

If by the establishment of these two works we can reduce the naval superiority of the United States on Lake Erie, we shall contribute to the safety of the Niagara peninsula; and if, in addition, we obtain, through the effect of these works, an influence and control over the "rich and productive states in rear of Lake Michigan," whose produce passes chiefly through this channel, the expense attending their construction may not be considered too great for these advantages; but I recommend these works conditionally only, upon this being clearly proved.

Until the most important of the proposed fortifications be completed, the defence of Canada must chiefly rest upon the efficiency of our military and naval force (and their zealous co-operation), the amount of which must be regulated by the deficiency of other protection.

At the present moment our frontier is uncovered, except at Quebec, Fort Henry, at Kingston, and the Isle aux Noix.

There are, however, several smaller posts of defence, for a few hours only, against an organized force, such as Mississauga and Fort Wellington, &c.; these are calculated only to resist desultory attacks from rebels and their supporters.

After providing for the necessary garrisons, I would propose dividing the field force into two corps, placing the right of one at London, and its left at Toronto; the right of the other at Kingston, and its left at Montreal, with an advance occupying its immediate frontier, and a small reserve and good dépôt at Bytown.

It will always be necessary to retain a force at Montreal itself, and we should, consequently, be obliged to regulate the amount of that station in advance, by what we may be obliged to withdraw from thence for concentration higher up.

In this position of the two corps, we must await the movements of the enemy.

It has been observed that the three assailable points are Montreal, Niagara, and Détroit; and the last of these may be considered of least importance with relation to the conquest of Canada.

The two lines of operations against the other two points are; 1st, by the "avenue" of Lake Champlain against Montreal; 2nd, by the posts on Lake Erie and Buffalo against Niagara.

Our line of communication and defence will be from Quebec by the St. Lawrence to Montreal, thence by the Ottawa River and Rideau Canal to Kingston, and by the Lake, or the road by the Lake side, to Toronto, and thence by the Lake to Burlington Bay, or by land to Hamilton, and thence by Brantford to London.

It is very desirable that the canal across the Isthmus be completed and connected with the Trent navigation, and the land communication between London and Kingston be improved.

Hamilton will become a place of dépôt, and Burlington Heights and Bay should be secured; and it is recommended that a work of consequence and armed with heavy guns be placed in rear of, but not distant from, the Welland Canal, to protect the western side of the Niagara peninsula.

It will be recollected that the United States propose to strengthen their harbours and posts on Ontario; namely, Sackett's Harbour, Oswego, and Niagara, at the head of the Lake; and it is understood that they intend to form a ship canal between that Lake and Lake Erie, when there will be a severe contest for Ontario, upon the possession of which so much depends.

In conclusion, I beg to repeat that if Canada have not the protection of the works recommended by the Commission of 1825, or others of less magnitude and cost, as submitted in the annexed reports of the Commanding Engineer, its security must depend upon the number and efficiency of the force in the field.

This is so obvious that I would not hazard the indiscretion of stating it at all, still less repeating it, were it not to support the opinion I ventured to express in my memorandum of March last, upon the immediate frontier of Montreal, that nothing but their expense could have caused the construction of those works to have been deferred. They are certainly better adapted to resist, at a future period, the increasing power of the United States, than those proposed upon a reduced scale, recommended by myself; but without