

tons marked "42" (42d Highlanders) were found on its site. In 1812, this fortification was restored and called "Fort Lawrence."

6. On the land of Johannes Debevoise and Rutgers Van Brunt, half way between the Jamaica road and Brower's mill-pond, probably between Atlantic and Pacific, Nevins and Bond streets, a redoubt was erected, mounting five guns, and called *Fort Greene*.

7. About at the junction of Clinton and Atlantic streets, on a very steep conical hill, called *Ponkiesbergh*, and otherwise known as "Cobble Hill," was a fort of three guns. Its trenches ascended spirally to the top, where a platform was laid for the cannon; from which circumstance it derived the nickname of "Corkscrew Fort." It commanded Fort Stirling, on the Heights, and on that account was made lower by the British during their subsequent occupation, for fear that it might fall into the hands of the Continentals, in which case Fort Stirling would have been untenable.¹

¹ The precise location of this fort cannot now be ascertained. Lossing (*Field Book of Rev.*, ii. 806) and Dawson (*Battles of America*, i. 144) describe it as being "at the head of the tunnel of the Long Island R. Road, in the vicinity of Boerum and Atlantic streets," which is manifestly incorrect. Gen. J. G. Swift, under whose superintendence the lines were reconstructed, and Cobble Hill Fort rebuilt during the war of 1812, in a letter to the author, designates the spot as marked (1860) by a little willow-tree on the south side of Atlantic street, near Clinton. The Savings Bank, on the corner of these streets, is also pointed out as the site; and Furman, MS. Notes (Oct., 1835), says that "about 40 years ago, it was currently reported about Kings County, that the spot of ground about 100 feet northeasterly from the corner of Atlantic and Court streets, then in the old Red Hook lane, and near the foot of a fortification then known as Cobble Hill Fort, and afterwards, in the war of 1812, as Fort Swift, was haunted by the spirit of a murdered man." As nearly as we can describe it, Cobble Hill rose from old Red Hook Lane, now swallowed up by Court street, on the block now bounded by that street, Atlantic, Pacific, and Clinton streets, and was nearer to the Court street end of the block. As before stated, this fort was strengthened in 1814, and called Fort Swift. Fort Putnam was also strengthened and called Fort Greene.

In describing the sites of these fortifications we differ, as will be seen, from Mr. Lossing; but we do so with the respect which is due him as having been the first to attempt their precise location. In addition to a better opportunity for extended examination, and with that more intimate acquaintance with the topographical peculiarities of the region, which a local historian may be presumed to have, we have also enjoyed the advice and assistance of Mr. SILAS LUDLAM, the well-known City Surveyor, whose father, Stephen Ludlam, surveyed the old lines when they were comparatively plain, the field notes of which survey are still in his son's possession. From Mr. Ludlam's extensive collection of farm maps, etc., as well as from his long acquaintance with, and recollection of, Brooklyn as it was before brick and mortar had completely changed its features, we have gleaned many facts of great use to us, both in this and other portions of our work.

All Long Island and Brooklyn historians, previous to Mr. Lossing, have been contented with rehearsing the statements of Gen. Jeremiah Johnson, who has preserved

As we have already seen, the whole British naval and military force which had been concentrated in the Bay of New York and on Staten Island before the 13th of July, gave, as yet, no indication of the course or manner of their intended attack. Their movements seemed alternately to indicate an immediate readiness, and then a certain indecision. At this time, also, dispatches were received from England, announcing an important change in the French ministry, and the prospect of a general continental war, in which England would be involved. The conjecture that the tenor of these dispatches rendered the British commanders exceedingly cautious, and even anxious for a reconciliation, was further strengthened by the arrival, on the 17th of August, of a flag of truce from the British fleet. It was borne by Lord Drummond, who had already twice violated his parole given to the American general while engaged in similar diplomatic errands, and the conciliatory overtures which he presented were indignantly spurned by Washington, who availed himself of the opportunity to administer his lordship a severe rebuke for his former duplicity.

Washington, meanwhile, lost no time in providing against every

such relative to our Revolutionary period that history will not willingly let die, but whose description and maps of localities are too vague to be entirely satisfactory. The industrious Furman, who possessed the inborn antiquarian spirit of *accuracy in details*, has preserved, in manuscript, much interesting material relative to these points, which we have very freely drawn upon in the compilation of this history.

That these defences were by no means despicable, is sufficiently evidenced by the fact that some of them were retained and strengthened by the British during their subsequent occupation of the island. Major Holland, of the British engineers, testified that they were well and solidly made, and according to the rules of fortification, and that they could have been held by a sufficient force for a long time, but that they had not been entirely completed. We also have the following direct testimony of Lieut. Anbury, an experienced British officer, published in his *Travels in North America* (vol. ii. 340): "At a small distance from the town (Brooklyn) are some considerable heights, commanding the city of New York. On these is erected a strong regular fort (now Fort Greene) with four bastions. To describe the works thrown up by the Americans on this island, would be bestowing more attention on the subject than it deserves, as they actually cover the whole. They are not only on grounds and situations that are extremely advantageous and commanding, but works of great strength, that I am at a loss to account for their so hastily abandoning them, as they were certain by such a step to give up New York. I am induced to believe that Gen. Washington thought the Americans were so panic-struck after the engagement, as our troops pursued them close to their lines, that they would not stand an assault; and if his lines were carried he was sensible there was no place of retreat, and that his army must inevitably have been destroyed."