

drawn, in order to avoid the risk of its defeat, or whether the necessary measures shall be taken to enable that force to be of use for the defence of the province.

25. The sum required for the construction of the proposed works and armaments at Montreal and Quebec would only be about one year's expense of the regular force we now maintain in Canada.

It is a delusion to suppose that that force can be of any use for the defence of the country without fortifications to compensate for the comparative smallness of its numbers. Even when aided by the whole of the local militia that could at present be made available, it would, in the event of war, be obliged to retreat before the superior numbers by which it would be attacked; and it would be fortunate if it succeeded in embarking at Quebec, and putting to sea without serious defeat. On the other hand, if the works now recommended be constructed, the vital points of the country could be defended, and the regular army would become a nucleus and support, round which the people of Canada would rally to resist aggression, and to preserve that connexion with the mother country, which their loyalty, their interests, and their love of true freedom alike make them desirous to maintain.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient, humble Servant,

WM. F. DRUMMOND JERVOIS.

The Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon,
Secretary of State for War,
&c. &c. &c.