

THOUGHTS ON DEFENCE.

As the relations, to be or not to be, between Great Britain and her Colonies have become, of late, the subject of very general discussion and of increasing interest, any information offered at this moment, and tending to show that one of them, at least, is neither the cause of weakness, nor the cause of expense, which some nervous people predicate, may be of use.

It is our wish to dissipate a delusion, perversely propagated, that our country is indefensible, that its long frontier provokes attack at a thousand points, and that it is at any time at the mercy of the only invader it can ever expect to encounter.

This is not so. Canada has a long frontier, but it is wonderfully protected by nature in nine-twelfths of its length. That frontier is formed by noble rivers, now expanding into inland seas, periodically vexed by storms of unusual force, which lash lee shores and shallow waters, justly shunned by navigators, now contracting to rocky gorges, and miles of seething rapids, which are simply as impassible as the defiles of Abyssinia. These natural obstacles, which may be improved, for the occasion, by a thousand appliances of the noble but primitive art of self-defence, are increased by difficulties of country on many leagues of the frontier, and by the rigor and vicissitudes of the climate on its whole length. By profiting thoughtfully and providently by the defence which nature has provided, Canada may be made inaccessible, except at five or six points well known, which were bravely