

ton, who was designated by the War Department to locate the harbor, and direct the expenditure of the appropriation, regarded the terms of the act of Congress such, as to make it discretionary with him to locate the harbor at the South mouth of Pike Creek (Southport), or at Pike River, one mile North; moreover, it was affirmed that Col. Abert had been heard to express the determination to make the location at Pike River. This new aspect of the case, very naturally created a great panic; the work on every new building, with only one exception, (store of J. H. Nichols, corner of Main and Park streets,) was discontinued. Many improvements which had been commenced, were relinquished; real estate suddenly fell; many were anxious to sell out, but there were no buyers. The destiny of the town now seemed suspended on the decision of Col. Abert. On the 26th of August, Col. Abert arrived, and fixed his quarters at Boardman's tavern, corner of Market and Exchange streets. It was understood his decision in the matter would be given without delay; this was a day of intense anxiety to every lot holder. Soon after the arrival of Col. Abert, he was waited upon by the Hon. C. Durkee and two other gentlemen; when Mr. Durkee presented him with a paper which he desired him to read.* Col. Abert took the paper and looked it over, seemingly with much attention. In the mean time, the party waiting upon the Colonel, watched his countenance with anxious interest; a decision was pending which would settle the question, whether Southport was to be, or not to be. At length Col. Abert said, "Mr. Durkee, do you know the statements contained in this paper to be correct?" Mr. Durkee replied in the affirmative. "Then," said Col. Abert, "there is no alternative, the location for the

*The paper given to Col. Abert, called his attention to facts, which very naturally might have escaped his attention. People abroad, often labored under a misapprehension as to the distinction between Pike River and Pike Creek. There was a phrase put into the act, especially designed to apply the appropriation to the South mouth of Pike Creek, but which would not be likely to be so construed by any one not personally acquainted with the localities of the two places.