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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1807.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, February 4.

DEBATE on fortifying harbors and harbors, continued.

The motion of Mr. Van Cortlandt, to amend the second resolution, adding after the words *harbors* and other *armed vessels*, *shall depending.*

Mr. MITCHILL. I rise to make a motion—as it is possible the chairman of the committee on the fortifications of the ports and harbors will not return for some days, and as the session is coming to a close, I hope the House will now consent to consider the report in the committee of the whole on that subject.

The House agreed to take up the report.

Mr. MOSELEY. I should not have supposed that there would have been any objection to the amendment proposed by my colleague from N. Y.

I should not have imagined that the most trifling advantage for gun boats would be resulting to give to the President the discretionary power which this amendment proposes.

Are gun boats appreciative that so great a proportion of this sum will be appropriated to the equipment of gun boats, of different description as exclusively to interfere with their business? Previous to my journey hither, I should, there, have no doubt of this. If we are to judge from past experience, or from present appearances, we can be sure that gun boats are not destined to constitute the principal navy of our country; and that the principal part of consequence which we are to expect for our ports for harbors. The vessels which have already passed in this house clearly evince their destination on this point.

The President certainly has never manifested any partiality to gun boats, nor recently, I believe, any disposition to encourage a maritime force of any other description.

Indeed it appears from the documents before us, that he has not on the occasion instructed the Secretary of the Navy to consider that in his estimate it would be expedient at this time to build any additional gun boats. And if our ships of war, or frigates, are to be the principal upon gun boats, we cannot