

has no reference to the contingency of war with the United States, but depends on causes partly political arising out of the state of opinion in Canada, partly material in connection with the organisation of the Canadian militia.

The ground on which Lord Granville and Mr. Cardwell justify their declared intention of denuding Canada of regular troops is, that the convenience and safety of the empire are concerned in concentrating the whole of the forces of the crown within the circle of the British Isles; and they have, moreover, pronounced the withdrawal of our colonial garrisons to be necessary to enable the Government to effect what they have been pleased to term the *reform* of our military system—a reform announced with a great flourish of trumpets, but which so far has resulted only in a reduction of our battalions and squadrons to a numerical strength which excites ridicule or alarm according to the disposition of the observer; and which, viewed by the light of the conflagration now ablaze in Europe, can only be regarded as an unstatesmanlike subserviency to the ignorant cry of an unintelligent majority for economy at any price.

So far as economy is concerned, the cost of keeping a force in Canada is somewhat less than it would be at home. As regards strategic reasons, the telegraph places a Canadian garrison at the distance of not more than fifteen days from English soil from the moment when its recall might become urgent. And as regards the safety of the empire, surely if, as appears to have been the case, the condition of recalling our battalions from the colonies is to deprive them of half their numbers, a regiment of one thousand men at fifteen days' distance must be worth more than one only five hundred strong though serving at our own doors, when we know that it will require many times fifteen days to raise the weak battalion to its proper strength, and also that when its depleted ranks shall again be filled, the machine will be decidedly inferior for immediate use to what it would have been if left at its original strength.

Whether rightly or wrongly, the belief in Canada is very general that the presence of an English garrison is at once a symbol of the British connection and a guarantee that England is prepared to maintain that connection.

On the other hand the withdrawal of the troops is almost universally regarded as the first step towards casting off the towing rope and turning the colony adrift, and would afford a convenient text to the opponents of all military expenditure in the Canadian Parliament. "If England," they would say, "does not think us worth the support of a few regiments, there is no use in our doing anything for ourselves. It is better to take our chance of a war with the United States, in which we do not believe, than to burden ourselves with an expenditure on militia and fortifications which we cannot afford, and which the chances are a hundred to one we shall never require." This sort of argument, though highly illogical, will attract many supporters, and the whole military policy of the Government will be in danger of collapse.

Lord Carnarvon lately informed the House of Lords, and we possess ample means of corroborating his statement, that there exists unhappily a *feeling of deep and intense soreness* throughout the breadth and length of Canada, arising from the belief that it is the settled policy of the English Government to abandon, as soon as possible, the connection with that colony. The feeling

has not been diminished by the alacrity with which her Majesty's Ministers hastened to to thank the United States Government for its loyal fulfilment of international obligations on the occasion of the last Fenian raid; obligations which, in point of fact, the fulfilment was delayed until after the Canadian Volunteers had settled the matter for themselves. In one point of view, this tardiness on the part of the American Government is not to be regretted, since it served to bring out in strong relief the excellent qualities of the Canadian militia.

The state of public feeling in Canada on the subject is expressed in the *Toronto Globe* of 6th July, as follows:

"The speeches of Lords Granville and Northbrook hardly touched the real issues now exciting feeling between England and her colonies. The absolute right of the Imperial Government to increase or reduce the strength of the British army or navy as it pleases no one has doubted. The absolute right of the Imperial Government to determine where British troops shall be quartered, no colony, as far as we have seen, has denied for one moment. The duty of every colony to maintain a force sufficient for the preservation of peace and order within its borders no one has questioned. And we are persuaded that if the imperial statesmen ever muster courage to submit a just and efficient plan for making colonial contingents available for the defence of the empire in time of war, a hearty response will be given to it by all the colonies. The colonies are well content with their position—they gain great advantage from their connection with Britain—they are most willing to meet all the just claims upon them that connection may impose; but they want a clear understanding as to their duties on the one hand, and the obligations of the mother country on the other. They want such a settlement as will put a stop to the insolent reproaches that are constantly coming to them from English statesmen and writers, that the colonies are a burden to Great Britain, that they are useless to her, that they only cling to her in hope of favors, and that she would get quit of them to-morrow could she do so with decency.

"The thing that seems most needful to determine is, whether Great Britain desires to retain her colonial empire or not; whether the connection is a mutual benefit, or merely a burdensome protection extended unwillingly by one party to the other. If the people of Great Britain are tired of their colonies, or any part of them, assuredly they have but to say so formally to be relieved of the burden. But if, as we undoubtedly believe, the people of England obtain immense advantages politically, socially and financially from the colonies, far exceeding the annual cost they may entail—and if they are, as we confidently believe, proud of their colonial empire, and determined to maintain it—then it is full time to look the whole matter fairly and squarely in the face, and devise some colonial system that will bind the whole empire in one bond of common interest.

"The position of Canada is different from that of any other colony. The vast extent of her domain, the sparseness of her population, the anxious desire of her powerful neighbors to possess her, and the great length of her boundary line of defence, place Canada beyond the scope of the ordinary colonial argument. But we are persuaded we speak the mind of the whole people of Canada, with a very insignificant exception, when we say that notwithstanding the peculiarity of their position, and

the exceptional burdens that may thereby be imposed on them, our people are prepared to respond to any just plan for the organisation of the colonial empire, and to meet all the claims it may entail. But the people of Canada, beyond all other colonists, have the deepest interest in demanding a clear and permanent settlement as to the duties they owe to the empire, and the obligations the empire owes to them. The people of Canada do not ask Great Britain to pay one sixpence for their internal government. They do not ask Great Britain to leave one soldier in Canada except for imperial purposes. They do not meddle in the slightest degree with the number of troops or ships of war Great Britain may think proper from time to time to maintain. But what we ask is, that their soil and their rights and their interests shall be as dearly and as jealously regarded and protected by the imperial authorities as those of the people of Scotland or Ireland. What they ask is, that while all the authority of England is instantly put in motion to coerce the Greek or Spanish Government into stopping the operations of a pack of bandits harboring on their soil—years of open plotting, and recruiting, and drilling, and gathering munitions of war, avowedly to invade British soil and to murder British subjects, may not be permitted to go on openly for years without even an explanation or protest. What they ask is that while millions of money are spent and thousands of lives placed in jeopardy in Abyssinia, to recover a few British captives, Canada may not be invaded by hordes of cut-throats from the United States, and her people slaughtered—without the slightest interference of the American Government until after the ruffians have been defeated and driven back across the lines; and the smiles and thanks of the British ambassador, and the laudations of English statesmen and the English press, showered (to his utter astonishment) on President Grant for his generous and prompt protection of the Canadian people."

We feel regretfully there is too much reason for the reproach expressed in the concluding portion of the foregoing extract—viz., that the most energetic attitude is assumed by England to obtain redress from a weak power, while many thousands of American citizens have been allowed, during the last five years, publicly to preach and openly to prepare for the invasion of Canada—and on two occasions to proceed to the overt act—by which many Canadian lives have been sacrificed, and a heavy outlay has been occasioned to the colony; and the United States Government, which is responsible for these flagrant injuries, is not only not called to account, but is thanked with effusion for having graciously moved to enforce her laws, after such movement had been rendered useless by the exertions of the Canadians themselves.

In bringing the subject before the House of Lords on the 23rd July, Lord Carnarvon is reported to have said, we conclude ironically,—

"It is impossible for us not to be sensible of the intentions of the United States Government. We may regret that it was beyond their power to send troops to the frontier in sufficient time to stop the attack altogether, but their good intentions were very marked, and any one conversant with American affairs knows the difficulty with which the Government is able to act in such a case."

The downright English of the foregoing paragraph being that the United States Government willfully and deliberately neglected