

Abraham, could imperil Quebec, and under the conditions of modern warfare, the whole *insula* of Quebec, from Cape Diamond to Cape Rouge, could be made an impregnable refuge for the population, the flocks and the herds, the supplies and resources of the southern, eastern and northern counties. The whole strength of the lower Districts of Quebec could be assembled within that *enceinte* if required for its defence, with ample space to live and move and have their being, covered by intrenchments which three times their number would assail unsuccessfully, even presupposing that the flag of England had first been swept from our waters, and an assault made possible by the co-operation of the American navy.

So long as the war-ships of England command these waters the north shore of the St. Lawrence is safe; but to secure this superiority beyond peradventure we must also hold fast to the port of Sorel. This is the only port of construction and of safe winter refuge between Quebec and Montreal. It is 45 miles below the latter city, and being at the mouth of the River Richelieu, would, in the hands of the Americans, become a dockyard and a fortress at the same time. Water communication between Lake Champlain and Sorel is, in the summer, open and good; stores, both naval and military, could be transported to this point, from whence the navigation of the St. Lawrence may be obstructed by batteries, and where an armed flotilla might be prepared under shelter.

It is well to know, that this most important point has been, for long, under the careful eye of our Royal Engineers, that lines have been planned, and a system of defence projected, which, on the first rumor of war, could be realized, and would make Sorel strong, whether for defence or for offence, in connection with a similar system of fortified outworks, devised and provided for the protection of the City of Montreal.