

That without desiring to prejudice the claims of other cities in the mind of Your Majesty, we may nevertheless be permitted succinctly to set forth reasons demonstrative of the superiority of Ottawa to every other place as a capital.

Consisting, as Canada does, of an extended line of territory lying opposite the frontier of a powerful and rapidly increasing Republic, it is of the highest importance to its protection that the seat of Government should be at some point far removed from the possibility of hostile attack in time of war, and of foreign influences on the minds of its people in time of peace, and so situated that its connection with the rest of the country could never be cut off or intercepted by an invading enemy, an argument forming an insuperable objection to Toronto and Kingston, lying as they do in an exposed position, immediately opposite American Territory, and in the event of foreign invasion, liable as they are, to be at any time dis severed from the other parts of the Province; a similar objection may also be urged against Montreal, and with nearly equal force, for it must be conceded that Montreal fell an easy prey to an American army during the Revolutionary war, and from the present navigability of the Saint Lawrence, the descent by water from foreign Territory to that City is a task of little difficulty, and one that would require but a few hours in its accomplishment. Quebec lying also on the St. Lawrence is undoubtedly a point of great strength, but from its extreme Eastern situation and exclusive population it is rather adapted to protect the approaches to the Provinces by sea than suited for the Capital of United Canada, and the connection of both Quebec and Montreal with the rest of the country might at any time be readily severed by an invading army.

Similar objections cannot be urged against this city, which lies in the very heart of Canada, far removed from the American Frontier, surrounded by a loyal population composed equally of French and British origin, who have ever remained free from the stain of disaffection to the Crown of England; and which is situated on the banks of the Ottawa, the largest and most beautiful river in Your Majesty's widely extended dominions, running entirely through British Territory and forming in its course the boundary line of the upper and lower provinces.

As a central military position it stands unrivalled, its natural capabilities for defence not being even second to Quebec; and with but a moderate expenditure its fortifications could easily be made equal to that city, a knowledge of which we believe Your Majesty already possesses, from the plans and reports furnished at various times by the late Colonel By, its founder, and by other scientific military authorities, and in the once projected construction of which, that distinguished soldier, the late Duke of Wellington, is said to have taken a warm interest.