

clearly defined. The Imperial authorities, as representative of the sovereignty of the Empire, were bound to afford full protection to the colony against external aggression whilst the sole obligation of the colony was to attend to the defence of its own territory. Of this, as *an historical fact*, there can be absolutely no question, indeed, this principle was expressly recognized in all Canadian legislation up to the time of Confederation. Canadian statesmen of the time, Liberal as well as Conservative, in all their utterances made it perfectly clear that while they were prepared to abide by the arrangements made they did not propose that Canada should undertake any *new obligations*. Such was the situation precedent to the Confederation negotiations. *The federation of the British North American colonies was in itself a defensive measure*. The leading colonial statesmen realized that whilst the position of the separate colonies was precarious in the extreme their defensive position would be greatly strengthened by union, in fact that prompt and decisive action to bring about such a union was absolutely necessary if Canada's political entity was to be maintained and the absorption of the country by the United States averted.

The question of defence was one of the main articles of the Confederation negotiations and when, following the adoption by the Parliament of United Canada of the Confederation project Macdonald, Cartier, Brown and Galt went to England to confer with the Imperial authorities the subject engaged the particular and earnest attention of the representatives of the two governments. As the result of a series of conferences between the Canadian delegates and a committee of the Imperial Cabinet, of which Gladstone was a member, a basis of agreement was reached. By that agreement the British Government expressly undertook the naval defence of the Dominion, the Canadian delegates on their part agreeing that the Dominion should look after the land defence of its own territory.

The Imperial troops were to be withdrawn and the *sole obligation* of the Canadian government and people was the defence of Canadian territory. It was upon that