

Kingston is a place of the greatest importance to us, and should be protected by a system of good permanent works, in order to resist attempts that may be made against it by the following operations:—

1st. From Plattsburgh (on the Champlain avenue) by Ogdensburg, or from Plattsburgh by Sackett's Harbour.

2nd. From the Hudson by the Erie Canal, by Oswego and Sackett's Harbour.

3rd. By operations directed against it from the Niagara Peninsula, if that fall into the power of the enemy.

The 3rd, or Niagara district, is supposed to extend from the mouth of the Trent River in Ontario to the mouth of the Grand River in Lake Erie.

Besides Kingston, the only natural harbours on the north shore of Lake Ontario are Presqu'Isle, Toronto, and Burlington Bay.

In calm weather troops might land in other small harbours, and there is no safe anchorage in all winds along the coast, excepting the above, and in the Bay of Quinte.

It is very desirable that the long-projected canal across the isthmus that joins Prince Edward's Island to the main land, should be completed. The advantage of this canal would be very great, particularly if the Trent Navigation be finished.

It is also to be desired that the roads between Kingston and Hamilton be kept in order. From Toronto to Hamilton there are two roads: they unite before reaching Burlington Heights, near Hamilton, where there is a wooden bridge across the head of Burlington Bay, which ought to be protected.

It is of the greatest importance to us to have a naval superiority on Lake Ontario.

It would enable us to send troops promptly from Kingston and Toronto to Burlington Bay and Heights, and it would secure the left or eastern flank of the Niagara peninsula.

It would enable us to threaten, and, perhaps, act against the southern coast of the lake, within reach of the Erie Canal.

The improvement, therefore, of the entrance to Burlington Bay is of consequence, and certainly, in a military point of view, the original entrance near Flamboro' Heights is preferable to the present.

The American fort Niagara, at the entrance of the river, commands our small bad fort of Mississauga, and when the enemy shall have driven us from it, he may, if tempted by the temporary command of the lake, as well as river, to throw troops across in this direction, and may convert the abandoned work to use, as a tête de pont; but invasion is more to be apprehended between the Chippewa and Grand Rivers, unless he deprive us of our ascendancy on Lake Ontario.

It has been observed that Lake Ontario is free from obstruction by ice, at least one month earlier than the St. Lawrence; he could (if the navigation be open to him) send his expedition to the northern shore of the lake, or to the eastern side of the Niagara Peninsula, some weeks before reinforcements could arrive to our troops from Montreal.

It seems, therefore, necessary to defend Burlington Heights and Bay by a permanent work, particularly as Hamilton should be one of our depôts for the Niagara and Western districts.

The most favourable line of operations for an enemy debarred from acting by Lake Ontario, from our naval superiority, would be either from Buffalo, or from his posts in Lake Erie, or from both, in combination, perhaps, with a subordinate force, threatening the Western district from the Detroit River, to engage our attention, and cause a movement of our troops at London in that direction.

The points of departure for his expedition against the Peninsula would be—1st. From Buffalo, drawing the resources of the Eastern States by the Erie Canal, or—2nd. From Port Erie and neighbouring Ports, receiving his supplies from Pittsburg, and even from New York, by the Alleghany Canal, or—3rd. From Cleveland, supplied by the Ohio Canal from the Central States; or lastly, from Landuskey, being in communication with the Western States.

The best landing-places for a large expedition will be found between the