

it will require a due Consideration to construct them; because the Vessels must be made able to carry their Cannon high, which may be six in Number; pointing forward, or aft; but as the Breadth of the Vessel will not at the utmost admit of more than three large Cannon to point forwards, it will be necessary to plant them in two Tiers toward the Midships, at a proper Distance behind each other, and the fore Tier to be about four and a half or five Feet below the after Tier, that the after Cannon may fire clear of the fore ones.

For the better Security and Defence of the Men, strong Parapets of Junk and other Materials may be provided, ready framed in short Lengths for the better Conveniency of Stowage in the Hold when out of use, to be ready at any Time to be placed in their Births upon the Decks before the Guns, in a sloping Position; whereby the Enemy's Balls, though shot from a higher Battery, will strike the Parapet with only a small angle of Incidence, without taking any considerable Hold of it, and consequently will glance and be reflected upwards*.

These Vessels being to fight their Cannon lying with their Ends to the Shore, it may perhaps seem as a Matter of some Difficulty to keep them from casting a thwart, but this may be effectually prevented, by strong Stakes shod with Iron, so contrived as to be let fall into the Ground on each Side the Vessel close aft, and to be taken up again at Pleasure; through Holes wrought

* The higher a Vessel carries her Guns. the greater Advantage has she in annoying the Enemy's Troops, as she has a better Command of rising Beaches, which frequently at low Water cover the Boats from the Enemy's View. And if the Water is smooth where the Troops are designed to be landed, such Vessels may be of excellent Service, by two or three of them being fastened together, as shall be explained in the next Chapter.