

THOUGHTS ON DEFENCE.

From a Canadian point of view.

BY A CANADIAN.

(Continued.)

Other causes, moreover, have conduced, with the progress of time, to lessen the probability of a foreign invasion, waterborne, on our lake shores. Luxurious cities and populous settlements, wealthy and industrious communities, have grown up on the opposite shores of these lakes: Oswego and Rochester on Lake Ontario; Buffalo, Cleveland, Sandusky and Toledo, on Lake Erie; Detroit on the narrow strait of the same name; Chicago in the remoter west; are all cities of large population and great wealth. Any outrage on our shores would provoke reprisals. The bombardment of any one of these wealthy cities, even only for a day, would inflict more material injury than could be caused by the devastation of a dozen of the happy villages which adorn the Canadian coasts. In a warfare between parties thus situated, the greater loss must always be on the side of those who have most to lose. The Cosack and the Arab risk life only, but inflict great ruin; and those who assail Canada for the sake of plunder will find but little honey in a hornet's nest.

Moreover, the hornet's nest may be as difficult to reach as it is dangerous to disturb. The Canadian shores are, to a great extent, fortified by nature, and require but small help from the hand of man. The navigation of these shores presents peculiar difficulties in uncertain currents, shoal water and a changeful coast outline. Admiral Bayfield has delineated the topography and described the characteristics of these Canadian lakes with wonderful care and accuracy. His magnificent work, published by the British Admiralty is to be found in the library of Parliament, but those grand folios are not within the reach of the general public, and the following details condensed from his valuable pages may interest as well as instruct those whose hearts are in Canada, and may not inappropriately find a place now, in relation to the question of defence. Few, even of our own people are aware of the fact that this series of great lakes is 1085 miles in length from Kingston, on Lake Ontario, to Fort William on Lake Superior, and that they cover an area of 80,000 square miles or the superficies of England, Scotland and Wales, with many square miles to spare.

Lake Ontario, the least in size of these great lakes, covers a surface of 6000 square miles, and extends from east to west, from the city of Kingston to city of Hamilton, 180 miles. Its greatest width prevails nearly from one end to the other. On the Canadian coasts we pass, in succession, the thriving cities of Kingston, Cobourg, Toronto and Hamilton, with villages, numerous and flourishing, farmsteads beyond count, and an expanse of wheatland and woodland, orchard and pasturage extending in the richest luxuriance fifty miles to the rear. From the American shore of the State of New York the wilderness has been, for many long years, banished to regions in the far west, to States which in progress imitate her example. Cultivation the most skillful has been rewarded by a wealth of agriculture unrivalled in the world. The rich cities of Rochester and Oswego are the centre of commerce, but Sackett's Harbour, great naval station of the last war, is comparatively unrequented. It is not conveniently placed for trade, and although suited for the requirements of a limited dockyard, or port of construction, could be blockaded by a power possessing more extensive convenience and power, and space for equipment. The noble harbor formed by the mouth of the River Niagara would be neutralized in the event of a war as being impracticable to either party. On the Canadian side, independent of the harbor of Burlington Bay and Toronto, safe and sufficient for a flotilla of gunboats of small size but heavy calibre, we have the strong arsenal of Kingston, and within a few miles on the west, the Bay of Quinte one of the finest combinations of roadstead and harbor, whether for defensive or offensive purposes, in the Dominion.

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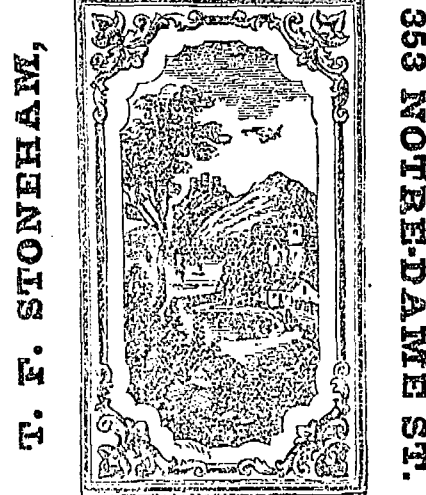
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IN THE MATTER OF

WILLIAM JOHNSON,

An Insolvent.

On Monday, the seventeenth day of April next, the undersigned will apply to the said Court for a discharge under the said Act.

WILLIAM JOHNSON

By J. & W. A. BATES,

His Attorneys, ad litem

Montreal, 7th March, 1871.

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BOYNE L. O. L., No. 401.

The Regular Monthly Meeting of this Lodge, will be held on FRIDAY NEXT, the 21st inst., at 8, p.m. in the Lodge Room.

ELDON L. O. L. No. 304.

The next Regular Monthly Meeting of this Lodge will be held on TUESDAY, the 2nd day of May, at 8, p.m.

DUNBAR BROWNE, W.M.

DOMINION L. O. L., No. 1263.

The next Regular Monthly meeting of this Lodge, will be held on THURSDAY EVENING, the fourth day of May, at 8 p.m.

PRINCE OF WALES L. O. L., No. 364.

This Lodge will hold its next Regular Monthly Meeting on FRIDAY, the 5th day of May, at 8, p.m.

DUKE OF YORK L. O. L., No. 413.

The Regular Monthly Meeting of this Lodge will be held in the Lodge Room, on WEDNESDAY, the 10th May, at 8, p.m.

THOS. PORTER, W.M.

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This Lodge will hold its next Regular Meeting on THURSDAY, the 11th day of May, at 8, p.m.

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