



Defenders and Defences of Canada.

"I esteem it no small advantage, soldiers, that there is not one among you, of whose valor I myself have not been a spectator, so as to be able to name the times and places of your achievements"

HANNIBAL.

Without pretending to point out the devoted conduct, and sufferings, of the people of Canada during the war of 1812, 13 and 14, a period so interesting and honorable in the history of the country, I hope I shall be pardoned for offering a few remarks connected therewith, and for adverting to our apparently neglected condition for defence, should a recurrence of hostilities take place, which for the sake of Christianity, and Humanity, it is fervently to be hoped may never happen; nevertheless there is reason to apprehend that such an event may fall out upon the first chance, contrary to all our hopes of peace, when we find that our neighbours are setting up a claim to what they call "a sort of prescriptive right" to our fisheries on the one hand, and the free navigation of the St. Lawrence on the other, the latter being what they are pleased to term "a kind of half-claim maintained by their ablest statesmen since the revolution." The idea of making any allusion to the foregoing subjects, is suggested by a feeling that, the lull of peace which we have for such a length of time enjoyed, will, ere long, be disturbed, because there are

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