

line deviates from the course of the waters, which will, in general, prescribe the obvious direction of the Canal.

The survey of the River St. Lawrence from Johnstown, to the Eastern Boundary of the Province, has been left unattempted by the Commissioners. The reason for omitting a work, evidently claiming their attention, as indispensable to the completion of the purposes regarded by the Statute, are fully stated in the Reports. It will be seen that according to their opinion, the expense of such survey should be defrayed jointly by the Provinces, from the fund now in the Treasury of Lower Canada, collected on rafts, &c. passing Chateauguay; more especially as in the year 1823, the Legislature had addressed the Lieutenant Governor on the subject of this fund, and at their request, His Excellency had recommended to the Arbitrators (then about to make an award on the arrears of revenue due Upper Canada) that provision should be made from it for an accurate survey of the River St. Lawrence, above Montreal.

It seems that the Arbitrators took the subject into their consideration agreeably to the desire of the Legislature and the Lieut. Governor, and concurred in the opinion that "Commissioners should be appointed without loss of time, to inquire into the state of the navigation of the River Saint Lawrence, to suggest improvements, and to procure plans and estimates accordingly"; that the expense which might be thus incurred "ought to be defrayed in equal proportions by the two Provinces;" and that "the sum remaining unexpended of the fund heretofore raised in Lower Canada, for the partial improvement of the River, should be applied generally to that purpose." This determination of the Arbitrators was followed by an act of our Legislature,* confirming it on the part of this Province; but the Parliament of Lower Canada, having neglected to afford a similar sanction on its part, no survey upon the equitable plan submitted by the Arbitrators could be effected—If done at all, it must have been undertaken wholly at the charge of Upper Canada, although promising at least equal utility to the commerce of the sister Colony. Our Legislature, sensible of its necessity, (especially since by the loss of Barnhart's island) we are deprived of the main and only navigable channel of the River has at length resolved to institute a survey at its sole expense; and in pursuance of this resolution, Mr. Clowes has been directed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to proceed with the examination during the present season. It is said that Mr. Clowes has succeeded in discovering an advantageous course for a Canal along the banks of the river opposite to Barnhart's Island; and that he has carried his levels over the whole country, bordering on the river from thence upwards to Johnstown, and noted all the facilities, as well as the obstacles, within that space, that are connected with the improvement of the navigation. The desideratum in the Reports of the Commissioners will thus be speedily supplied.

In the event of the estimates of Mr. Clowes proving, when laid before His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, as encouraging as it is supposed they will be, the Province, relieved from the question of the Rideau Canal, may direct her undivided energies to the improvement of the frontier waters; and even if she should be forced by the unfortunate want of co-operation on the part of Lower Canada, to contend, with her own resources, against the rapids of the St. Lawrence, she may undoubtedly accomplish much by a judicious application of the means at her disposal. If a loan on the principle suggested in the correspondence of the Provincial Arbitrators in 1823,† is not to be hoped for, greater consideration will be necessary on the part of our Province, in digesting a plan of operations for the gradual improvement of the river within our own boundaries, for gradual, as well as incomplete, it must unfortunately be, while Lower Canada stands aloof, and declines to unite her efforts with ours, in the noble cause of *national* improvement. Under such circumstances, it may not be advisable to engage in any work exceeding in dimensions the Canal at Lachine; for whatever may be the general impression, with regard to the advantages that might be derived from improvements having in view, a sloop, or steamboat navigation along the whole course of the river, projects of this nature, must, perhaps, be deferred until the Province shall have arrived at a greater degree of maturity and vigor.‡

* See Statute 4, Geo. 4. cap. 22.

† See Appendix.

‡ It may not be amiss in this place to advert to a suggestion made by persons who have been in Holland, and admired the flat-bottomed craft there used in navigation. These vessels, in the management of which, the Dutch are wonderfully expert, while they draw little water,