

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.

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