

been made in discussing the best mode of carrying on war with America purely with reference to this object.

War involves, in the first instance, the defence of Great Britain and Ireland, the heart and life of the empire ; and after that, of her colonies, possessions, and commerce.

To consider the probabilities of war with the United States with reference solely to the defence of Canada, is to reduce the question of war to a Canadian question. It does not even assign to it the dimensions of a Colonial question, which would embrace the maritime provinces of North America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and other colonies ; and much less does it give to it the importance of an Imperial question. To accept the defence of Canada as the issue of war, is also at once to give up the selection of the seat of war, which in itself is an enormous advantage.

Great Britain being separated from the United States by an ocean, it is evident that war can only be waged through the intervention of the navy ; the mode of operating in war must therefore depend, in the first instance, on the navy ; and, considering the vast importance and the great difficulty which confessedly surround the question of war with the United States, it seems reasonable that the consideration of the most efficacious means for prosecuting it, should be referred to the most experienced naval officers in consultation with the most experienced