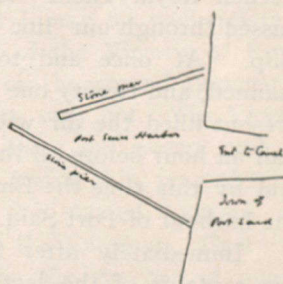
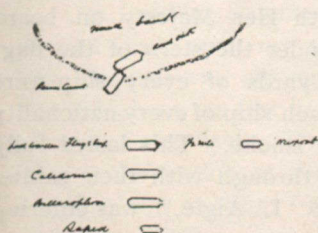


vessel was left at Alexandria at the disposal of the British Ambassador to Constantinople, who had been deputed to represent Great Britain at the opening ceremony.

On the following evening (Sunday) we had arrived within ten miles of Port Said, when orders were signalled the fleet to come to anchor.

At seven next morning the fleet weighed anchor and proceeded in line abreast towards Port Said. There were five ironclads, and the wooden sloop "Rapid." We in the "Newport" were ordered to take a position half a mile ahead of the flag-ship and signal the soundings, as the water was shoaling and no reliable charts were obtainable. Just as we struck five fathoms in the "Newport," we observed the "Royal Oak," which was on the extreme left of the fleet, changing her course, and almost immediately afterwards, it was noticed she had grounded, and the next ship to her, the "Prince Consort," changed course also, and collided with the "Royal Oak," smashing the quarter boats of the latter ship, and her own bowsprit and head-gear. Here was a pretty mess ;—and in view of the fact that the Empress of the French and her fleet, as well as the fleets of the other European nations and of the United States of America, were expected to arrive early on the following morning, it may be imagined how deeply chagrined the Admiral and other Officers of our fleet felt, at this untoward event.

The following diagram will enable the reader to better understand our positions :—



On examination of the situation it was found that the unfortunate accident was caused by dumping the dredgings of