



Robert Fulton; his life and its results

Robert Henry Thurston

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1891 Excerpt: ...of the value of his inventions, in the course of which he blew up a vessel provided by the Government for the purpose, in the harbour of New York, and completely annihilated it, or, as Fulton himself said, "decomposed" it. Descriptions of his inventions and of his experiments were, a little later, published by Fulton, in his "Torpedo War," a book addressed to the President of the United States and Members of Congress. The result was that Congress passed an act permitting the extension of these experiments, and for some years after this date (1810), in fact up to the time of his death, Fulton was engaged intermittently in the prosecution of his studies, and in experiments in this direction. A commission was appointed to witness and report on his work, and Government continued its interest in the subject to the end. Reigart says that Chancellor Livingston, after a long examination of each particular subject which the experiments had suggested, expressed himself as follows:--"Upon the whole, I view this application of powder as one of the most important military discoveries which some centuries have produced. It appears to me to be capable of effecting the absolute security of your ports against naval aggression, provided that, in conjunction with it, the usual means necessary to occupy the attention of the enemy are not neglected." The reports were forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy by Mr. Fulton, with a letter from himself. His buoyant mind was never to be depressed. He gives his own views of the experiments, and writes with increased confidence in his ultimate success. He expresses himself satisfied with the report of the committee, and thinks their opinions were as favourable to the infant art as, under the circumstances, ...

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