

bouring territories. It is easy to see, that an army, collected in such a state of society, as that which exists in this country, where wages are high, and subsistence easily to be obtained, must be composed, so far as respects the soldiery, for the most part of the refuse of the country; and, as it respects the officers, with some honourable exceptions indeed, must consist, in a considerable degree, of men, desperate, sometimes, in fortune, at others, in reputation; "choice spirits;" men "tired of the dull pursuits of civil life," who have not virtue, or talents, to rise in a calm and settled state of things, and who, all other means of advancement or support wanting, or failing, take to the sword. A body of thirty, or fifty thousand, such men, combined, armed, and under a popular leader, is a very formidable force. They want only discipline and service, to make them veterans. Opportunity to acquire these, Canada will afford. The army, which advances to the walls of Quebec, in the present condition of Canadian preparation, must be veteran. And a veteran army, under a popular leader, flushed with victory, each individual realizing, that while the body remains combined, he may be something, and, possibly, very great, that if dissolved, he sinks into insignificance, will not be disbanded by vote. They will consult with one another, and with their beloved chieftain, upon this subject; and not trouble themselves about the advice of the old people, who are knitting and weaving, in the chimney corners, at Washington. Let the American people receive this as an undoubted truth, which experience will verify.—*Whoever plants the American standard on the walls of Quebec, conquers it for himself, and not for the people of these United States.* Whoever lives to see that event,—may my head be low in the dust before it happen!—will witness a dynasty established, in that country, by the sword. He will see a King, or an Emperor, dukedoms, and earldoms, and baronies distributed to the officers, and knights' fees bestowed on the soldiery. Such an army will not trouble itself about geographical lines, in portioning out the divisions of its new empire; and will run the parallels of its power by other steel than that of the compass. When that event happens, the people of New England, if they mean to be free, must have a force equal to defend themselves against such an army. And a military force, equal to this object, will itself be able to enslave the country.

Mr. Speaker, when I contemplate the character and consequences of this invasion of Canada, when I reflect upon its criminality and its danger to the peace and liberty of this, once happy, country, I thank the great author and source of all virtue, that, through his grace, that section of country, in which I have the happiness to reside, is, in so great a degree, free from the iniquity of this transgression. I speak it with pride, the people of that section have done what they could, to vindicate themselves and their children from the burden of this sin.