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OUR FALLEN MEMBERS.

Prize Poem read at the Annual Conversazione of the Literary and Scientific Society of University College, Toronto, on Friday evening, March 29, 1867.

BY J. TAYLOR.

Long years of peace had blessed our land by forest, lake and shore,
 And war was all forgotten save in memories of yore;
 Well had the people prospered in the arts of love and peace,
 And many a fervent prayer was breathed that these might never cease.
 To gladden free Canadian homes; when sudden comes from far,
 Along our front, the gathering storm, and threatening clouds of war;
 And through the land there flashed the call to guard its sacred soil,
 Prompt, then, uprose, to meet their foes the stalwart sons of toil;
 From furrow, forge, and mart, and from college hall they come,
 Banded in stern resolve to drive the foul invader home;
 Along their serried ranks there gleamed a line of bristling steel,
 And in their hearts there burned the thoughts which only freemen feel.
 They met the traitors on the heights near Erie's well-known shore,
 Where wreaths of glory had been won by Britain's sons before;
 Near where the heights at Queenston and the fields at Lundy's Lane
 Had felt the force of Britain's power in storms of leaden rain.
 Then backward o'er our border fled the banners of the foe.
 And PEACE restored smiled through her tears shed for our country's woe,
 As with their gallant dead borne home we hailed our Volunteers,
 While thousands murmured blessings sadly mingled with their tears:
 For all did not return, alas! some who had bravely stood,
 To battle for their native land, now dyed it with their blood;
 Bright lives of promise offered up in Freedom's sacred cause,
 The old allegiance to maintain and to defend our laws.
 Our ALMA MATER bore her part on that eventful day,
 Her sons were ever foremost in the thickest of the fray,
 Boldly they marched to battle, their hearts so full and free,
 But left upon the blood-stained field our noble, gallant THREE.
 Tread the slow march, breathe the last prayer, spread the sad funeral pall,

Their memories graven on our hearts and blazoned in our hall.
 MEWBURN, MCKENZIE, TEMPEST, record each honored name.
 And hand it down upon the page of never-dying fame:
 Each comrade, drop a farewell tear upon their hallowed graves,
 And consecrate the resting place of Canada's young braves—
 Plant mournful cypresses around o'er each cold narrow bed,
 But let the laurel with them twine above our noble dead;
 And monument and pillar raise, full high inscribe their deeds,
 That each may bless their memories as their glorious death he reads:
 Drape with no mourning tapestry our well loved college halls,
 Where their names a lasting glory shed around her marble walls:
 Yet weep thy sons, O! Canada, they bravely died,
 The last sounds from their dying lips spoke joy that thou wert free;
 They fought not all for honour, nor for glory did they die,
 They battled for their hearths and homes, and now they calmly lie
 Beneath thy soil; each gallant son, the bravest of the brave.
 Sleeps his last sleep untroubled in the land he died to save.

NOTES ON THE DEFENCE OF CANADA.

No. III.

HAVING roughly sketched the outlines of the system under which these Provinces could be successfully defended, it is now as well to look to the consequences of their loss to Great Britain.

In taking up a consideration of this description, it will be necessary to compare the position the mother country now occupies with respect to other nations, and that which she filled before the full growth of her Colonial Empire. At the period when the House of Hanover ascended the throne of the three Kingdoms, England was by no means in the foremost rank amongst the leading powers of Europe. It is true, a great and glorious war had been concluded—English arms and prowess had vindicated the reputation imperilled by the inaction of centuries—but neither her territorial extent nor commercial importance warranted the assumption of that position which her later prosperity has conferred. The cost of the

maintenance of her army and navy bore more heavily on her resources than those at the present period, and her prestige at home and abroad was rivalled and shared by France, Spain and Holland. Without anything approaching the comparative value of her present commerce, she was compelled, throughout the whole of the eighteenth century to maintain heavy naval armaments in the North American coasts and West Indies. The victories of Clive added a large empire to her sway, and the conquest of Canada laid the foundation of her colonial greatness, followed by the check of the revolt of the American Colonies, a circumstance which hardly retarded the progress of the commercial and imperial greatness which Great Britain was now attaining. This event, by creating a new rival in her path towards pre-eminence, was hardly appreciable in its effects on her power; and the events of the wars arising out of the French Revolution, by crushing the naval forces of Europe, left her without a competitor at sea. From the battle of Trafalgar, England was undoubtedly the leading Power in the world; and so long as she is able to maintain her Colonial Empire intact, so long will she hold the destinies of civilization and progress within her control. Instead of being burthens, her colonies are sources of profit and power. Stripped of these, she would sink to the third or fourth class in the rank of nations. And the reason is sufficiently evident. Her own territorial extension is too limited to occupy any higher rank. Take France, for instance; her area is double that of the British Isles, and she has been enabled to maintain her position as the leader of Continental Europe by the compactness of her dominion, and the employment of her whole available population as soldiers. Ships, colonies and commerce had very little to do with her greatness. Will the English people submit to such a change in their condition as will compel 30 per cent. of the population to be glad to serve as soldiers for three cents per diem; to live in a state of chronic revolution, and be obliged to undertake chivalrous wars for the purpose of depleting her people? Yet those would be essentially the logical consequences of the doctrine of the Manchester school of politicians, and of all who countenance the severance of the colonial connection.

Taking Canada as an example. It costs the Imperial Treasury about £1,000,000 sterling per annum to maintain 10,000 men of the regular army here. Provided Canada was annexed to the United States, that sum would be saved; but in the event of a war with that Power, what would prevent the