

country; but, coupled with the intelligence which arrived yesterday, it assumes an appearance of much more importance. It seems to give the Americans the command of the Niagara River, and of the communication between Lakes Ontario and Erie, while the fort near Detroit will ensure them the command of the communication between Lake Erie and Lake Huron. The Americans, in the account from New York which we inserted yesterday, affect to state that all these measures and preparations have been the consequence of our preparations. They assert that "the activity of the British in building and procuring by purchase a considerable fleet, has no doubt excited our government to see the necessity of still keeping the superiority on the Lakes. The British are also very busily engaged in building a fleet on Lake Huron; and no doubt on all the Lakes they will, in time of peace, when they think we are asleep, make every exertion to have the ascendancy." Suppose the above statement to be correct, does not every one see that our preparations can only have defensive objects in view? That if we keep a naval force on the Lakes, it can only be for the purpose of securing us from attack, not of enabling us to make an attack? We have no hostile designs from Canada against the United States. But the case is very different with the Americans. If it be true, as is said in the New York account, that "the American government sees the necessity of still keeping the superiority on the Lakes," can it be said that that necessity for the superiority arises from any apprehension they feel of an invasion from us? It certainly cannot. But it is not, as we have already shown, to