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### THE DEFENCE OF CANADA.

We heartily commend the following article, copied from a late number of *Herapath's Journal*, to the people of Canada, especially that portion of it which more particularly refers to the acquisition of Canada by the United States. By it it will be seen that Canada is not so easily to be conquered as some imagine. If the South could successfully resist unaided the North with all their great appliances of men, means and war material for nearly four years, with no greater number of fighting men than Canada now possesses, surely with the aid of the whole British Empire at our back we would be more than able for the United States. But we believe the day is very far distant indeed when the trial will be made. The late war with the South has too effectually crippled the United States to be in a hurry to rush into another which was sure to bring nothing but disaster to herself.

Such is the heading given, and very appropriately, to a long debate in the House of Lords raised at the instance of the Earl of Carnarvon yesterday week. Although the motion which the noble earl made was ultimately withdrawn, every well-wisher to Canada must feel thankful to him for the expression of opinion from all sides of the House which it called forth. There was but one opinion as to the spirited, able and manly bearing of Canada in the late Fenian attack, and but one opinion as to the intentions of this country in regard to maintaining Canada as an integral part of the British Empire. The Earl of Kimberley said, "I should be surprised to hear anybody say that we could absolve ourselves from the obligation of defending Canada in case it were exposed to the danger of a foreign war," and he further mentioned that "we are about to guarantee a loan to Canada for the purpose of certain fortifications which she intends to erect," that "we have undertaken a guarantee in connection with the Intercolonial Railway, and according to the best information it will be finished in two years, which is very satisfactory." The Duke of Cambridge spoke of the Canadians having "so gallantly defended themselves," of the "miserable (Fenian) raid having brought out their (the Canadian) character in a military point of view greatly to their credit;" and expressed a hope that the result "will be to knit more closely still those ties which bind the people to the mother country." Lord Leveden re-

ferred to the loyalty of the Canadians, and "did not believe any statesman worthy of the name had any idea of abandoning Canada." The Earl of Granville declared that "if any one of our colonies were attacked by a foreign enemy the whole force of the Empire would be raised for its protection: that the Fenian raids had been admirably repelled," &c.

These expressions by persons of so much knowledge and influence are satisfactory on our side.

On the other, or Canadian side, perhaps the state of things is not so satisfactory. In Canada we believe a great soreness is felt at the withdrawal of the troops, a measure to say the best for it which is most ill-timed. If anything could shake the loyalty of the Canadians it would be such a course as this—the withdrawal of the troops at the very moment when Fenianism exists, a time when the presence of troops is most important or re-assuring! And it is the more galling to the Canadians since, as Lord Cairns in the late debate observed, the Fenian raids into Canada were made not because the Fenians are the enemies of Canada, but because they hoped, through Canada, to strike a blow at the mother country. "We should remember," continued Lord Cairns, "that although Canada appeared to be fighting her own battle she was really fighting ours, and therefore we should look upon these efforts which Canada has so successfully made as having been really in defence of the mother country." "The whole danger Canada incurred was incurred (remarked Lord Salisbury on account of the mother country)." And in order to reward or assist Canada to defend herself we withdraw the troops, or a large part of them! "By way of assisting the colony we are to concentrate all our forces in this country," was a sarcastic observation of the Duke of Richmond in the course of the debate referred to, a sarcasm which is but too well pointed.

There is no doubt much to be said in support of the principle of requiring colonies to provide for their own defence, but we can hardly expect them to fight *our* battles.

Regarding the general question of the security of Canada we presume no one thinks that the Fenians will take Canada. We may safely dismiss that view of the case, if any one were goose enough to entertain it. The only party who could possibly have an eye to the acquisition of Canada would be the United States. We may regard this question in two points of view.

1st. *Could* the United States make the conquest?

2nd. *Would* the United States do it if they could?

As to the first question, the power of the United States, it must be remembered that it is no easy matter for one country to subdue another, however inferior in numbers, the weaker country may be, provided its inhabitants are a manly race, determined upon resistance. What sort of people the Canadians are late events have clearly and forcibly told; also what their intentions are—namely, that they do not intend to be absorbed by the United States. It cost the United States four years, a sea of blood, and £600,000,000 sterling of treasure to subdue the rebellion of the South, but it is very doubtful whether they would have been successful had England thrown in her sword with the South. We rejoice to think we did nothing so unjustifiable and wicked. The United States manfully fought for the integrity of their great country, and deserved the success which attended their arms, but it cost them a very host of men, and quite a mountain of dollars. The population of Canada is now fully 4,000,000, and it is estimated that in white population Canada is as strong as was the South when it broke out in rebellion against the United States, and Canada is even stronger for defensive purposes, considering the severity of her climate, and the depth of her winter snows. What chance would the United States have as against Canada assisted by the whole force of Great Britain? It would be difficult enough for the United States to successfully invade Canada single-headed, but when Canada has such a power at her back as England, the greatest maritime power in the world, and it is believed a contest between England and America would be principally at sea, the result is plain—as plain as reason can ascertain it.

So much for the *could* part of the question. The *would* may be readily disposed of *would* the United States deliberately incur the vast expense, make the prodigious preparations requisite, and trample down all right principle, in order to seize upon Canada, with the very great chance, we might say the certainty of not succeeding? We see France and Prussia at war, but they have been preparing for years, France ever since Sadowa. It is a terrible conflict between those the two greatest military powers on earth, for military supremacy. Instead of inciting to war we should think that the experience of France and Prussia will tend the other way, especially in any country pretending to the name of Christianity or desirous of prosperity. Besides, America exhibits no French tendencies for military supremacy. The people of the United States are more like ourselves in the matter of war. They do not go to war for an idea. The vast evil of war is only en-