

above twenty years, on all occasions, advocated, as of more importance to the upholding of British interests on the American continent, than all others which have been urged upon the consideration of Her Majesty's ministers, namely—that the St. Lawrence, and the position of Canada, should be rendered available to the upholding of the power of the crown and interests of the empire on this continent; and I am cheered with the knowledge that your grace has been led to view Her Majesty's North American possessions, particularly Canada, as essential to the sustaining of the British empire. To promote this all-important national object, the navigation of the St. Lawrence, and the navigable communications of the great inland seas, should be regarded as a great national work, and be prosecuted with vigor, not leaving a young colony chargeable with works so essential for the empire. Heavy, indeed, will be the burden, but cheerfully it will be borne by Canada, to make their rail-ways and roads to come in communication with the navigable waters leading to the ocean. Let this noble river, and those inland seas, be regarded as the navigable waters of the empire, and not as private rivers. They are too gigantic for a colony, and I fear not to maintain that they will prove more efficacious than the most powerful works which can be erected by the ordnance department, in preserving peace with the United States. Afford the citizens of that republic all the advantages the proposed measures assuredly yield them, and they must become a changed people before they will sacrifice them. The navigable coast, which may be opened by the measures adverted to, exceeds five thousand miles, while the vast territories of Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana—yes, to the Rocky Mountains—may be drawn above seven hundred miles nearer the Atlantic; but I