

OUR MILITARY DEFENCES.—THE MILITIA.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

SIR,—Although the recommendations of the Military Commission, now in session, as to the best and most feasible means of organizing the military resources of the Province may undergo modifications in Parliament, it is of high import that those gentlemen should agree on a system as little open to censure as possible. There are, no doubt, many persons of excellent judgment, as well as experience, whose views would be appreciated by the Commission, but who may be prevented by diffidence or the fear of being regarded as obtrusive, from communicating their ideas to this military board. Hence there can be no impropriety in exciting a public discussion, which may call forth such opinions as I have referred to. It is with this aim that I propose to offer some remarks.

The subject, as I view it, naturally divides itself into three propositions. 1st—The organization of the land forces. 2nd—The defences of the lakes; and 3rd, (as auxiliary to these) the fortifications of the country. These I propose to consider separately in the order in which I have stated them.

On the subject of the first—the organization of the land forces of the Province—I have very decided opinions, and I may here add that I am glad to find them very well expressed in the *Toronto Leader* of the 7th instant. If the expression of these views in a leading Ministerial journal may be regarded as indicative of the policy likely to guide the gentlemen of the commission in making their report, the country will have no cause to regret their appointment.

There is one important point which must not be lost sight of—and that is the fact, that in anticipation of hostilities with our neighbors, we must rely mainly on ourselves to resist invading armies. The troops which England may be able to spare must hereafter be regarded as allies and auxiliaries. The sooner our authorities recognize this fact the better for us, and the more self-reliant shall we become.