

they probably would not be disposed to set the example; still, however, it is undeniable that, as regards the defence of Canada, all reasonable precaution should be taken.

#### QUEBEC.

In the opinion of military men, there can exist no doubt whatever, that Quebec (although for five months in the year more than 100 miles from liquid water) is the Sebastopol of British North America, and *à fortiori*, of Canada.

From its impregnable fortress could be transmitted arms and ammunition, to any amount that could possibly be required; and in case of unexpected and overwhelming aggression, Her Majesty's Governor General, the Queen's troops, and the archives of the Province could remain there in perfect security, until the determinations of Great Britain, whatever they might be, could be carried into effect.

On the other hand it must be observed, that Quebec is as far from Toronto, (the centre of Upper Canada) as Coblenz on the Rhine is from Bristol.

That again, Toronto is as far from the western extremity of the upper Province, as is London from Brussels; and as of this immense line of joint frontier, between Canada and the United States, the two countries for 340 miles are separated only by a river, averaging two miles in breadth (studded with islands), the whole of which throughout the winter can bear the heaviest artillery, it is evident that Quebec, situated at the eastern *extremity* of this frontier line, is no more capable of protecting, say Toronto, from sudden assault, than the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein at Coblenz would be capable of preventing a hostile army from crossing the Severn to attack Bristol. And yet the immense line of frontier described, is little more than one-half of the whole of the boundary which separates Canada from the United States.

Now it is but too evident that to attempt to fortify the whole, or even parts of such a line, would be impracticable; and consequently the whole must (generally speaking) remain as unprotected by fortifications, as the opposite frontier of the Republic.