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*“ ought to be evident enough. If we are to be so, our 11,000 men will need to be doubled or trebled very shortly.”*

The writer of these letters has not felt it proper to make specific suggestions about the organization of the Militia, or Volunteer forces of the country, or in regard to what points ought to be fortified. To have done so, whilst two Military Boards were in session to whom these questions have been referred, would have been presumption. He cannot, however, allow his observations to go to press in their present form without pointing out two indispensable objects requiring the earliest attention of the Legislature. The first of these is the establishment of a capacious graving dock at Quebec, capable of receiving vessels as large as the Warrior. To secure this object, important alike to the Ocean Commerce of Canada, and in case of war, to its military security, all that is required is to afford the necessary facilities to the Quebec Harbor Commissioners to raise a revenue, in the same manner as is done at Montreal and indeed at every other sea-port of any importance in America, or Europe—that is by levying tonnage dues.

The second object, of even greater present importance, is to push forward the completion of the Houses of Parliament at the permanent seat of government, so as to remove all doubts on a question calculated to distract the public mind, and weaken the national sentiment of the country. Concurrently with the progress of these buildings, some iron towers, or fortifications should be designed and constructed. This might be done at a very moderate expense by buying a few thousand tons of old railway bars, which can be had, in any quantity at half the cost of new iron. After the experience of the Monitor and the Merrimac, it cannot be doubted, that a few such towers mounting heavy artillery, would defend Ottawa against any force that could be sent against it.

Quebec, March 22, 1862.