

give effect to this noble feeling? Had we arms, accoutrements, ammunition, clothing, camp equipage, medical staff and field-hospital equipments, and the yet more necessary efficient regimental staff of officers and non-commissioned officers to organize and drill the 300,000 Active Service men of Canada? And if deficient of all these elements of national defence, how could we have successfully resisted the aggression of so formidable an army as the Americans would have assailed us with if the untoward event of the *Trent* had been productive of a war with England?

Having escaped this, is it not prudent to weigh the possibility of a war with the now great military Republic, and anticipating the probability of such an event, adopt the most efficient measures to develop our means of resistance? Have we progressed in this direction as far as we could? I think not, and I believe every military man of experience will agree with me that the Province is not prepared to effectually resist a large and well-appointed force, and that the only means of being so, in the absence of a regular army which we cannot sustain, is the formation of a permanent footing of a well-organized Militia Staff, that would secure the incorporation of our three hundred thousand defenders more rapidly and more effectually than any other method that can be proposed, and which obtained in England for some years after the peace of 1815, when the corps of militia were disbanded but the full regimental staff of each battalion was retained on full pay. And if in England in 1815, with a sea between her and the continent, and her ever-victorious fleets guarding her coast, it was deemed prudent to retain in the service the full regimental staff of every Militia regiment of the kingdom, on the remote possibility of a renewal of the war in Europe, how much more necessary must it be for us to organize a Militia Staff at this critical phases of the American Government, with nothing but an imaginary line between us? So important in my humble opinion is the adoption of this measure to England, as being necessary to sustain the integrity of her Empire, that if our finances are for the present inadequate to meet the expenditure consequent on the incorporation of a full and efficient Militia Staff, I hope I will not be considered presumptuous if I express my belief that if a measure of this character were properly submitted to the British Government, we would obtain the necessary pecuniary aid, until the improved condition of our exchequer would enable us to provide for the expenditure, to the sustaining of a force that would, in the event of war between England and the United States, add to the power of Great Britain 300,000 as good soldiers as ever pulled trigger in defence of Her Majesty's Empire.

I now propose to give my reasons for believing in the safe and practical result of a Militia Staff as a preliminary measure to war, for the rapid and efficient organization of 500,000 Active Service men of the Militia of British America that must be incorporated into Battalions, for active service in the