

positions should be occupied, in order to protect the line of communication from Great Britain to her army in the field.

There are other considerations, moreover, which point to the same necessity. Until the overland route is well established by the settlement of the country, and by the construction of railroads from the United States to California, the passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific across the Isthmus between North and South America must be of great strategical importance.

Great Britain by her Indian possessions ought, in a war with the United States, to be mistress of the Pacific ; but this commanding position might be imperilled if the Americans could secure easy communication from the Atlantic States to California. This would be best prevented by closing the passage of the Isthmus, which might be effected by naval means, based on a good and secure dockyard and depôt in one of Her Majesty's West Indian possessions.

If this were done, probably the most effective means of attacking the United States, and carrying war into their territories, would be by a well-planned expedition from India, in which Her Majesty's Indian subjects could be employed with effect without drawing on her European subjects, who are more difficult to procure in numbers and more costly to maintain.

Her Majesty's Australian subjects might also be