

2. That able and scientific officer, the late Sir James Carmichael Smythe, in his epitome of the wars in Canada, terms Montreal the "key and capital of the Canadas," and observes that "in every plan for the invasion of Canada, as far back even as that projected in 1711, to the last attempt by the Americans in 1813, the idea of advancing by Lake Champlain has been uniformly entertained."

This is high authority, both as to the importance of Montreal, and the direction from whence it is most exposed to attack. The American Government in the instructions sent to the General Officer commanding their attempt against the island in 1813, uses the following language:—

"At Montreal, you approach your own resources, and establish between you and them an easy and expeditious intercourse.

"At Montreal, you occupy a position which must be gained in carrying your attack to the purposes of the war.

"At Montreal, you hold a position which completely severs the enemy's line of operations, which shuts up the Ottawa, as well as the St. Lawrence, and which, while it restrains all below, withers and perishes all above itself."

3. In order to secure Montreal and its frontier, Sir J. C. Smythe proposed the construction of one fortress at Montreal, of another at the mouth of the Chateaugay River, and of strong (if small) works at St. John's, and Chambly on the River Richelieu, and all of these are in addition to the small bad fort at the Isle aux Noix.

Having obtained information of the estimated expense of the construction of the two fortresses at Montreal and the River Chateaugay, it appears so large as to render it hopeless to expect the sanction of the Government to the undertaking of them.

4. This frontier, in the mean time, remains in the same state as in 1813, with regard to defensive works. It possesses additional barracks for regular troops, lately erected on account of the lamentable events of the years 1837 and 1838, but no additional works of defence.

It may therefore be assumed, first, that Montreal will again be the principal object of attack, in the event of a war; secondly, that it is still unprotected; and thirdly, that the measures for its defence proposed by Sir J. C. Smythe, however good, will not be carried into effect, on account of the expense attending them.

It may also be assumed that our means of repelling an attack are so far diminished, as may result from want of the zealous co-operations of the French Canadians inhabiting this frontier (which was the seat of the late insurrection), whilst on the other hand, the resources and general power of the United States have greatly increased since the last war.

5. Before the proposed plan of defence of this frontier be further considered, it may be well to examine, shortly, the nature of the resources of the United States adverted to, as applicable to an attack on the Canadas, and for this purpose recourse will be had to official documents.

From returns submitted to Congress, it appears that the present regular army of the United States should amount to 12,000 men, which number is stated barely to be adequate to the duties now required from it in Florida, and on the Western and Northern frontiers.

This army could doubtless be rapidly augmented, as in 1813; but the Secretary at War has submitted to Congress a plan, long called for, for the reorganization of the militia of the Union.

According to his plan, 200,000 militia men are to be enrolled and trained, and one-eighth (or 25,000) of this number are to be on permanent duty for four years, and to be available for general service.

Besides this force of 200,000 men for the general duties of the Union, the States' militias are to be retained within their respective territories, as at present regulated by law.

The regular army of 12,000 men is to be chiefly composed of artillery and dragoons. This force is supplied with well-educated officers from the military establishment at West Point; all officers there educated engage to serve four years in the regular army. Those who do not continue in that service are generally employed upon public works in the different States, and are therefore available for military duties within them.

From this numerous class of well-educated men, officers will be drawn to