

picked off by any one who could load a gun behind a tree.

Your public men signed the Declaration of Independence, with halts about their necks. No refuge was provided for them. Officers in case of temporary reverses have only a step across the lines for safety. Your commerce was destroyed—you could procure necessary supplies from no quarter. Our inhabitants have only to direct their trade to the States whose water communications extend to our neighborhood, and carry on uninterruptedly a regular business, without feeling the inconveniences of war. You had difficulty in raising money.—“Patriot” loans have since been so profitable to capitalists, and American Revolutions so universally successful, that no trouble would now interfere on this point. The agent of Lower Canada would raise loans even in London on better terms than the Chancellor of the Exchequer, because *this province is prepared by not owing one dollar of debt.* Her legislators have not been duped by the cry of “public improvements,” and in charging themselves and their posterity, to raise loans of money, which, whatever be the pretence, goes in Colonies, for the most part into official pockets, and more completely fetters the people. Not only are we out of debt, but we have means to pay. The Assembly has declared that it will confiscate all the property of the British American Land Company, whenever it has the power. These lands are on the immediate borders of Vermont and New Hampshire; and then we have interminable forests of pine, as yet unsurveyed. It would be a glorious speculation for a Company of enterprising individuals to furnish the money requisite for carrying on the war, and receive the payment in wild lands.

It would not require a great sum. We require no Navy or expensive Embassies—a trip to Washington costs next to nothing.—Forts and fortifications are unnecessary; the ditches and fences, running in all directions, on our farms, already form sufficient breastworks, which with *abatiss* of fallen trees, would provide lines of defence at no expense. As to artillery, the enemy would leave as many guns about the country, sticking in the mud, as would be wanted. Small arms would be wanted for the troops, but every house is already furnished with some sort of a shooting instrument, as well as with *a man who knows how to use it.*

Massachusetts, with uniform population, furnished 17,000 combatants in each of the years 1774 and '75. There are in this pro-

vince 125,000 capable of bearing arms, that is, men between the ages of 16 and 60. The militia returns, if completed, after deducting exemptions, would probably show about 80,000 militia men. There is not on the American continent any people so well qualified for becoming soldiers as the French Canadians. Your people are too impatient of control, and too speculative to remain in a camp when they see more profitable employment elsewhere. They consider themselves of too much importance to be privates; and like the crew of the eastern schooner who “concluded to lose half a day” when the sails were being carried away, they are apt to parley with their officers. The Canadians on the contrary, would delight in a camp-life: with regular pay and good clothing any number could be kept together. They are hardy, active, patient and obedient and would be entirely devoted to the wishes of officers in whom they placed confidence. As boatmen and *voyageurs* for the northwest, their merit has been long established, and their behavior as soldiers in the last war drew forth constant eulogiums from British Commanders. Though admirably qualified for soldiers, they want officers—good officers will make good soldiers of any men. There are some in the country—there are plenty in the States. Even the cadets of your military school at West Point would be found on the road to Canada at the sound of war, anxious to put in practice the lessons now being taught to them, lest they should never in their lives have another opportunity. And then from your Havre packets, how many a sear-worn veteran whose blood has sprinkled the grass from the Guadalquivir to the Rhine, or from the Rhine to the Niemen, would be seen debarking, his stiffened limbs invigorated like the war horse at the trumpet sound, and hastening to efface the stain which he may imagine the last reverses of France have left upon his military character.

It is my opinion that England will never coerce the Canadas, if they only declare they will *not be coerced.* There would be difficulty in raising the means in the House of Commons, because so strong a party, upon a principle of interest, considers that Canada would be more profitable to Britain as an independent State than as a Colony. But suppose they commence hostilities, what power could they bring to subdue the natural and physical strength of the country? Every European soldier landed upon our shores costs, with his equipment, be it recollected, 100 pounds. A pennyworth of powder and ball will prevent his doing any mischief after he has landed;