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## OUR MILITIA.

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THE maintenance of a military force for defence against foes from without, and for the preservation of order within, has at all times, and in all countries, been accepted as a necessary condition of national existence. And till the practical teaching of Christianity rules the world, preparation for self-defence, and readiness to endure all that it may impose, will continue to be among the first of national necessities. Canada offers no exception to the rule. We have assumed national responsibilities, and we must be prepared to accept all the conditions by which they are accompanied. To this proposition all parties in the State must be held to be assenting, as a little consideration will show. Those who desire the existing state of things to continue, are aware that a certain expenditure for military purposes is one of the terms of the contract. Those who look forward to independence, must accept the undertaking of the defence of the country as a necessary condition of national existence. Those who advocate Imperial Federation base their scheme upon our assuming our full share of Imperial defence. And even the annexationist, if any such exist, must admit, that were Canada to become a portion of the Union, the expenditure on State militia, and

in support of the regular army, would be a far heavier burden than that now imposed upon us for maintaining the militia of the Dominion.

And not only do reason and experience concur in these conclusions; the temper and spirit of the people demand that practical effect shall be given to them. Our history, from the earliest times, proves the existence of a vigorous warlike sentiment, which finds expression in the voluntary effort by which our militia is maintained, and which, on various occasions, has carried our forces triumphantly through the trials of actual conflict.

With these premises established, the duty of the statesman is to consider by what means, and in what manner, the greatest military efficiency can be attained with the least expenditure of money, both *maximum* and *minimum* being regulated by the political conditions existing, and the available resources of the country.

The conditions are:—an enormous territory with an extensive frontier, vulnerable throughout its whole length of three thousand miles; and a sparse and scattered population. The means are simply what is grudgingly spared from a revenue required to administer the affairs and develop the resources of this vast territory; the portion al-