

knowledge of this lake as any other man on it, and I believe you would agree with me were you here, viz: That this is the place for a naval station.

"I remain yours, very respectfully, &c.,

"DANIEL DOBBINS, U. S. N.

"*Lieut. J. D. Elliott, U. S. N.*"

This letter from Elliott was the only information Mr. Dobbins got from that quarter; and not being satisfied, he hastened to Black Rock, where he found a Lieutenant Angus in command; and as he (Angus) had not heard from Commodore Chauncey, or from any other source, of the building of gun boats at Erie (Presqu'île) he was at a loss what course to pursue. Mr. Dobbins, however, employed a skillful ship carpenter—the only one to be obtained—and returned to Erie, determined to urge forward the work with such house carpenters and laborers as he could obtain. Feeling the importance of the occasion, and not receiving instructions from any quarter, he wrote the Department, asking for such, and for funds, having expended what he had at first received.

The work was now pushed as rapidly as possible, having received instructions and funds from the Department. The winter was a very severe one, which retarded the work in many respects. It being still urged at the Department that Black Rock was a more suitable place than Erie for a naval station, Mr. Dobbins wrote the Secretary upon the subject, of which the following is an extract:

"ERIE, December 19th, 1812.

"*To Hon. the Secretary of the Navy:*

"SIR: * * * In regard to the vessels cut down, and in