

tion of Rouses Point at the head of Lake Champlain on the frontier within 40 miles of Montreal, being the final point of concentration for attack upon Montreal, the defenceless commercial and strategical capital of Canada, to which the Vermont Central and a network of other railroads converge.

Perhaps no better proof of the absolute certainty of Montreal as an objective, and no more complete idea of the inevitable lines of the United States military operation, can be gained than by a study of the twenty-five routes advertised to the Centennial Exhibition of 1876.

A glance at the map before the construction of railways shows that the mountainous regions of the Adirondacs, &c., the Catskills on the west, the White Mountains and the rugged territory of Maine on the east, restricted communications to the channels of the Hudson, Lake Champlain, and the Richelieu Valley, and will explain why history has so often, and will again repeat itself here as elsewhere. The war-path of the Iroquois and Mohawk was followed by the retaliatory expeditions of the French Canadian voyageur soldiers, and then again by British, Colonial, and United States invasions of Canada, down to the last futile effort of a Fenian mob. The tide of war has ever rolled along the channels that nature and art have made it share with commerce and travel. The lately projected Caughnawaga Canal may, it is hoped, never be constructed to admit United States gunboats up the Hudson from the sea, and so complete the communications of Lake Champlain from New York to the St. Lawrence for the enemy who, having seized the Victoria Bridge, and established batteries on the south bank of the river, could bombard the town. The wealthy commercial classes of Montreal would have to pay a very heavy contribution towards the subjugation of their country. Canada would be cut in two by the capture of Montreal, which is the head of the sea navigation of the St. Lawrence, and the focus of all communications by land and water between Upper and Lower Canada and the maritime provinces; the defence of the country would be severed; Ontario being cut off from Quebec and the maritime provinces, as well as from any aid from Great Britain. An enemy holding Montreal, with its network of communications converging upon it from his basis of supply, could easily maintain himself in the natural fortress island on which the city is built, and contain any force coming from Ontario, hold the communications to Ottawa, the capital of the country, while they proceeded to lay siege to Quebec. The St. Lawrence itself with its tributary of the Richelieu Canal and the roads and railroads following the line of country in a north-eastern direction, would become fresh lines of communication and supply, to an enemy operating against Quebec. If Quebec, Montreal, and Kingston were put in a proper state of defence, an enemy would be obliged, in aiming at the severance of communication between Ontario and Quebec, the maritime provinces and Great Britain, to carry on three extensive expeditions simultaneously, each involving the necessity of a protracted siege, and considering the short period during which military operations on a large scale can be carried on in