

by an enemy having the great purposes of war in view, and that are of most importance to us.

2nd. The means at the disposal of the enemy moving from the United States, and the probable amount of force that may be brought to act against these points of the Canadian frontier.

3rd. Our means of repelling him.

The Commission of 1825 have very clearly described the most assailable points of our Canadian frontier.

These are admitted to be Montreal, Niagara, Détroit.

The next subject for inquiry is the means at the disposal of the enemy, and the probable amount of force he may bring against us.

The population of the United States in 1830 was about twelve millions. The census will be taken again this year. It is supposed that the present population, including slaves, amounts to eighteen millions.

The regular army of the United States is small; its establishment is about 12,000, and that is incomplete. It is formed on a plan that will admit of speedy augmentation. It is well officered and equipped, and accustomed to move at short notice from one part of the frontiers to another.

I understand that the officers of their scientific corps are particularly well instructed.

Those of the Engineers and Topography are in constant employment.

There are four regiments of Artillery, of ten companies each, and two companies from each regiment have been lately embodied as a separate corps, and mounted as Horse Artillery.

They have only two regiments of Dragoons; these are well suited for every sort of service on which they are likely to be employed.

In 1835 three companies (as they are termed) under a field officer, marched from Fort Leavenworth, on the extreme western frontier of the States, on the 31st of May, and after moving through 1600 miles of wilderness wood and prairie to the Rocky Mountains, and through the numerous tribes of Indians inhabiting that tract of country, returned to Fort Leavenworth on the 14th of August, with the loss of only one man by sudden illness, and without material injury to any other man or horse.

They took with them a supply of provisions, and two swivel guns.

Authority has been lately given to raise a corps of Sappers and Miners.

The foundries of cannon and manufactories of small arms for the army and militia of the Union, and of gunpowder, have been favourably reported upon.

Great attention has been paid, in the construction of barracks, to the comfort and accommodation of the men; their hospitals are, in particular, in excellent order.

The establishment at West Point is an object of great solicitude, and is, I am informed, as well regulated as any similar institution in Europe.

There is evidently thus a nucleus formed for an efficient army.

The reorganization of the militia of the Union has of late years engaged much of the attention of successive Presidents, and of the Legislature. The certain result of the constant agitation of this question will be an agreement of all parties to some plan for this purpose, as all admit of its necessity.

Several plans have been submitted, but the jealousies of the different states, and popular prejudices, have hitherto prevented action being taken upon any one of them.

A plan for the immediate training of 200,000 militia of the Union, was submitted and approved of, in the last session of Congress, but will certainly not be acted upon, from its unpopularity, which was one of the prominent causes of the overthrow of the Van Buren administration.

This plan provided that the United States be divided into eight military districts. The militia to be organized in each district, so as to have 12,500 men in active service, and 12,500 in reserve. This would give a permanent disposable force of 200,000 militia; the term of service to be eight years: four years in the first, and four years in the second class.

The remainder of the militia to be enrolled and mustered at stated intervals, so that in due process of time the whole mass of the militia would pass through these classes.

The 25,000 men on active service were placed under the orders of the President.