

St. Louis have nearly three times the tonnage; but three-fourths of that tonnage cannot pass into Lake Ontario, and the remaining fourth only through the Welland Canal, a work on British soil which can be destroyed in a day. Canada has also a strong fortress and dockyard, and there are innumerable harbors on the north shore of Ontario where vessels could be built. Above all she commands the only navigable means of access to it whether from the sea or westward. On the south shore there are but four or five harbours, and having no access by water through American territory all the offensive power must be created in its basin and the points of construction being few, the progress might indeed be very seriously impeded. Let me pause to ask them whether due weight has ever been given to the drain on the enemy's resources which the reduction of Canada would entail? What force both of men and ships would be required for a successful attack on Halifax? What for Quebec? What for St. John, either in New Brunswick or Newfoundland. For Kingston or Montreal. The difficulties attending the expeditionary operations against Charleston, New Orleans, Fort Fisher, and Mobile, which occupied so many years, and where the naval supremacy was wholly with the invaders, were as nothing to what would have to be overcome in those northern positions.

If the present feeling of devotion to England continues there are no sacrifices the Canadian people would not willingly endure to resist the attempt at conquest, or to make common cause with England in the struggle. The population of Canada comprehends nearly as many fighting men as the Southern States ever brought into the field. She has now 40,000 of active militia, well trained and armed, and in case of need it is computed that she could supply at least 500,000 men capable of bearing arms, leaving still a reasonable proportion of her population for the indispensable work of life. The returns of 1867 showed a registered tonnage (not computing Newfoundland and Prince Edward's Island, and exclusive of fishing craft) of about 6,000 vessels employing some 40,000 seamen; and those engaged in the fisheries, including Newfoundland, were computed at 30,000 more. The South had no England at her back; she had no seamen, no ships of war worth the name, however destructive to unresisting merchantmen her cruisers may have been.

I appreciate sensibly the great advantage which superiority in number, proximity, and unlimited resources would give over Canada in such a war. In courage, endurance and discipline I assume an equality. But knowing as an eye-witness the difficulties and losses to which every mile of advance subjects an invading force, in a country far less wild, and offering infinitely fewer obstacles to the progress of an army than Canada, I assert that conditions wholly novel all to the disadvantage of offensive, and favouring defensive operations, exist in her case. Military occupation of parts of the country might be held, but considerations of policy as well as what was due to the rules of civilized warfare (and no one will deny but that in the past these have been chivalrously observed by the only possible enemy) would prevent such an occupation being accompanied by any acts which the people of Canada would not for the time endure as the price of their loyalty. I leave those who are competent to form an estimate of the difficulties attending expeditions on a large scale to say how serious would be the exhaustion to any nation, and how severely these ex-

peditions would impair the powers of defence elsewhere.

Let those who commanded at Bull's Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness or Fredericksburg say whether the subjugation of Canada is an operation they would covet without armies as numerous and efficient as ever taxed the power of the United States to bring them into the field.

I must defer reference to the alternative of abandonment based on the hopelessness of defence until to-morrow.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant
A Colonist.

The foregoing is the first of a series of letters by the Hon. John Rose to the London Times.

THE LONDON TIMES ON THE COLONIES.

The following are the concluding extracts of a lengthy article in a recent issue of the London Times. The remarks were drawn forth in consequence of a solemn "protest" drawn up by some colonists in London, who recently formed themselves into a colonial league:

The Colonist knows well that if France or the United States threatened them, the Mother Country would strain every nerve in their defence. A few years since we sent the Guards to Canada in the depth of winter, and hurried to sea the squadrons which should guard the British American coast and the West India Islands. Was there here any failure in duty any shrinking from the responsibilities which England has incurred by the planting of Colonies, any disregard of the Colonists as fellow-subjects or as men? It has been declared that England is ever ready to defend the Colonies from external and civilized enemies, but that it belongs to themselves to deal with local tumult or with the barbarous races who may exist within their borders. The pretence that such an apportionment of duties is an abandonment of our own, or a withdrawal of a due protection, tends to make us suspect the spirit in which the Colonist call for a closer union. As to the severance of the Colonies from the Empire, we retain the opinion we have always expressed—that, politically, socially, and commercially, the Colonies are in the highest degree valuable to England, and ought to be retained. When the abandonment was urged some years ago by Mr. Goldwin Smith, with the dogmatic intolerance of his school, we combated the proposal, and should it be renewed, we would combat it again. But there is a great difference between maintaining an honourable connexion with free fellow subjects and making them helpless by keeping them in leading-strings like children. We forbid that the Colonies should be abandoned! But if ever this comes to pass it will be the result of a conviction on the part of England that their inhabitants look only to the leaves and ashes of the Imperial system, and that the dependencies are suckers and are not feeders of the body politic. . . . We yield to none in the desire to maintain the Empire in its integrity. We believe it can be maintained if both parties—that is, if Home Britons and Colonial Britons—will fulfil their mutual duties in a spirit of true Imperial patriotism, untinted by selfishness, and showing itself in mutual forbearance and concession. But we confess we do not see our way to administrative unity, even were it likely to be

beneficial, which we do not believe. The British Empire must necessarily be organized on a looser system than Empires like the United States or Russia, which are territorially continuous. There can be no real political unity without financial unity, and there can be no financial unity without geographical unity. Australia and the Cape, the West Indies and the Canadian Dominion are too widely sundered from each other and from us, too various in their products and resources, to be embraced in one Budget, and to be charged in common with a single system of military and naval armaments. The man must be a visionary indeed who hopes one day to hear Mr. Lowe deal with the estimates and the Revenue of the United Kingdom and its forty Colonies in a Pan-Britannic Parliament. Yet between this and the local independence which now prevails we see no middle way. The theory of delegation is the product of the very weakest political intelligence. The Delegates would be ciphers, and if they were to gain any real power the Colonial Legislatures would be the first to suspect them of using it to limit Colonial independence.

AN EXPLOSIVE AGENT.

SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT AT THE HOOSAC TUNNEL.

From the Springfield Republic.

Captain Von Schelika and Lieutenant Von Dittmar, both of the Prussian Army, and the latter the inventor of the explosive known as daulin, have been giving a practical test of its quality at the Hoosac Tunnel, which has proved very successful. The experiments included trials of power upon rocks, simply placing a few ounces on the surface and covering it with dirt, upon a boulder in the open field, the hole being drilled in the usual way, and the daulin lightly stamped in, and in the regular work of the tunnel, at the west and central shafts. In every instance the explosive did all that is claimed for it, and proved itself a powerful agent for breaking things. The same weight of the daulin is more effective than nitro glycerine, while it is also considerably cheaper, and is absolutely safe in the handling. Its advantages over glycerine are so great, that a considerable quantity of it has been ordered already, and it is probable that it will soon be exclusively used by the Messrs. Shively, the Canadian contractors, in their work on the tunnel. Its great advantage is the safety with which it can be used, even allowing for accident or carelessness. While possessing many of the properties of glycerine, it is so prepared and combined with other substances as not to be exploded by concussion; indeed, when confined, and fire is applied to it, it does not explode but simply burns. Lieutenant Dittmar brought over with him from Germany 100 pounds of daulin in a carpet bag, and we are sure that he would not have treated nitro glycerine in that confidential manner. There have already been numerous fatal accidents from glycerine at the tunnel, and any explosive that will be equally effectual, and yet safe to handle, will be a real boon to the workmen if to no one else.

The Pope has issued a Bull against the Fenians in Ireland and America.

The earnings of the Union Pacific Railway for the six months ending Dec. 31, 1869, amount to \$4,011,161.33.