

Michigan. Such has been the method of conducting the business between Lakes Ontario and Erie partly on one side of the river and partly on the other, until Your Lordship ordered a new management to be formed and carried into execution by which the whole transport would be transferred to the west side, and as the necessary wharves, storehouses and other buildings to be erected for this purpose were in great forwardness when I left Canada last year, I have no doubt that before this time the new system has been fully established much to the convenience of government and the trade and settlers in general, notwithstanding the portage is somewhat longer this way than other side of the river. The river in its course is of various breadths, at Niagara it is about seven hundred yards wide, it is less at the landing place below the falls, and at Fort Erie it is two thousand two hundred yards. It is widest at Fort Schlosser. Above this place there are islands, one a very large one.

"The post of the first importance in this quarter is Niagara, which commands the entrance of the communication from Lake Ontario. Concerning the actual state and condition of this post as to defence I shall only observe that nothing was omitted under Your Lordship's orders to render it as respectable as its capacity and circumstances would admit of without breaking new ground and going into the labour and expense of a new system, but the works have been originally constructed on too contracted a scale for the importance of the post, and its capacity has been also for some years in a continual course of diminution owing to the depredations of the lake which annually carries away a part of the ground so that at present there is not left a sufficient interior space for all the necessary purposes of storeroom and the accommodation of the garrison. A better post for a solid defence may, however, I think, be constructed on the opposite side of the river on the high ground over Navy Hall and which will be distant from the Niagara about thirteen hundred yards and will be higher than it by about nine feet.

"Fort Schlosser, being merely a picketted enclosure, never was a post of much defence and was only of consequence