

*Quebec being the key to the country, and of our fleets being able to command the navigation of the St. Laurence ; in the second place, in the loyalty of their inhabitants, and the firm attachment of the Indians to the British interest ; and, in the third place, in the aid of a British army.*

With respect to the first of these defensive properties, viz. the strength of the garrison of Quebec, and the power which we possess of commanding the navigation of the river St. Laurence, it may be observed, that, although these are certainly valuable properties, yet, unattended by the other two, they would be found comparatively of little avail. For, were the Americans in possession of the country, and the Canadians indifferent to our interests, and we in possession of the river St. Laurence, notwithstanding that that river is, and necessarily must be, the channel of commerce to the extensive country upon its waters ; yet we should, in that case, be only so far in possession of the Canadas, by merely holding the St. Laurence, as we should be in possession of the Russian empire, by having the command of the mouths of the Baltic and Black Sea.

The command which the possession of the