

obtain; and in addition to the several documents contained in the letter from the Secretary of State, I have inclosed herewith a map of Canada.

Copy of the Report of the Commissioners, 1825.

Copy of a Letter from your Grace to the Secretary of State in 1819.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HILL.

Considerations on the Defence of Canada.

March 5, 1841.

The Frontier Line of Canada may be thus traced, viz.:

From Malden on the River Detroit to Kingston, about 400 miles including the Lakes of Erie and Ontario;

From Kingston to Cornwall on lake St. Francis, about 100 miles;

From Cornwall to Montreal, about 80 miles;

From Montreal to Quebec, about 160 miles;

From Quebec to the Rivière de Loup, about 120 miles:

Thus making the whole extent of the Canadian Frontier about 860 miles.

The whole of this extent of Frontier has been computed in British statute miles, at 60 to the degree, and in a straight line; but if the sinuosities of the shore be followed, the extreme length of boundary would be considerably enlarged.

The Canadian territory, situated on the right bank of the River St. Lawrence, between the Rivière de Loup and the Isle of Orleans, is a strip of land averaging about 20 miles of depth, and cultivated and inhabited chiefly along the banks of the river, and comprised between the river and what is now called the disputed territory.

From Quebec to Lake St. Francis, the territory on the right bank widens to the extent of from 60 to 100 miles; and narrowing again towards Montreal, renders that town not more than 40 miles distant from Lake Champlain, and the boundaries of the States of Vermont and New York.

From the Lake St. Francis upwards to Malden on the River Detroit, the British possessions are wholly restricted to the left bank of the St. Lawrence, and the northern shores of the great lakes of Erie and Ontario.

The American states and territory immediately opposite to our possessions on the Lakes Erie and Ontario, and the River St. Lawrence, are Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Detroit, all of them possessing a numerous population, and abounding in resources of every description.

Having thus briefly sketched the outline of the territory we have to defend, and that from which our opponents may be expected, the next consideration is the best means to be adopted for that purpose, confining the discussion to the line as above stated, extending between Quebec and Malden, a distance of about 740 miles, because it must be presumed that as we shall always maintain a superior flotilla below Quebec, the defence of that part of the Frontier may be safely confided to it.

In this place it may be worthy of remark, that in the system of national defence which has been recently brought under the consideration of the American Government in a letter from the Secretary at War, dated May 12, 1840, a report from the Board of Officers contains the following remarkable statement:—

"All are aware that the facilities of communication enter largely into the sum of military power, of national defence; good roads, canals, and above all, railroads, augment the capability of troops to defend a country many fold. 1,000 men at the present day, in nearly any populous part of the United States, may safely be pronounced equal to many thousands in 1812.