

Upper Lakes not only for the defence of those Lakes, but also for the defence of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence in time of war.

The importance of this communication between the Lakes to the Nation, in case of war, cannot well be overestimated. The facility it would give for the concentration and ready combination of our naval and military forces, and the transportation of military stores through all the Lakes might, of itself, decide the war in our favor. The want of such a communication between the Lakes, during our last war with England, was a serious obstacle to the success of our arms, and to the proper protection of the Frontier.

Especially is it demanded, from the fact that all these facilities are possessed by the English Government, within her own territory, for the transfer and concentration of fleets, armies and munitions of war on all the Lakes. Her Canadian Canals have been constructed, if not for the express purpose, at least so as to be amply equal to all her demands and necessities in case of war with the United States. *She* is prepared fully for such an exigency, while our defenceless position almost seems to invite aggression.

Under no other civilized government on earth, are such vast public and private interests suffered to remain thus exposed to destruction—thus entirely at the mercy of an unfriendly power. Justice to the inhabitants of this frontier, and the interests of the country at large, demand that the general government should at once establish the necessary Naval Depots on the Lakes, and cause the Niagara Ship Canal to be constructed, as measures of urgent military necessity.

But important as this measure of protection would be, in and of itself, its usefulness would be incalculably increased by the proposed enlargement of the locks of the Oswego canal and Erie Canal east of Syracuse, to pass gunboats from the Hudson River to Lake Ontario. This would be the shortest Canal route for vessels of war between