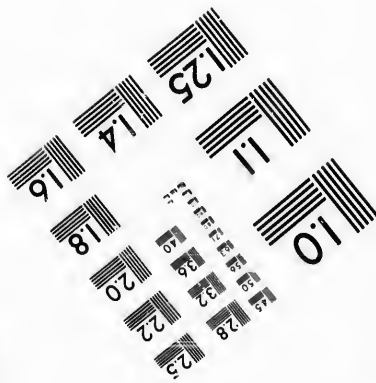
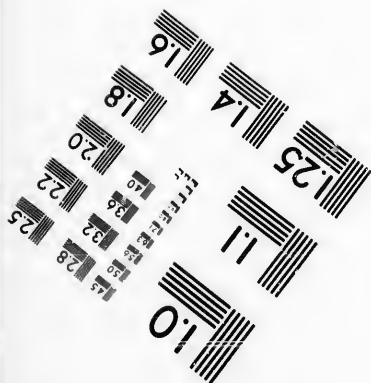
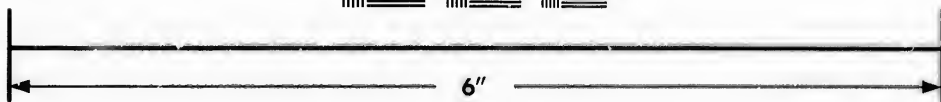
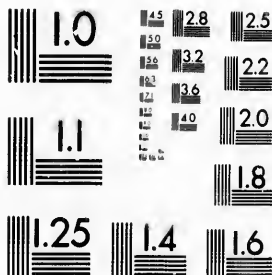


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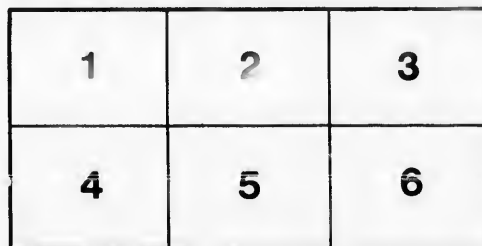
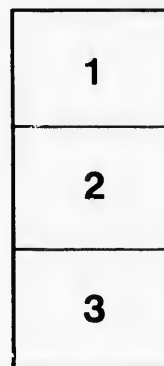
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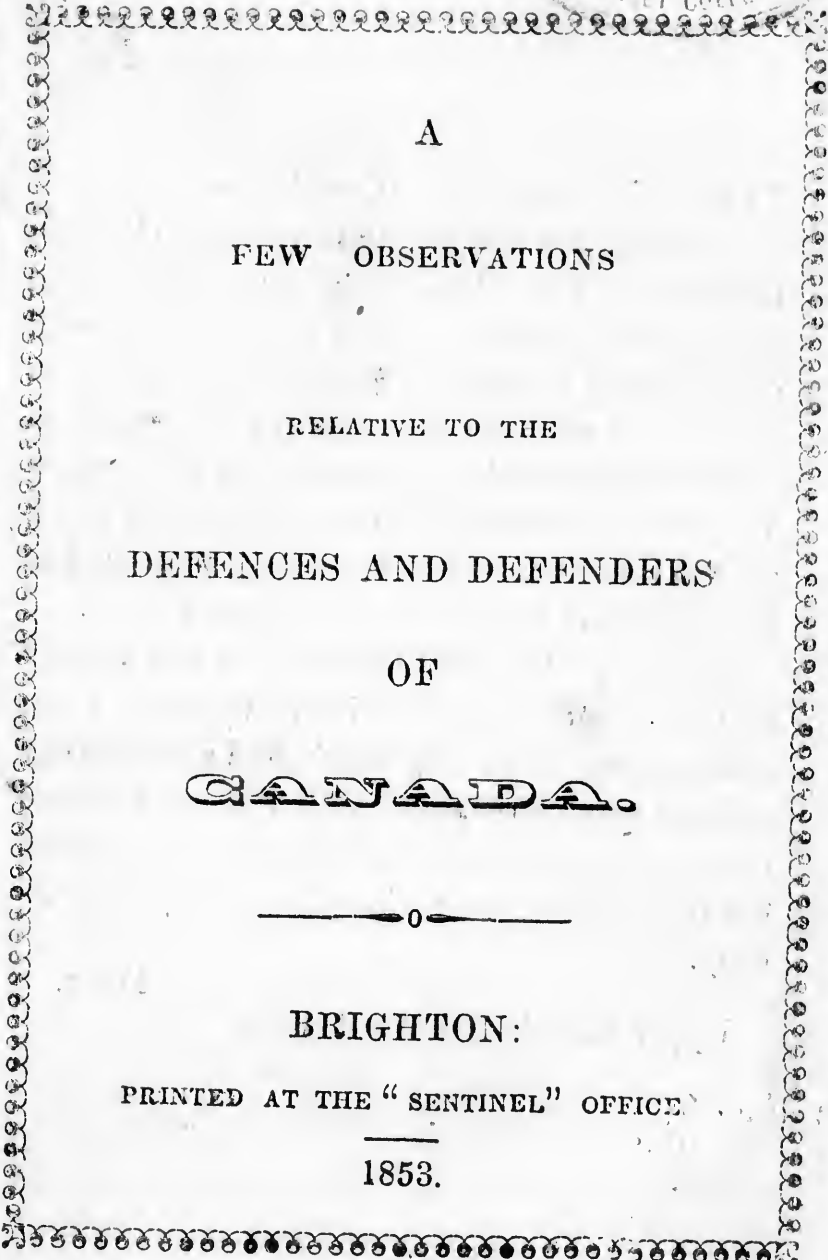
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FEW OBSERVATIONS

RELATIVE TO THE

DEFENCES AND DEFENDERS

OF

CANADA.



BRIGHTON:

PRINTED AT THE "SENTINEL" OFFICE

1853.

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JUN 1 1853
To my fellow-subjects in Canada:—

Permit me to dedicate to you, as an humble mark of my respect and attachment, the accompanying observations relative to the defences and defenders of Canada; a subject about which you cannot feel wholly uninterested, altho' my sentiments may not altogether coincide with yours. They have been written in haste, and they are, I am too conscious, very imperfectly written, but it consoles me to reflect that they are sincere.

They in part relate to a period in the history of this country, when we vied in arms with the gallant army of the Peninsula, and although our soldiers may not contend with the great names of that army, still we can pride ourselves upon the reflection that the Canadian Army did its duty.

HORE.

Upper Canada, 8th April, 1853.



Defenders and Defences of Canada.

"I esteem it no small advantage, soldiers, that there is not one among you, of whose valor I myself have not been a spectator, so as to be able to name the times and places of your achievements"

HANNIBAL.

Without pretending to point out the devoted conduct, and sufferings, of the people of Canada during the war of 1812, 13 and 14, a period so interesting and honorable in the history of the country, I hope I shall be pardoned for offering a few remarks connected therewith, and for adverting to our apparently neglected condition for defence, should a recurrence of hostilities take place, which for the sake of Christianity, and Humanity, it is fervently to be hoped may never happen; nevertheless there is reason to apprehend that such an event may fall out upon the first chance, contrary to all our hopes of peace, when we find that our neighbours are setting up a claim to what they call "a sort of prescriptive right" to our fisheries on the one hand, and the free navigation of the St. Lawrence on the other, the latter being what they are pleased to term "a kind of half-claim maintained by their ablest statesmen since the revolution." The idea of making any allusion to the foregoing subjects, is suggested by a feeling that, the lull of peace which we have for such a length of time enjoyed, will, ere long, be disturbed, because there are

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many indications of a coming storm, and every nation in Europe is preparing for it. Now I should like to know whether or not, under such circumstances, we are out of harm's way? I sincerely believe, and so do a great many others, that we are not. There are too many temptations in the way, to expect that our neighbours will keep their hands off us, for besides the immense resources which our country offers, its geographical position as a possession of Great Britain, is to them a source of great uneasiness, placed as we are upon their flanks and rear; and the people of that country know full well that, next to the powerful fleets of Britain, what they have most to dread in the event of a rupture about Cuba, or any other place is Canada and its fierce and noble Indian Allies. They also know that the danger to be apprehended from Canadian power, and valor, is becoming more impending every year, for we are fast levelling up to them, and they are now like some great monster with expanded jaws, impatiently waiting for his prey. The first sound of the trumpet of War in Europe, will be the signal for a hostile movement on Cuba. Mr. President Pierce's inaugural speech is rather indicative of it, nor can we conceal from ourselves that such threats as the following which have been held out lately by the Americans are not to be disregarded altogether, viz; "A hostile movement upon Cuba, bringing on a war with England, would throw Canada into our hands as a matter of course."— "In this contingency, we

should throw such a force across the line that no resistance could be offered."—and, again; "It is to be presumed that the Imperial Government has sufficient knowledge of the strength and resources of the United States, and the feelings of the Canadians, to be aware that the whole power of Europe could not preserve the authority of Great Britain in North America, in case of a war between the countries" That's the insulting language used towards Canada and Great Britain, by a people who profess friendship when it suits their convenience, and the only reply that brave and loyal men *could* make to such rodomontade, and insolence, might be contained in these three words; COME ON, THEN. At the commencement of the last war we had a great deal of such stuff addressed to us, and on the 8th July 1812, General Hull issued his terrific Proclamation of Extermination, one sentence of which contained the following words, "No white man found fighting by the side of an Indian, will be taken prisoner; instant destruction will be his lot." yet General Brock advanced upon him with 600 Indians and a small force of Regular Troops and Militia, and it so turned out that a small force could take a large one, for on the 16th of August forty days after the Exterminator was issued, Gen. Hull, Gen. Cass, Gen. Millar, Gen. McArthur, and the whole of the invading army, together with Fort Detroit and the Territory of Michigan were in possession of the British forces. But making all due allowances for

the spirit of braggery in the Americans, it would not be wise to be off our guard, it might therefore not be amiss to pay a little closer attention to our defences, and to keep a sharp look out for coming events; surely a little more precaution can do no harm, and would be attended with less expense just now, and the work be better done, than when an ambitious and greedy enemy is knocking at the door as if he were master. I know right well that our people are a brave people and a loyal people; that at the present moment a sentiment of respect and attachment for British rule and our Sovereign, pervades the whole of the huge regions of British America (upwards of four millions of square miles.) and that therefore there is no cause for anxiety on that score. But unfortunately we have ambitious restless republicans for neighbours, who are relentlessly bent upon grasping at every thing round about them. Towards Canada they have repeatedly acted most unscrupulously, seeking whenever circumstances seemed to favor it, to distract the country and stir up its inhabitants to rebellion, as was the case during the revolutionary war, when they vainly endeavoured to seduce the French Canadians from their allegiance to the British Crown, and likewise in the recent troubles in Canada, when the good sense and stern loyalty of the people foiled them. They have repeatedly tried to seize and subdue this country by force, but the indomitable courage, and incorruptible fidelity of the Militia side by side with

the gallant troops of Britain and Ireland, and in the midst of great privations always made them "Go HOME AGAIN; yet in a recent American news paper, called the "*Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*," they very coolly tell us that they could have taken the country in 1812, only their Government did not want any more Territory! —Emphatically, the grapes are soar. Judging however from the past conduct of our non-interfering modest neighbours, I think there can be very little doubt in the minds of those who know them well, but that they will take advantage of the same reckless game again, should an opportunity offer; at all events, going back to the present, it is but reasonable that we should be beforehand, and as there is apparently a prospect close at hand that Great Britain will be compelled to a war either for her own defence, or in defence of her friends and liberty, we of Canada, ought to look out, and bring up the subject of the defence of our great frontier, for reflection in time, so as to be beforehand with any foe that might dare to molest us. Now, as I am a man of peace, a regular Cobdenite, I strongly advocate a few more guns, of heavy calibre, along our frontier, for they are exceedingly fine peace-makers, and frequently prevent, when properly placed, the effusion of a vast deal of human blood; they promote, much good neighbourhood, and might be the means of enabling us to transact our own business, navigate our own waters, cultivate our own soil, and catch our own fish, free from the

molestation or arrogance of any foreign country whatever, and this I would recommend not altogether on our own account, but rather on the score of humanity towards our inoffensive friends on the other side of the line 45. There are some, still living, who helped to defend Canada when the enemy thought to overwhelm it with their numbers, who witnessed the harrasing duties of our Militia, as well as the desolation of the Niagara and other portions of our frontier, and who have therefore a right, I humbly conceive, to warn the present generation of the inhabitants of Canada, not to be too confiding in Republican humanity, or the bouied words of after-dinner speeches about our having "common resources and affinities" with themselves; as to their reminding us that we "speak the same language," it is all balderdash and only meant to hoodwink us, for we spoke the same language and had the same common resources and affinities in 1812 just as much as now, yet they declared war against us then, because Great Britain was engaged in a dreadful war in Europe, and they thought we should be unable to resist them and would fall an easy prey, so they issued a parcel of scarecrow proclamations and set upon us with all their might; they burnt the pretty and hospitable little town of Niagara to the ground, turning its defenceless inhabitants pitilessly into the snow in the month of December, and plundered and devastated the country about Long Point, behaving more like Brigands than an

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honorable foe, all under the pretext of cramming their notions of liberty down our throats. But the people were faithful to their allegiance, and after much service, and hard fighting, the result was glorious to Canada. Therefore I trust, in consequence of past experience, and present appearances, that we shall not allow ourselves to be bamboozled, or cajoled, into false security; and let what may take place in the shape of treaties between Great Britain and the United States, to establish the trade and other relations of the two countries upon a fair footing, it is most devoutly to be hoped that the Canadian Administration will urge upon the Imperial Government, the necessity of using the most prompt, and energetic means, of providing for the *proper* defence of our Frontier, for should an emergency again suddenly arise to defend the Province from invasion, (and it will be most sudden) it will not then be the time to sit down and enquire of each other what is best to be done; now is the time to do so, when all is calm, and, as I have before remarked, preparation is an excellent peacemaker. Our Commander of the Forces, General Rowan, is a polished brave soldier, and entitled to our confidence and respect but he is constrained to keep within the bounds of his instructions from the War-Office; and Colonel Dixon, the talented Officer who at present commands the Royal Engineers in Canada, is of course controlled by the Master General of the Ordnance: I believe the Colonel is the same Officer, who

as Captain, commanded the Engineer Department on the Detroit frontier in 1812 and 13. if so, he is well acquainted with that part of the Province; I think he must well remember the victorious shouts of the British on the banks of the Miami; I have not the slightest doubt but that he remembers the inside of that interesting building, the Penitentiary of Frankford in Kentucky, where he passed some considerable time as a close prisoner of War; a particular friend of mine, a young Grenadier Officer, once carried him off on his shoulders when he was wounded. --Again, with regard to the frontier defences, the survivors of the last war very naturally observe with regret that, the Niagara and Detroit frontiers are without a single *proper* defence; surely little Fort Mississagua is susceptible of improvement,—and on Snake Hill near Fort Erie, a Martello Tower or two, if not particularly ornamental, might be very useful, and the same may be said with reference to Point Abino. Of the old Fort Erie I believe there is very little extant; Ah! there are some who sigh when they recal the enthusiastic feelings of the times when that place, and Fort Niagara were stormed and the latter taken; when poor Upper Canada was only in its infancy and almost in a forlorn condition,—the gallant men who then defended this charming land, had little else but the forest overhead to shelter them, either in summer or winter, for those were tentless and almost villageless days; a Barn indeed, if one could only

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get at it, was too often the summit of luxury :
 poor fellows there are too many of them gone to
 their long homes, and it makes one feel sad and
 deserted in this world, for between us there was
 love and friendship,—they were my brother
 soldiers, and my friends. It is pleasant to praise
 the brave dead, and somehow or other, past
 friendships seem the sweetest ; if I had my own
 way, there should be a monument in Upper Can-
 ada, and another in Lower Canada, to glorify
 the memory of those gallant spirits who fell in
 repelling the Invader : but there is nothing of
 the sort throughout the length and breadth of
 this great Province, unless it is the column upon
 Queenston Heights, and that seems about to fall
 down and crush the bones of the illustrious dead
 beneath it. Even the very graves in the church
 yard of Lundy's lane where rest the remains of
 many of the victors of that battle, are neglec-
 ted, and there too rest the remains of the chival-
 rous and highly gifted Colonel Bishopp who fell
 mortally wounded at Black Rock. I feel very
 sorry that I have neither a tongue to utter, or a
 pen to describe all I could desire upon this
 matter, yet I do hope that some one who has the
 ability to do so, may be influenced to take it up,
 and endeavour to persuade the country of the
 propriety, and virtue, of honoring to the utmost
 the memories of those who fell in its defence,
 and that the result may be some public testi-
 monial raised aloft upon Lundy's Hill or some
 other celebrated battle ground ; all I can do is

to recollect and lament them.

I have, I fear, in some measure wandered from the object I had in view. a transgression which I hope will be excused. I am persuaded that if we want to be at peace with the United States, it is requisite most strongly to fortify our frontier without delay, and to be prepared at all points for a most efficient organization, if we do not, I venture to predict, without the gift of prophecy, that it will be impossible to remain long in amity with them, and that they will, upon the first opportunity, endeavor to take us by surprise. At Quebec we are safe, but from that Fortress westward, there is scarcely anything deserving the name of a fortification. The Redoubt on Point Henry, at Kingston, is certainly something worth looking at, but even there the stone-work is very indifferently filled in, at least I have reason to believe so. The Western and North-western frontiers are utterly exposed, and there are many considerations why that ought not to be the case. among others is the propriety of maintaining our communication with the Western tribes of Indians, whose assistance was found to be most important in the defence of Upper Canada in the war of 1812; in fact our possession of the country is very much due to them, for which they merit deep honor and gratitude at our hands; they and our resident Indians did real good service during the war, they are formidable light troops and flankers, they are faithful allies when treated with kindness and justice; they

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are attached to us, and they would join us again, and it is not improbable that we may again want another Metos, a Tecumseth, or a Brant. Fort Amherstburg is a frivolous affair.—Hamilton, that important position, is unprotected, and Toronto, as of old, is completely exposed, whereas some defences should be on Gibraltar Point, and there is a very eligible and strong position, about a mile or so to the Westward of where the Grenadiers of the 8th Regiment and their gallant Captain McNeil, were cut up, and the brave Mr. McLean, Clerk of the House of Assembly, was killed, it is a position from which the Harbour could be defended; the defences of Kingston are incomplete, Prescott and the Coteau du Lac are not what they ought to be, Montreal is left quite exposed, although it is there, in all probability, where the heaviest blow would be struck, in order to cut off the west from Quebec; the positions of the Isle aux Noix, and Chambly, might delay but would not prevent an enemy from advancing upon and seizing Montreal, and yet that city is susceptible of a most powerful defence, if the mountain and St. Helen's Island were well fortified. I heard some years ago from most undoubted authority, that it was the intention of the Home Government to fortify Queenston Heights, and the Short Hills, in the Niagara District, Hamilton in the Gore District, Bois Blanc Island opposite Amherstburg, and that the contemplated chain of Redoubts around Kingston was to be completed, besides minor

defences in other sections of Upper Canada, such as the mouth of the Ouse, the Rondeau, the St. Clair near Sarnia, Penetanguishine, and also Chatham as the centre of operations for the west. If I may with propriety, and without offence to the Ordnance Department, venture to say so, I should very much like to know what has become of all those good intentions, as well as of certain requisitions which were forwarded by Sir George Arthur, in 1839 or 1840, to the Commander of the Forces and the Secretary at War, for Arms and Equipments fully complete for 10,000 Militia Infantry of Upper Canada, 1,000 Cavalry, and 300 Artillery? If they are in the country at all, well and good so far, but it is doubted; be that as it may, it would be but a small supply. there ought to be three that quantity for Upper Canada alone, and the same quantity for Lower Canada, a portion of which should be kept at every fortified place ready for distribution when they are wanted, which would be better than keeping them exclusively at Quebec and Kingston, and they would be equally safe and well taken care of at all times. Among the defences of Canada, I hope we shall soon be able to reckon the Grand Trunk Railway from Halifax to Quebec, which is about to be undertaken, as it assuredly will be a highly important military work, although I have no doubt but that the commerce of the British Provinces was the mainspring of the undertaking. It will strengthen and facilitate the defence of Canada more, in all probabil-

ity, than any other measure that can be undertaken, and in that view, if in none other, the administration is entitled to great honor for urging it forward. But there is another work that ought to have been undertaken, and completed, many years ago, and it is truly incomprehensible why it has been neglected. It appears to me that there is no single work of equal weight, as regards the interests of trade on Lake Ontario, and perhaps, eventually the defence of Upper Canada, which could be engaged in at the present moment. I allude to a communication between Presqu' Isle Harbour, and the Bay of Quinte, by means of a Ship Canal. Such a work was strongly recommended to the attention of the people of Upper Canada, by that skillful and far-seeing officer, the late General Simcoe, during the period of his administration about sixty years ago. It would not only be a great auxilliary to trade, but it would likewise powerfully facilitate, and cheapen the defence of the country, and be the means, in all probability, of abridging hostilities by rendering more certain, and secure, our operations. In stormy weather, especially in the spring and fall of the year, all the vessels navigating Lake Ontario on the British side, would prefer going by the way of the Bay of Quinte, as it would be the most safe route, and Presqu' Isle Harbor would be "*right on the line of march*" which would be no trifling consideration, as it is decidedly the noblest harbor either on Lake Ontario or Lake Erie, and perfectly easy of access to any experienc-

ed and prudent navigator. The Canal in question would, in time of war, enable Troops and Stores to pass to and fro between Kingston and Toronto, without delay and in perfect security, when it might be impracticable, owing either to storms or an enemy's having temporary command of the Lake, to sail around the south point of Prince Edward District. The Harbor, as I have already stated, is quite easy of access, and it is moreover, perfectly defensible against the entrance of any vessel or fleet whatever. The entrance to the harbor is indicated by a large light house on Presqu' Isle Point, and two small Beacon Lights, the latter so placed that by keeping them in a line there is no sort of difficulty in entering, although strangers do sometimes go astray and therefore get aground, by keeping too much to the south-west, and taking what is called the *middle ground*, instead of keeping well down to the east towards the mainland of Brighton Township. where, by the bye. it would be very desirable to have another Beacon Light, and vessels could go within about thirty rods of it; from thence the channel, which is a mile and a half in length, is completely straight, varying from forty to eighty rods in width, and with a depth of never less than twelve feet, notwithstanding all the foolish talk to the contrary: furthermore, the channel is marked with Buoys; it is never incommoded with sand, and it is worthy of remark that notwithstanding the main body of the harbor is firmly frozen over every winter to the depth of

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one or two feet, the mouth is always open, and as the channel never freezes, any number of schooners or steamers that might be required for winter navigation, would always be sure to find a place of safety inside Salt Point. The harbour is formed by the Peninsula of Presqu' Isle which clasps it on the south and west sides, and by the mainland of the Townships of Brighton, and Murray, on the north and east. There is a short gravelly point called Salt Point, running directly from the Presqu' Isle Point for about forty rods, in a northerly direction, to the very edge of the channel where the water is very deep; this Point not only commands the channel, but also a great portion of the harbor itself, and every vessel in entering must pass within forty rods of it. The harbor is very capacious, not less than twelve miles in circumference, if not more, with an abundant depth of water for any vessel navigating the lakes, without any obstruction whatever, except one small shoal, called "Calf-pasture shoal" which is easily avoided. There is excellent anchorage in the channel, in fact none better in the world, and the channel never fills up or narrows. The proposed Canal would not cost much in its construction, as it would not require any Lock, and the length would be only just about five miles, and besides being the means of rendering more secure the Lake navigation, it would open up to the Towns and Villages along the very extensive and picturesque Bay of Quinte, a direct water communication to the West, without being

compelled, as at present, to make in the first instance a very considerable retrograde movement to the East: in the event of War, it would, in addition to innumerable other advantages, enable the co-operation of Flotillas of Gun boats, and other craft, for the defence of the shores of the Bay and Presqu' Isle Harbor, and their respective vicinities, either towards Cobourg and Port Hope on the West, Wellington to the South east, or Picton, Bath and Kingston eastward; and from the central position of Presqu' Isle Harbor between Kingston and the head of the Lake, the contemplated canal would cause it to become a powerful link in the Naval or Military operations of the country should an exigency arise, besides being a great saving of money for transport. During the last War, numerous brigades of boats with detachments of troops, and munitions of war, had to pass by the route of the Bay of Quinte and for want of a canal were obliged to be hauled across the Isthmus of Murray at an enormous cost, altho' the Isthmus is only a mile and a quarter broad at the Carrying-place, four pounds having to be paid for every boat and a dollar for every wagon load, besides the cost of a great many old, or worn out horses and cattle, that were conveniently put into teams employed there, either to be killed, or injured, in the service of the Government, and so to be paid for out of the Military Chest. But the expense was not the worst part of the business, there was the delay, which, under ordinary circumstances, might be

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attended with mischievous consequences, yet when it is taken into account that the Invaders were vastly superior in numbers and very subtle, besides having the advantage of being the aggressive party, any delay was a very serious matter indeed, and it might have proved fatal, were it not that the sentiment of loyalty was immoveably fixed in the breast of the valiant defenders of the country, which impelled them to quit their homes and submit to military discipline, and so they prevailed just as all such noble-hearted and spirited men ought to prevail, and ever will prevail. It is therefore sincerely to be hoped that the important work of connecting the Bay of Quinte with Presqu' Isle Harbour, in aid of the other defences of Canada, will no longer be delayed, and that no feeling of parsimony shall prevent its speedy completion in the most ample manner. It is a work of defence which the Provincial Government can undertake, and accomplish without any reference, or aid, to or from the Imperial Government; it would reflect great honor and at the same time be very profitable, and as it would be alike applicable to the best interests of the country in Peace or War, it would be a perdurable disgrace not to accomplish it.

There can be no doubt in any reasonable man's mind, that the professions of attachment so frequently made by the people of Canada to the British Crown, are perfectly sincere; neither can there be a doubt that they would prove it to the fullest extent in the defence of the Province if

needs be, and that nearly all of our little knave Canada of rash annexationists would not be found among military the few who would "hang fire," it is a calumny which to think otherwise, indeed many of them, that other know right well, would pull a trigger to-morrow the moral as readily as any man in defence of the country. If the if it was assailed. I am also convinced that most make time on the Americans from the States, who have seen defend the rled among us and become British subjects, would stand true to us, and would not flinch from the and i defence of the country and its institutions, if they go bac were called upon to arm, because I know many they sho of that class who cheerfully shared our danger some par in the last war, and did good service. Our neigh more bors have, on several occasions of late, threatened their ow to pour into this province in case of a rupture have vast numbers of the millions which border it, and impre sweep every thing before them; they are con danger stantly dinning it into our ears, and seem par with, or ticularly anxious to impress upon the minds ore," an our people, that it would be utterly useless to re forbid th sist them;—that's their game at present, its a believ sort of second edition of Hull's proclamation,—nd men they are trying to frighten us, but I don't think t is q they will succeed, because it is my steady belief tha both ric it is not in their power to do so. Of one thingst, wou we may rest assured, that is, that great mas hat, in ses of undisciplined me more especially when d popu lead on by elective officers, never did and never ands t will constitute strength; such mobs, for one can protects not call them Armies, are totally unfit for suc- tional h cessful invasion, particularly against a Colony of any.

little knowledge Canada, where there is such a fine spread of
 bound among military knowledge and military feelings, added
 a calumny which, and almost pre-eminent above all
 them, that other considerations, there is amongst our militia
 to-morrow the morality of obedience, and that is strength.
 the country If the Government with whom it rests, will but
 ed that most take timely precautions to enable the people to
 no have self defend themselves to the best advantage, all those
 objects, would last masses with which we have been so boasting-
 n from the go and insultingly threatened, would soon have
 ions, if they go back again in haste and confusion, even if
 snow many they should have the misfortune to penetrate into
 ur danger some parts of Canada; and they might find out
 Our neigh more ways than one, when it was too late, that
 , threaten their own country is not invulnerable. Perhaps.
 a rupture have been rather too prolix, but I am deep-
 order it, and impressed with the conviction that there is
 ey are con danger at hand which ought not to be trifled
 seem par with, or disregarded; "a burnt child dreads the
 e minds ore," and having seen one war in Canada, God
 seless to re forbid that we should ever see another, although
 escut, its believe we might confidently hope that a kind
 lamation, and merciful Providence would again favor us.
 don't think it is quite certain that the people of Canada
 y belief that both rich and poor, from the highest to the low-
 one thing st, would muster to shield it from danger, and
 great mas hat, in addition to our other resources, the colour-
 ially when ed population would rush to the frontier in thou-
 and never ands to protect the land and the rule which
 or one can protects them, still a sense of humanity, and na-
 fit for suc tional honor, alike forbid that the Government
 t a Colony of any country should allow its attention to be se

engaged about railroads or any other matters, to exclude the necessary precautionary measures against invasion or insult, devastation and plunder, and there would be an awful responsibility for any additional blood spilt through such neglect there may yet be time, however, to avoid the Rock even though the coming tempest might reach us.

I don't think I am a croaker, but I do think that it is sometimes better to fear a little too soon, than a little too late. So far as I am individually concerned, perhaps I need not care what may come, for I have nothing to lose except my life, and that is not worth much, altho' my body might yet stop a bullet from a better man, that's all,—for

My face is shrunk, my ha'r is gray,
Of beauty I'm bereft;
I feel I soon must pass away,
But still some blood is left.

Although I'm poor, and sadly used,
I never was a Traitor;
To serve my Queen, I ne'er refused,
Like some I know, who hate her.

But all can fly, to HIM on high,
When wealth and weal are taken;
The darkest hour, that e'er did lower,
The FRIEND above can brighten.

HOPE.

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