

"I trust that the general spirit of these debates will not have been misinterpreted. I feel no less confidence, that the object of the present despatch will not be mistaken as implying either mistrust of the Canadian people or an alteration by Her Majesty's Government of the view which they have frequently expressed of the relations which ought to exist between England and the Colony.

"On the one hand, the promptitude with which troops and stores were despatched last winter, with much inconvenience to the soldiers, and at no inconsiderable expense to this country, shews the readiness of England to defend Canada with the whole power of the Empire; whilst, on the other hand, the reception of those troops and the loyal enthusiasm of the people of Canada, give ample assurance of the fact that Canada is attached to this country, and faithful to the Queen.

"It cannot be denied, however, that the rejection of the Militia Bill has produced a disadvantageous impression on the minds of the English people. The public cannot be expected to see that the adoption or rejection of a particular measure may sometimes turn, not so much on the merits of the measure itself as on other considerations, though Her Majesty's Government are aware that Parliamentary tactics in a free Representative Assembly not unfrequently make that appear the real issue, which is in fact only the occasion.

"They do not, therefore, infer from the rejection of this measure, that either the Canadian Ministry or the Canadian people are reluctant to make proper provision for their own defence, but they do regret that, at such a moment, both should be exposed to misconception of their motives and intentions, not only by the people of England, but by those of the United States.

"Her Majesty's Government disclaim both the right and the desire to interfere in the party politics of Canada, and they would evince no concern in the late change of your advisers, if it were not connected with an event which appears to impugn the patriotism of her people.

"If I urge upon you the importance of speedily resuming measures for some better military organization of the inhabitants of Canada than that which now exists, it must not be supposed that Her Majesty's Government is influenced by any particular apprehension of an attack on the Colony at the present moment, but undoubtedly the necessity for preparation, which has from time to time been urged by successive Secretaries of State, is greatly increased by the presence, for the first time on the American Continent, of a large standing army, and the unsettled condition of the neighboring States. Moreover, the growing importance of the Colony, and its attachment to free institutions, make it every day more essential that it should possess in itself, that, without which no free institutions can be secure—adequate means of self-defence. The adequacy of those means is materially influenced by the peculiar position of the country. Its extent of frontier is such that it can be safe only when its population capable of bearing arms, is ready and competent to fight. That the population is ready, no one will venture to doubt; that it cannot be competent, is no less certain, until it has received that organization, and acquired that habit of discipline, which constitute the difference between a trained force and an armed mob. The drill required in the regular army, or even in the best Volunteer Battalion, is not necessary, nor would it be possible, in a country like Canada, for so large a body of men as ought to be prepared for any emergency; but the Government should