

(From the CANADIAN MONTHLY for February, 1879.)

A PLEA FOR THE MILITIA.

BY TWO MILITIAMEN.

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AS Canadians, we are proud of our nationality. Our *amor patriæ* is not on the surface, and possibly requires the positive stimulus of a 'Trent Difficulty,' or the negative influence of a *Times* article, before its latent depths are stirred. But the national feeling exists. We are justly proud of our position as the first colony of the Empire, and of our commercial rank among the nations of the world. It is our boast that we have a commercial marine only surpassed in numbers and tonnage by four of the leading nations of the earth. We have a territory richer in vegetable and mineral wealth, and larger in area, than any of the kingdoms of Europe. We have a hardy and intelligent population, and the freest institutions on the face of the globe. How should we maintain those rights, protect our liberties, and retain our possessions, were Great Britain's naval and military assistance withheld or withdrawn? We have no navy to protect our ships; we have developed no sufficient military organization to

stand the crucial test of war; we have no manufactories for warlike material, and no internal resources for their immediate creation. We have not even arms and ammunition enough to supply a single army corps in the field and to organize its reserve, should hostilities commence now. Nothing could be done, therefore, without Britain's aid, save to submit peacefully to the first power that attempted forcible annexation.

Now, is this a condition that should be acquiesced in by a free people, accustomed to the exercise of the fullest civil and religious liberty? The merchant who will not insure his life against accident, or his property against fire, is blameworthy, should he suffer loss by these means. The nation which declines or neglects to protect its liberties in not providing for its defence by all means within its power, is equally reprehensible.

Contrast our position with that of some of the smaller European Powers:—

	Dominion of Canada.	Netherlands.	Switzerland.	Sweden.	Norway.	Denmark.	Greece.
Population	3,727,000	3,967,263	2,609,147	4,383,291	1,817,237	1,910,400	1,457,864
Area	3,580,310 sq. m.	13,680 sq. m.	15,091 sq. m.	171,750 sq. m.	122,280 sq. m.	15,504 sq. m.	19,941 sq. m.
Revenue	£4,600,000	£8,642,556	£1,580,640	£4,340,000	£2,177,200	£2,584,000	£1,386,971
Expenditure for military purposes ..	£200,000	£1,541,900	£586,237	£925,000		£1,114,000	£336,757
Army	none	61,947 men	84,369 } 50,069 }	7,885 131	12,750 peace 18,000 war	37,000	14,061
Navy { Ships ..	none	67			20	33	
{ Guns ..		705	none	394	156	291	
{ Men ..		9,200 men		4,693	2,393	1,125	653
Militia	43,729	100,323 men	65,981	29,940* 94,050 { 13,166	62,000*	32,393	24,000
			* Reserve.	* 3 classes.	* Reserve.		