

some influence on the *status* of Canada as a portion of the Empire, and tend to establish elsewhere that identity of interest which ought to exist between the Mother Country and the Colony.

We are sensible that we need not dwell on the grave and possibly disastrous consequences which, if a rupture should unhappily arise with the United States, may result from the want of communication in Winter between England and the interior of the Province; but it is evident that the safety of the Colony can only be secured either by keeping, from the moment of the first apprehension of danger, a Military power within it of such magnitude as would repel any invading force, during the five months when reinforcement or supplies could not be obtained by sea, or the means must be created of throwing in that force and transporting them to those points which are assailable.

We would further mention some facts which shew that while the means of resisting invasion are in no way increased, the facilities for accomplishment are daily becoming greater.

There are now no less than seven American Railways terminating directly at the Canadian boundary, and a far greater number touching the waters of the River St. Lawrence, and the Lakes Ontario and Erie, which divide Canada from the United States. All these Roads may be said to form together a continuous line running parallel with, or in easy proximity to, the provincial boundary—and by their means America would be enabled to concentrate, with the utmost expedition and ease, all her forces upon any quarter and to choose her own point of attack.

It may be urged that war with America is impossible, or, at least, an event so unlikely and remote as to justify no expenditure in anticipation of it. Admitting that the character and moderation of the Federal Government afford assurances of continued amity, it is not to be forgotten that there are other elements, not subordinate, whose influence may at any time become too powerful for control. The best safeguard against aggression is the power of repelling it. The knowledge of our weakness and exposure to attack may do much to precipitate that which, were our strength understood, would never be undertaken. It is now well known that being cut off from England, the Province cannot make her resources and strength available should the necessity for their exercise unhappily come to pass, and when the occasion does arise, it will be too late to provide the means. The road cannot be constructed with a due regard to reasonable economy, for several years, and experience shews how impossible it is to foresee what events within that period may interrupt the friendly relations with a country, the peculiar constitution of which vests so much power in a class, whose interests or passions may, at any time, prompt them to acts which would necessarily lead to a rupture. While, therefore, the commercial or material advantages to Canada which would follow the construction of the Road are comparatively unimportant, she feels it her duty to urge the high national considerations which demand that the work should be undertaken.

There can be little fear of any causes of difference between the Colonies and the United States. The danger hitherto has sprung from subjects wherein, as a Colony, Canada had no interest, but which (such as the Central American, the Oregon, and Enlistment questions,) were purely of Imperial concern; so that, should hostilities arise, Canada would (as she was during the last war), be made the battle ground in a quarrel which she did not cause, and in which she had no special concern. The Colony has received the solemn assurance of the Imperial Government, a promise on which she implicitly relies, that while she is expected to assume her share of the burden of any force which her own internal wants may require in time of peace, yet that the whole power of the Empire will be put forth for her protection and security against foreign aggression. Canada has acted on this assurance and performed her part of the obligation, but we would respectfully urge that, without means of communication with Great Britain, the Imperial Government is powerless to perform its