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When I utter these words optimists—I should call them quietists—may tax me with giving rise to vain apprehensions and creating imaginary alarm.

All the better if I give a false alarm. The disappointment of passing for a false alarmist will, by no means, exceed my delight in finding myself mistaken!

But if the danger I fear really menaces us, I wish to be the sentinel on the alert, whose challenge resounds throughout the national camp and warns the combatants to see to their arms. Si vis pacem, para bellum!

Quebec, 27th December, 1883.

T. J. J. LORANGER.