application, and the authority from which it pro:
:ceeds, I have the honor to submit to your candid deli:
:beration, the following observations.

That it is at all times proper to husband with econo:
:my, as far as circumstances will admit, the resources
of our country, and that it is especially incumbent
upon us at a juncture of threatened invasion, when
the funds provided for fortifications are evidently in
competent to the protection of every part of the union,
to be careful to apply them to the protection of those ci:
:ties and places only, which are most important to the ge:
:neral interest and welfare

In determining under such circumstances upon
the points to be fortified, those cities which are not only
most exposed, but being possessed by an enemy would injure
the union most, both in financial, and other particulars,
will first and most justly attract the attention
and call for the most prompt, and largest expenditures,
and any determination respecting places of secondary impor:
:tance must necessarily be suspended until it can be as:
certained whether a surplus will remain after the ne: