

British waters. The true mode of protecting British ships on the sea would be by establishing a strict blockade on the American coast, and, if possible, driving the American flag from the ocean.

Considering the development of the American navy during the present civil war, this blockade can only be maintained by powerful ships, capable of moving at high speed, with a proportion of iron-clad vessels which could hold their own against the iron-clad navy of America. For the maintenance of these ships upon the coast of America, large supplies of fuel near at hand are requisite, and docks for repairs and for keeping the bottoms of the ships free from weed and other substances which may retard their speed. Docks also are required for refitting ships after an action. Without such dépôts and docks, there would always be a risk that a disastrous gale of wind, or a severe naval action, even though successful, might deprive us for a time of the services of the blockading fleet, and set free a number of cruisers to prey upon commerce in all parts of the world, and to embarrass our communications with the colonies.

It would therefore appear essential to the maintenance of the blockade, that advantage should be taken of our Transatlantic possessions, to establish dockyards and dépôts of fuel in suitable positions with reference to the coast of the United States, and to place them by fortification in conditions of perfect