

purpose, simply as a destroyer, the tramp of his footstep would pass through the ashes of burnt homesteads, and over the desolated "clearings" of the hardy frontier settler. A warfare of this nature would excite the strongest passions, the deadliest thirst for vengeance, and exasperate the vehemence of resistance; while the defender of the soil would be moved by the knowledge that a brave defence cannot fail to be a *successful defence, and that success*, at the end of the war, will secure to him, and from the pocket of his enemy, the full reimbursement of all his losses.

But this part of the frontier will always be free from attack so long as there exists close by, and upon the same line, an easier and more inviting access to the heart of the country. Where this Height of Land strikes the line 45° , it subsides into an open country, populous, highly cultivated, where the roads are good and railroads and canals facilitate human intercourse. The Grand Trunk Railway penetrates into Vermont through the Height of Land, and might there, easily be destroyed, but to the West, from Stanstead Plain to the waters of Lake Champlain, no natural obstacles exist of sufficient moment to impede military operations. The Valley of Lake Champlain has been from olden time an open portal into Canada. No enemy will attempt to force our mountain fastnesses while the best road into the country is to be found at their feet.

Lake Champlain, running north and south, divides the State of Vermont from northern New York, and by a further rectification of our unhappy frontier, under the provisions of the Ashburton Treaty, the Americans have acquired upon it a fortress, which covers them and uncovers us. An expedition prepared without let or hindrance, in the ports of Lake Champlain, could be disembarked, without interruption, at Fort Montgomery, on the very verge of our frontier, and within forty-five miles of the commercial heart of the country,