

The old magazine has been converted into a defensible post for the protection of the barracks.

A permanent work constructed at this station would impede the operations of an invading force, and check any insurrectionary movements on the Richelieu.

No. 2.

J. Stephen, Esq., to R. Byham, Esq.

Sir,

Downing Street, January 13, 1840.

I AM directed by Lord John Russell to transmit to you herewith a copy of a communication from Lieutenant-General Lord Seaton, containing a report on the subject of the military works, which he is of opinion should be established on the American frontier of Upper and Lower Canada.

This Report contains the following recommendations:—

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| 1. That barracks should be erected at Chambly, St. John's La Prairie, and Amherstburg, the probable expence of of which Lord Seaton estimates at | £60,000 |
| 2. That permanent works of defence should be constructed at Amherstburg, Niagara, and St. John's, those at Amherstburg being estimated at | 70,000 |
| At Niagara at | 70,000 |
| And at St. John's at | 40,000 |
| Making a total cost of | £240,000 |

Lord John Russell being desirous that the question of the military defences of the Canadas should be forthwith taken into consideration, and finally determined, I am to desire that you will submit the inclosed communication to the Master-General and Board of Ordnance, requesting them to report to his Lordship how far any of the above works have been estimated for, or proceeded with by the officers acting under their Board, accompanying such report with any information which may be in their possession relating to this subject.

I have, &c.,

J. STEPHEN.

No. 3.

Sir H. Vivian to Lord John Russell.

My Lord,

Office of Ordnance, March 4, 1840.

I HAVE delayed answering the letter of Mr. Stephen, of the 13th January, addressed to Mr. Byham, on the subject of the Defences of the Canadas, until I had an opportunity of learning whether Lord Seaton's proposition, contained in his letter of the 30th December last, had reference to entire new works which he considered it necessary should be constructed, or solely to an additional expenditure on the existing works, on which already, within a short period, considerable sums have been expended. From an interview I have this morning had with his Lordship, I find it is his opinion that new and complete works should be built at the different stations of Amherstburg, Niagara, and St. John's, and that these works should be of a permanent nature; and, when completed, the existing works at the same places may be got rid of.

From the information received from Lord Seaton, and by what I have been enabled to learn, after a careful perusal of the proceedings of the Commission appointed by the Duke of Wellington, in 1825, and his Grace's letter to Lord Bathurst, of the 1st March, 1819, I can have no doubt of the necessity of constructing the works of defence now recommended by Lord Seaton. In conjunction with the works now in progress at Quebec, Kingston, and Halifax,