

## THE MILITIA OF NOVA SCOTIA, 1749-1867.

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The organization of measures of defence, however primitive they may be, is one of the first symptoms of national life in the history of any civilized community in which freedom is valued, and expansion hoped for. Without the power to maintain such freedom, its members, crushed and oppressed in body and spirit, sink into the condition of serfs, their vigour and manliness lost, their aims and aspirations contracted to the narrowest sphere, and their hopes for national or even local development dreams which in all probability can never be realized. In the words of a modern writer "The obligation of national defence is the "first obligation of a nation, for it is necessary to the existence "of a nation. Without the fulfilment of this obligation, a "State cannot exist even in the most imperfect form. A "State which uses no means of defending itself would soon be "blotted out of the map by the pressure of surrounding States."

Another writer says "No state is under obligation to commit "suicide or to suffer itself to be overrun by invasion and conquest, and trampled out of existence by unscrupulous and lawless force, so long as it can resist and repel this violence." "Another, "Let us ever remember that a nation can never keep "its freedom, unless ready to maintain it at any time, and that "for its own security it must make use of those means which "Providence has placed at its disposal." These statements are hard facts, and could be endlessly amplified; they are applicable to all countries, regardless of age, of strength and of prestige. If pertinent to the well-being of the settled and more-or-less wealthy States of this century, how much more closely do they come home to the infant colony of Nova Scotia