

In obedience to the directions contained in that despatch, I have desired the Commanding Engineer to prepare, with the least possible delay, the plans and estimates required by the Master-General and Board of Ordnance.

Upon the establishment of defensive works generally in the Canadas, I would observe that many points have been occupied as military posts in consequence of disturbances, which bear no relation to a sound system of defence against invasion in force.

In some cases great expense has been incurred in the construction of barracks as points of some importance, but unluckily these buildings are not only indefensible in themselves, but impede the establishment of works required for their defence.

The barracks at St. John's and Amherstburg are of this character, and I do not see how the science of the engineer can overcome this impediment.

I wish also to observe that the memorandum upon the Montreal frontier was written before I was put in possession, by the considerate kindness of Lord Fitzroy Somerset, of the report of the Engineer Commission of 1825.

Its professed object was to draw attention to the present nearly defenceless state of that important part of the frontier which, it appears from Mr. Byham's letter, had been frequently animadverted upon by my predecessors in this command.

It is certainly most desirable that permanent works should be established in this quarter, which has been always deemed the most important and the most exposed part of the frontier; and without works the action of the regular troops will be paralyzed from the necessity of their concentration at this place to supply the want of works, the construction of which in a substantial manner will require more money and time than will perhaps be allowed us.*

I fully concur in the opinion conveyed in Mr. Byham's letter, that works of a permanent description should be established in accordance with a well considered system of general defence; but there are some points which never can be neglected with impunity in any system, and I am yet unacquainted with any one formed by my predecessors; indeed it would be difficult to propose one free from objections, or to provide against future contingencies of war, with a country varying and increasing so rapidly as the United States of America.

Still there are points which must be always defended, and Montreal is, perhaps, one of the most important of these.

My late survey of the frontier from Montreal to Lake Huron has confirmed me in this opinion.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. D. JACKSON,
Lieutenant-General.

No. 11.

Lord Sydenham to Lord John Russell.—(Received January 8, 1841.)

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, Dec. 24, 1840.

WITH reference to my despatches to your Lordship of the 26th of March and 5th of August last, and to your Lordship's despatch of the 9th of May, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, a further report from the Commander of the Forces on the subject of the defence of Canada; together with a letter inclosing a copy of the communication on the same subject, addressed by the Duke of Wellington to Earl Bathurst in the month of December, 1825.

In submitting these documents to your Lordship, I beg to call your especial attention to the remarks of the Duke of Wellington in regard to the maintenance of communications, in time of war, between Upper and Lower Canada, and between Lower Canada and the Seaboard Provinces. In respect to the former, ample provision has been made, since his Grace's letter, by the construction of the Rideau Canal; but for the communications with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, nothing has been done. They are still in the same unprotected state as they were at the date of his letter, while the course of events has rendered our relations with the neighbouring States of the Union