In the examination of it I have been much gratified, and, judging from the subject of the Floating Docks, upon which I have had an opportunity of acquiring some information, the work must be of very great value to engineers.

The scientific information, the minute detail, and the clearness of the explanations given in relation to those structures, are fully equal to, and such as their importance demanded.

With the highest respect, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN LENTHALL.

To GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

~~~~~  
*From Commodore Joseph Smith, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks.*

MY DEAR SIR,—

BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS, May 14, 1852.

I thank you for the elegant volume of your work on the "Naval Dry Docks of the United States," received with your friendly note of yesterday's date.

The book speaks for the author and the executors of the design, as well as for the parties connected with the construction of the Docks therein described, and needs no commendation from me.

These important structures were wholly confided to the engineers in charge to direct, and to the mechanics employed to execute, and to them the credit belongs; they show with what fidelity their several duties have been discharged.

The skill and industry you have displayed in preparing this useful book on Dry Docks will, I trust, meet with a favorable response from a discriminating public; and you have my best wishes that your future labors may be crowned with success.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient and humble servant

JOSEPH SMITH.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

~~~~~  
*From Commodore W. B. Shubrick, Chief of the Bureau of Construction, Equipment, and Repair.*

DEAR SIR,—

WASHINGTON, 13th May, 1852.

Accept my thanks for the copy of your very beautiful book on the "Naval Dry Docks of the United States." The subject is treated in the book in a manner suitable to its importance, and the book is got up in a style worthy of the subject; the first is creditable to the literature, and the last to the mechanic arts, of the country.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

W. B. SHUBRICK.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

LETTERS.

*From Commodore M. C. Perry, appointed to command the U. S. Squadron, on the East India station.*

NEW YORK, May 12, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I seize the earliest moment to thank you for the beautiful edition of your magnificent work, "The Naval Dry Docks of the United States."

Since the completion of the permanent Docks at three of our Navy Yards, works unsurpassed, if indeed equalled, in any other part of the world, and in their construction reflecting the highest credit upon their projectors and superintending engineers, a volume such as you have given to the world will be found particularly useful and instructive; and I shall cherish your gift, not only as a flattering evidence of your friendly consideration, but as a most valuable acquisition to my library.

With great respect, I am, dear sir,

Your obliged and most obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C.*

*From Hon. Robert F. Stockton, United States Senator.*

WASHINGTON, June 9, 1852.

DEAR SIR,—

I am under obligations to you, for a copy of your magnificent volume of the "Naval Dry Docks of the United States." While it does great credit to our country, as a specimen of the progress of the arts among us, it is, at the same time, in structure, as to national and scientific works, intimately connected with the interests of commerce and naval defence. I think, sir, that the country is much indebted to you for this complete and admirable work. It cannot fail to be of great use to the nautical enterprise and commercial interests of our great and growing republic.

Your obedient servant,

R. F. STOCKTON.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART.

*From Hon. Wm. M. Gwin, Chairman of Naval Committee, United States Senate.*

SENATE CHAMBER, WASHINGTON CITY, June 10, 1852.

DEAR SIR,—

I give you my thanks for your truly beautiful and instructive illustrations of the National Dry Docks of the United States, and I sincerely hope that your meritorious enterprise may be amply rewarded. I remember no national work so elaborately and exquisitely executed in its engravings and letter-press; and if your succeeding numbers at all equal the present, you will, doubtless, have cause to feel a pride in having projected such an elegant contribution to the arts and science of your country.

I am, with high regard, &c.,

Your friend, and obedient servant,

WILLIAM M. GWIN.

TO GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

*From Thomas Ewbank, Esq., Commissioner of the U. S. Patent Office.*

U. S. PATENT OFFICE, WASHINGTON, May 27, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I have to acknowledge the receipt from you of the most splendid book that ever came as a present into my hands, "The Naval Dry Docks of the United States." In presenting this work to the public in the highest style of art, you have set an

LETTERS.

example which it is to be hoped will be followed by both authors and publishers. Gorgeous dresses are often expended on treatises of ordinary, and even ephemeral value; while such as relate to those arts to which society is indebted for its chiefest acquisitions, have been pretty generally clothed in rags. Your volume will be hailed as a monument of professional patriotism and of elevated national pride.

After superintending the progress of the most elaborate structure illustrated in the volume—the Dry Dock in the New York Navy Yard—until its successful completion, it must be to you a source of high gratification to be able to present this lucid and appropriate account of it to the world.

Your style appears to me easy, clear, and concise; this is every thing in descriptions of machinery; and I congratulate you on the issue of a work that constitutes you an authority on the great subject of which you treat.

The idea of a series of such volumes is a bold one. How far success would be commanded, my experience does not enable me to say. No one will deny that you would deserve it; and no one, I am sure, will more fervently rejoice at every addition to your fame and fortune than

Your sincere friend,  
THOMAS EWBANK.

GEN. C. B. STUART, *U. S. Engineer-in-Chief.*

~~~~~  
*From General J. G. Totten, Chief Engineer, U. S. Army.*

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, *May 14, 1852.*

SIR,—

I had the honor to receive yesterday your letter of the 13th inst., accompanied by a very beautiful copy of your great work on the "Naval Dry Docks of the United States."

The book is published in a style worthy of the great national constructions which it describes; and I shall give my first leisure to a careful perusal, assured by a hasty glance at the contents that I shall derive much important instruction.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH G. TOTTEN.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy, Washington.*

~~~~~  
*From his Excellency the Governor of the State of New York.*

ALBANY, *May 15, 1852.*

DEAR SIR,—

I would gratefully acknowledge your kindness in sending me a copy of your valuable work on the "Naval Dry Docks of the United States." I have examined it with much interest and satisfaction. There was need of such a volume, to convey a correct knowledge of our progress in the class of improvements to which your attention has been directed, for some years past. You are entitled to high credit for undertaking to supply this *desideratum*, and I must congratulate you on the admirable success with which you have performed the task. I have seen no American publication better calculated to gratify a just national pride. The public appreciation of the work cannot fail to bring you an ample and substantial reward.

I remain, with great regard, yours truly,

WASHINGTON HUNT.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

LETTERS.

*From Charles Ellet, Jr., Civil Engineer, and Chief Engineer of the Schuylkill, Niagara, and Wheeling Suspension Bridges.*

PHILADELPHIA, May 20, 1852.

DEAR SIR,—

Though I have not yet been able to read thoroughly your work on the "Naval Dry Docks of the United States," I wish to express to you my great admiration of the book, which I regard as one of the most valuable, as well as most beautiful, ornaments of my professional library.

In my opinion, you are entitled to the thanks of the profession, and of all others who take pride in the great achievements of the country, for this excellent contribution to the descriptive history of our public works.

The plan which you have formed for continuing your laborious enterprise, and exhibiting in the most appropriate style the progress of the country in the production of sea-going steamers, in railroads, river navigation, and in other of the mechanical pursuits of society, appears to me to be admirably calculated to elevate the profession we follow, and to make and spread a durable record of the monuments which we have erected, and which we hope still to erect. The plan deserves, and I trust will receive, the hearty co-operation and support of every liberal and enlightened engineer.

I trust that you will receive adequate encouragement for what you have already done, and as well as that which you propose still to accomplish, and remain,

Respectfully and truly yours,

CHARLES ELLET, JR.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

~~~~~  
*From the Chief Engineer of Merrick & Sons' Iron Works, Philadelphia.*

PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I have to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of your work on Dry Docks, from the hands of Mr. Norton, and regret that I was absent from the establishment at the time he visited it. I have very carefully perused the work, and aside from the getting up in its mechanical department, (engravings, etc.,) which is very superior, I must say that I have never perused any work on engineering, in any of its various departments, that has given more pleasure. As this may appear a strong expression, I will give my reason for making it. Nearly all the works that have been published, give you engravings that are not sufficiently accurate to work from; in fact, they are *pictures* and not drawings, while your engravings are accurate in scale and authentic records of what they represent. The description of the various Docks and their details is very complete, and, to my mind, very clear. I shall do all I can to extend their sale, and hope that the sale will justify the trouble and expense. Yours truly,

B. H. BARTOL.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

~~~~~  
*From H. R. Dunham & Co., Engineers, Archimedes Works, New York.*

NEW YORK, May 25, 1852.

DEAR SIR,—

It is with pleasure and satisfaction we have read your excellent work on Dry Docks, from which we have derived much valuable and interesting information. We regard it as a standard work, clear, minute, and correct in its description of the subject, enabling the engineer to proceed with safety in the construction of similar works. The drawings we regard as the finest in any work of the kind produced in the country, and are especially valuable, because they are exact from the different Docks as complete and finished. It is seldom a work of the expensive character you have furnished in the copy sent us, is remunerative to the author; in this case, however, we trust the importance of the subject, and the able manner it is set forth, may prove otherwise, so soon as its value is known to the public.

With considerations of respect,

We remain yours,

H. R. DUNHAM & CO.,

*Engineers, Archimedes Works.*

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

LETTERS.

*From the Editors of the American Journal of Science.*

DEAR SIR,—

NEW HAVEN, June 5, 1852.

I have great pleasure, on behalf of the editors of the "American Journal of Science," in acknowledging your magnificent work on the "Naval Dry Docks of the U. S."

It is to us both a matter of surprise and gratification that you have been able to bring out this truly valuable volume in a style so worthy the present advanced state of science and art; a style, however, in which very few scientific works have ever been published in the United States. We hope that this enterprise may meet with such decided encouragement from the public, that you may be induced to record the history of our Naval Steam Marine in the same style. Accept our thanks for your polite attention. The July number of the American Journal will contain a public acknowledgment, but we have much pleasure in also making this communication to you personally.

Accept, dear sir, the assurances with which I am, very truly,

Your obedient servant,

B. SILLIMAN, JR.

TO GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*

~~~~~  
*From Wm. Sewell, Esq., Chief Engineer, U. S. Navy.*

DEAR SIR,—

PORTSMOUTH, VA., June 10, 1852.

I have received per your agent my copy of your work on the "Naval Dry Docks of the United States." I have examined it, and am very much pleased. You have spared neither expense nor labor in the engraving, printing, or binding. I have seen nothing superior to it; but the principal value to the practical engineer is in its contents, which are of the most valuable and important kind, and particularly in the illustrations of the Docks of American invention.

Being taken from structures of the largest size in successful operation, it furnishes to the engineer or builder accurate plans, drawn to a scale in sufficient detail to enable him to construct others like them, and must be of the greatest value to those engaged in public works, and should, in my opinion, be considered of a national character.

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM SEWELL.

GEN. CHARLES B. STUART, *Engineer-in-Chief, U. S. Navy.*