

rection, and of course it flowed where least impeded, that is, west. But now the process has arrived at that period, by the constant washing of the west wind, sweeping the island sand and gravel against the marsh and outset of the Don, that it has formed all round the head of the bay a beach sufficiently elevated above the marsh to form a complete dyke, with the exception of the mouths of the Don. Dams may be thrown across these without difficulty, and the Don a little elevated, would soon work itself a passage through the marsh to the outlet at Asbridge's Bay.

But, if through negligence, or want of observation, the harbour is abandoned to itself; if, by some freak of nature the waters of the western bay find passage by the mouths of the Don, and easy egress to the Lake by the now extended outlet at Asbridge's Bay, then I say, adieu the western harbour; adieu the bay of York! No longer heavy outset, the sand beats in, the shoal at the entrance lowers but spreads, the channel fills, and the harbour of York becomes a large shallow sandy bay.

It has often been suggested to open a channel into the harbour from the east, through the neck of the peninsula and marsh, or, immediately into the bay of York, at what is called the portage. Without any local interest, but that of the benefit and preservation of the present port, I shall take the liberty of intruding my opinion also upon this subject, for any value it may possess.

As regards the cut at the portage directly into the bay of York, I never entertained the idea; for the shore on the lake side is so steep, falls so suddenly into deep water, is composed of loose shifting shingle stone, and the seas of the easterly storm so range along it, that any obstruction thrown out in the shape of pier would only create an arm of the beach around it.

As to the entrance at Asbridge's Bay, and through the marsh, which might be done, I apprehend, were it accomplished, it would in no way compensate for the difficulty and expense of the undertaking; and without great judgement and knowledge of effect, in managing the water communication betwixt the two bays, I fear the channel of York harbour would sustain serious injury by the event. The mischief to be apprehended, supposing the communication to be made, would be this:—