

Passamaquoddy Bay is a distance of somewhat more than 2000 miles, all the way bounding on the British American Provinces.

"The vast importance of the frontier cannot fail to impress us with the necessity of being prepared, not only for defence along that line, but to act offensively with decisive effect, in the event of our being involved in a conflict with Great Britain.

"Whichever Power shall acquire the mastery of the lakes, will have the means of assailing the enemy.

"Without entering fully into the military details of the subject, the following works are enumerated, merely glancing at the advantages which are likely to result from their establishment, beginning at Lake Superior.

"1st. *Fort at Falls St. Mary.*—A fort here will control the communication between Lake Huron and Lake Superior, which it would do, unless counteracted by a work on the British side of the line: in that event, almost certain to occur, it would be neutralized, but at least cover our settlements on that part of the line.

"2nd. *Fort at Michillimackinac.*—A fort here, in conjunction with floating batteries, may be made to command the approach to Lake Michigan, thus protecting the entire circumference of the lake from attacks to which it is exposed, even from a small force, and securing to ourselves a safe channel of communication with the rich and productive States in the rear, whose shores it washes.

"3rd. *Fort at the foot of Lake Huron.*—A work here will control the outlet of Lake Huron, and interrupt the navigation between that and Lake Sinclair, and the River Détroit.

"In the event of war, Détroit would undoubtedly be a point of concentration of troops, not merely for the defence of that portion of the frontier, but for such offensive operations as might be deemed expedient in that quarter.

"This is one of the points from which the enemy might be assailed by minor expeditions, if he should relax in his measures of defence, in looking to his safety elsewhere.

"True policy would dictate that our chief efforts should be directed against the vital points of his possessions as low down the line as possible.

"4th. *Field Work and Barrack Establishment at Buffalo.*—It may become a point of concentration of troops, and is, in every view, entitled to much attention.

"An extensive barrack establishment, defended by a field-work, will be sufficient for all necessary objects.

"5th. *Fort Niagara.*—A fort at this position is important; it commands the entrance to Niagara River from Lake Ontario, and a work here will shut the enemy's vessels out of this harbour.

"6th. *Fort of Oswego.*—The growing importance of Oswego, the relation it bears to the great line of internal communication, call for works to protect its harbour, which would probably be made a subordinate dépôt in time of war.

"7th. *Fort at Sackett's Harbour.*—Sackett's Harbour, from its bold water and excellence as a harbour, would become a dépôt of great importance. It is one of the posts at which a concentration of troops may become expedient.

"The barrack establishment there is deemed sufficient; it remains to fortify the approach to the harbour."

These works, in conjunction with that proposed to close the outlet from Lake Champlain, will enable the United States to commence offensive operations against Canada with the greatest advantage.

Their troops can concentrate at the points of attack, and their dépôts will be in security, upon the verge of our frontier.

The third subject for inquiry proposed is:—

"Our means of repelling the enemy's attack."

And here I would first observe, that little analogy presents itself between the actual position of the United States and Canada, and that held by them in relation to each other's means during the last war. I shall therefore scarcely draw any inferences from the events of that period.

I possess, however, the advantage of being able to refer to a letter of