

shore opposite to Buffalo, and the Grand River; having established himself here, he would be in short and direct communication with his own country.

If he find no obstacles in his way, he would occupy Burlington Heights and Bay, and separate our troops in the Western district from those below it.

The Commission of 1825 recommended the construction of a fortress on the Short Hills, for the protection of the Niagara Peninsula, to which I do not know that any other objection could be offered, but its expense.

I have said nothing of the intermediate tract of country between the Trent River and Burlington, because I do not consider it much exposed to an attempt of magnitude; or of the line of the Trent; or of the communications between Toronto and Penetanguishene; not because they are not of importance, but from a wish to confine my observations to those points of the frontier that are universally deemed most assailable by an enemy in force.

The 4th, or Western district, comprehends the remaining part of the Canadian Frontier, encircled by water, between the Grand River and Lake Huron.

On the northern shore of Lake Erie there are some small ports, or harbours, affording landing-places for desultory attacks, but no one well calculated for the debarkation of a large force, considered in connection with the state of the interior country and its communications.

It is, however, understood that the Ronde-Ean Lake is capable of being improved into a good harbour, so as to become a post of consequence from its proximity to Chatham, with which it is said that it might be connected by a canal.

Chatham must become a place of depôt and support to the Western frontier, in time of war.

London is the central post of the Western district, and of support to the whole of its frontier: roads diverge from it in every direction.

It may be scarcely necessary to do more than advert to the bad state of the roads generally in Canada and particularly in the Western district; they would render military operations difficult in this district, except in summer. They either follow the course of rivers and streams, or are cut through the bush, where there are few clearances or settlements. It is therefore a country favourable for defence by a comparatively small force, from these circumstances, and from the paucity of lateral roads by which the retreating party may be turned. An enemy's supplies, if he be in force, must accompany him, if he leave the Lake Road, and communication with his shipping; and on that road even, he would find little cover or assistance from the country.

Amherstburg, with the Island of Bois-Blanc, at the entrance of the Détroit River, form together a good roadstead; it was supposed to command the passage of this river, but it is ascertained that as large vessels as are used in the Lake navigation can pass, out of fire, between Grosse Isle and the American shore.

Amherstburg retains, however, a considerable interest and importance from being a naval station, and from being at present our best rallying point for the militia of the country.

Port Sarnia is situated at the junction of the St. Clair River with Lake Huron; it is a good little port, with a sufficient depth of water; the river here is narrow, and there are rapids near its entrance; the bank on our side commands the entrance of the American Port Huron, and the entrance of the Lake of that name.

It is not supposed that an enemy would attempt invasion, on a large scale, by the Détroit frontier; there are no works, however, at present to retard him an instant.

I do not enter into the question here, which has been often agitated, whether it be likely or not that an enemy may attempt to seize on Penetanguishene, and move in force upon Toronto, thus turning all the western district, and taking in reverse all our defences on that and our Niagara frontier. This appears to me a remote danger, notwithstanding the rapid rise of new states adjoining Michigan, which last had only 5000 inhabitants in 1812.

Having given an outline of the Canadian frontier, I shall proceed to submit my views as to the arrangements adapted to its defence.

It appears necessary to inquire, 1st, what are the points most assailable