

the circumstance to Major-General Darling, the Military Secretary, in order that it may be remedied without delay.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

47. The population of New Brunswick amounts to more than 70,000, including women and children, and affords a militia of about 11,000 men, regimented and embodied, but not armed, with the exception of a few companies at St. John's. The settlements are principally confined to the banks of the River St. John's, and those streams running into it, beginning at the Salmon River, about 8 miles below the Falls, and becoming thicker until they approach Frederickton, (in the first instance,) and afterwards the town of St. John's, situated at the mouth of the river of that name, in the Bay of Fundy.

The settlement of Madawaska above the Falls, belongs also to New Brunswick, although now claimed by the Americans, as already explained. The boundary of New Brunswick to the west, is the St. Croix River; and to the east, the Gulf of St. Lawrence. At the mouth of the St. Croix River in Passamaquoddy Bay, is situated the small town of St. Andrew's, containing about 500 inhabitants, separated from the inhabited valley of the St. John's River by immense forests. A road of about 70 miles in length has been cut from Frederickton to St. Andrew's, but upon which very few inhabitants are to be met with, and which is represented as worse than the Portage road between the St. Lawrence and Lake Temiscouata, described in the preceding paragraph.

St. Andrew's can also be approached by land from St. John's town, by a road running nearly parallel to the coast. Upon this communication, there are some settlers, although not numerous. On the Eastern Frontier, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, several very rising settlements have been formed, particularly at Miramichi Bay, which last is stated to consist of 5,000 souls.

There is a barrack for 200 men and their officers at Frederickton, and a barrack for 300 men with officers at St. John's, together with a tower and five batteries for the defence of the harbour, including one upon Partridge Island, situated at its mouth. At St. Andrew's there are three block houses with three batteries.

We cannot say we attach much value as a military post to St. Andrew's. We respectfully submit to your Grace, that instead of incurring any expense in repairing, it would be far preferable to abandon these works, and to withdraw the small garrison from so very remote and unconnected a situation, upon the same principle that we have ventured, upon the Niagara frontier, to suggest the withdrawing from Fort George and the other detached works, which only expose His Majesty's troops to be overpowered and beaten in detail, in time of war, and to be debauched and desert, in time of peace. We humbly conceive, that the militia of the country are the proper people to employ for the defence of such detached towns or settlements, the capture or destruction of which would not have any effect upon the general result of a war.

Independent of the additional number of regular troops thus rendered disposable, a spirit of rivalry and angry feeling would be more easily generated on the frontier, between His Majesty's Provincial subjects and the Americans.

In the present instance, in a military point of view, we submit with the utmost deference to your Grace, the great use of the Province of New Brunswick, is as a connecting link between Canada and Nova Scotia. The line of defence is evidently the St. John's River. Any thing beyond that, appears to us, misplaced. We presume to suggest that every encouragement ought to be given to loyal and well-behaved people to settle between the St. John's River and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but that on the right of the St. John's River between that and the St. Croix, the less the ground is cleared and cultivated, and the fewer the communications that are permitted to be made, until at any rate we have a dense population between the St. John's and the St. Lawrence, will be the more advantageous to His Majesty's service. Upon this principle, and keeping in view the military object in retaining the Sovereignty of New Brunswick, we attach much more value to the possession of Frederickton, or to a post in that neighbourhood, than to that of the town of St. John's.

We think the batteries at present existing, if put in order, and with some little improvements as detailed in the report upon the fortifications in the Appen-