

versal experience teach us that the Spirit of Liberty has directed the councils of every state, whatever its position, whatever the origin of its inhabitants, that has been *willing* to be free, and that the Genius of America, has in every instance preserved her children from harm, while she has driven from their territories the enemies of their repose. An American needs but to raise his hands and the chains fall unshackled from his arms.

Although, however dark may have been her prospects, *every* American State has been triumphant in her contest with Europe. I see the European sneer at the idea of rebellion in Canada. These sneers are not victories. General Grant declared, that with five regiments he could drive all the disaffected in the old colonies before him. Pity he was not employed, for Burgoyne, who more economically offered to ride through the country with a "troop of horse," was not precisely successful as a victor. He and his army "rode through the country" certainly—but as prisoners of war.

The present North American colonies contain a population nearly equal to that of the old colonies at the commencement of your troubles; but, leaving the others, I shall confine my observations to the Canadas, and principally to the lower province, which relatively, now stands in the position of Massachusetts in 1770. The population of that State was then 340,000; ours is now over 600,000. Of these, three-fourths are of French extraction, united almost to a man. Of the remaining fourth, one-half are Americans, who would never fight to *maintain* European supremacy; the remaining half contains a majority of Irish, about whom there is "no mistake," so that the upholders of monarchy, whenever a contest begins, would be reduced to the British merchants and officials of Montreal and Quebec, and their immediate dependants. Upper Canada is more equally balanced; but in a day of trial she would, like the old colonies, notwithstanding their previous indifference, make common cause with an abused neighbor.

The white population of your thirteen States could not, in 1775, have much exceeded two millions. Your Tory, or British, party, was stronger than ours, for it vaunted that it could eat up the rebels if it only "got leave." You had half a million of slaves to keep in subjection, forming a majority in the Southern States and one-fifth of the entire population of the whole. You had thousands of Indians, under English influence, hovering about, ready

and excited to butcher every defenceless family. There was a province in your rear filled with British troops, who commanded all the Northern waters. In front you had the broad Atlantic, and Britain's thousand ships ready to attack at any season of the year, and there lay your thirteen colonies, a mere ribbon of 1,400 miles in length, and your two million of inhabitants, almost within reach of their ships' guns. Your far west was then the Susquehanna and the Alleghanies. By what miracle did you succeed?

How much brighter are the prospects of Canada! Massachusetts, which may be considered to have commenced the war singly, had then but 340,000 inhabitants. Lower Canada has 600,000, and with the Upper Province may form a compact million. We have a few Tories, who, like yours of old, would be loud when protected by British guns, and get paid for it when the troops removed, as they *pay* ships—with a coat of tar, and feather ornaments. We have no slaves to rise upon their masters: we have no hostile Indians to dread. If they acted at all it would be as allies to the Canadians. Instead of savages, we have seventeen millions of sympathizing freemen on our borders, from whom thousands, whatever might be the laws of neutrality, would come to our assistance, to prevent European butchery from again saturating American soil with American blood. Instead of 1400 miles of seacoast constantly exposed, we have only one inlet—at Quebec, only two-thirds of a mile broad, and closed by ice four months out of twelve. By commencing a revolution in November, we should remain in peaceable possession of the country for six months. Nor would it be safe at any time to send ships of war into the river. They would be hemmed in by sunken rafts, "snares," and "sawyers," that could be placed at an hour's notice. Then there is the danger of fire, from which there could be no escape in a narrow channel, with alternately a strong current setting one way and a strong tide the other. The whole British navy, if it came here, would in 2 years be destroyed by fire-vessels. The cities of Montreal and Quebec might, until starved out, remain in the hands of the British, but the troops could never go into the country. In winter, in an excursion of ten miles, the frost alone would provide frozen toes, frozen fingers, and frozen noses enough to keep half the detachment six months in hospital. In summer our clay roads would seldom bear up artillery or heavy wagons, and even troops unable to wade through them would have to straggle through the fields,