

When a lengthened period of the easterly storm had risen the waters of the lake at the west end, and consequently filled the bay of York, and the wind shifted to the west, lowering the lake again, the waters of the bay would naturally make an effort by the nearest outlet to follow the level of the lake. But here, at the mouth of York harbour, met and damed back by the fresh west wind, the superfluous water, instead of forcing its way to windward in under current, as formerly obliged to do, it would be drawing off to leeward, and transvasing into the eastern bay, to the prejudice of the present channel. The same mischief would occur on the rising of the lake *during* the easterly gale,—the water would prefer filling the bay from the east *with* the wind, than from the west against it; also to the prejudice of the western channel. In both these operations, and in all operations that multiply the outlets from the bay of York, the present channel has every thing to loose and nothing to gain.

And what should we not risk in the event? A harbour, upon the banks of which the town is already built, and one possessing every nautical requisite—such as, a basin of perfect safety within, an excellent roadsted without, and easy access to both! And for what?—For a doubtful entrance upon a bleak and exposed coast; to track through a sluggish canal, embedded in a sickly marsh, to get a second entrance to a good land-locked harbour, at the value of ten minutes or a quarter of an hour in time to any steamer.

I have not neglected to examine the opening into the lake from Asbridge's Bay, which I think an important one, and confirms me in the opinion I have before expressed, that as the land to the east wore away, and left the peninsula exposed, in the event of time it would assume the form of a Presqué isle. I think the opening when I examined it in the winter was nearly one hundred yards wide; and from no ice being formed there, nor at some distance within, at a time when it was elsewhere thick, I should say the channel was seven or eight feet deep, but I had no opportunity of sounding. It is apparently protected by the projecting land to the N. E.; but this is only apparent, for the easterly sea has actually made the breach.—That the lake is here encroaching upon the island, is beyond a doubt. It has made its way so far as to undermine and throw down a long line of trees of many years growth, which have