

visit our borders. And again, why is it that we are so indifferent to the consolidation of the Provinces under one Government, that would so augment our means of resistance, increasing our wealth by extending our commercial transactions, elevating British America to a much higher status than that which her present disjointed condition confers on her? This union by law and railway is more necessary now than ever; by these means we may obtain a position of defence that would deter the hostility of our neighbors, whose dear-bought experience against the South will have taught them that a people cherishing independence cannot easily be overcome, and although the present American contest has called into existence most formidable armies, well appointed, inured to the hardships of war, and disciplined by experience in the field, they would not hazard a war with England if British America could arm five hundred thousand men to defend her soil. That she can do this, and that the integrity of the Empire demand it, does not admit of a doubt; the mere evidence of our ability to make such a demonstration of military power would avert the march of an hostile American army from our frontiers. But if we continue in our present helpless condition, the temptation to possess Canada, and finally British America, may be too great for the North American Republic to resist, and we may be invaded by a most overwhelming force, whose line of march would be traced by conflagration, blood and rapine, our cities ruthlessly bombarded, our sons, for want of proper organization and discipline, helplessly bearing the brunt of war without hope. All this may come on us, and its danger is imminent so long as we have a mere paper force, not worth the paper on which its existence is recorded.

FINANCE.

As figures, correctly calculated, cannot deceive, I submit the Tables marked No. 1, 2, 3 and 4. From these it will be seen that every four years 3,340 men will be called out for Lower Canada, formed into 80 companies, and incorporated into eight battalions. These tables comprise all that I can say on this most important part of the Militia question.

Having given my reasons why a war with the United States is a probable event, and the necessity for a more efficient Militia Act than the present one, I come to the consideration of the amendment of that Act.

The present armament of the United States renders the consideration of our Militia Act a matter of paramount importance. Its existing provisions affords no effectual power of resistance to such a force as the American Republic could now assail us with. [It must be admitted it is a question beset with perplexities, difficult to solve.

We have 310,000 men to incorporate for defence, but what Canada lacks is the sinews of war—money; and this great want I propose to provide for, so far as to place the country under so perfect a military organization that England's gold, in the event of her having a war with the States, could