

goods. Thus, there might be concentrated at this point a force of 80,000 men, very angry, and fired with every incentive to defence.

They would be confident in the strength of a position protected in front, looking towards the foe, by the wide St. Lawrence, and in the rear by a labyrinth of streams, interrupted in some places by rapids, impassable at all seasons; in others by shoals and tortuous channels, which compel approaches to be made in open boats, exposed to a commanding fire, while these channels could be further strengthened by gunboats and floating batteries. From the head of the Lachine rapids to below St. Helen's Island, the front of the city and island are unapproachable, except in the face of difficulties such as these. Like means of defence apply to the rear of the island, but the rear of the island is safe from hostile attack so long as the river below Montreal, and the Lake St. Louis above, and the Lake of the Two Mountains on the north-west, are occupied and protected by a sufficiency of armed vessels.

But to the men of the city, to the citizens themselves, the incentive to resistance would be stronger still. Their arms would be nerved by the knowledge that a system of defensive works has been projected, which reinforce those supplied by nature, and which, if bravely held, will protect their wives and their children, their homes, their stores, and their industries, from the very aspect of the foe. The revolutions of the age have revolutionized the arts of defence, the days of fenced cities have passed away. In the time of Vauban, curious intricacies of earthwork, and ditch, and stonework, surrounded the body of the place; fires and cross-fires of infinite variety enfiladed its approaches; massive casemates protected the soldiers; but in despite of all their ingenuity the houses of the citizens stood up in the rear, exposed to bombardment and cannonade. Every shot which missed the