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# FIRST READING

OF A BILL RESPECTING THE

# MILITIA AND DEFENCE

OF THE

# DOMINION OF CANADA.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

March 31st 1868.

The Hon. Mr. CARTIER, in introducing the above Bill, said he hoped that it would be favourably received on both sides of the house. The idea had been thrown out a few days ago that the Bill when introduced would act as a torpedo on his side of the house. He did not anticipate anything of the kind. His hon. friend from Ottawa had declared last night that the Minister of Militia was always audacious, *semper audax*; he would remind his hon. friend of a quotation (he believed from Virgil,) *audaces fortuna juvat*—(laughter)—and he did not expect that this measure would upset the Government, as the militia measure of 1862 upset himself and his colleagues in that year. This measure he looked upon as necessary to complete our national system, as a Confederation. As he had remarked on former occasions, we had in this Confederation three elements necessary to constitute a nation—the personal, territorial and maritime elements; but when those three elements of national strength had been obtained there was still another necessary to crown the whole—the military element. (Hear, hear). No nation on earth could pretend to be a nation until it attained the military element, or the power of defence. He did not say