

military officers, with whom might be associated some others specially qualified, whose experience in the resources of the empire and in the conduct of public affairs, combined with a knowledge of America, might regulate the deliberations of the naval and military men, and keep them within the limits of the possible.

Such a deliberate consideration of the possibility of war with the United States would, without a publication of details, carry weight with the country ; it would ensure the acceptance of the recommendations emanating from it, and would not lead to debates on the defence of Canada ; but the subject would be treated as an Imperial question of Imperial magnitude, in a way which would probably carry conviction and obtain the concurrence of Parliament.

Looking at the possibility of war from this point of view, the first thing that presents itself is the necessity for blockading the American coasts, with the double object of keeping open the navigation of the sea for the commerce of Great Britain, and of maintaining the communications for military purposes between Great Britain and her colonies. Unless this blockade be established and maintained, American ships of war would be met with on all parts of the ocean ; the conveyance of stores, materials, or reinforcements to any of the colonies would be attended with risk, and American cruisers might even be found preying on British commerce in