

look out, for she may be expected to do anything. When John Bull stoops to this humiliation, when he

" ——— grows so covetous,
To lock his rascal coffers from his friends,
Be ready, Gods, with all your thunderbolts,
Dash him to pieces."

I have promised to prove to you that, upon all trying occasions, the North American Provinces have not shrunk from the perils or the cost of war. When the old Colonies revolted, every effort was made to induce the Northern Provinces to declare their independence. The few persons who were disaffected were sufficiently active. A slight demonstration was made upon the Common of Halifax, and the standard of rebellion was raised by a few thoughtless young men in the County of Cumberland, but these disturbances were promptly put down, and the Maritime Provinces remained firm to their allegiance.

In 1775 the British Government had but one weak battalion in Canada,* numbering not much more than 500 men. The Republicans, under General Montgomery, invaded Canada in the direction of Montreal, preceded by proclamations offering the most tempting inducements to shake the loyalty of the inhabitants. The Canadian Militia rallied to the support of the Royal authorities on every point of the frontier.

At Fort St. John, Chambly, Sorel, they did duty with the regulars, and might have successfully defended this part of the Province, had not Sir Guy Carleton's strategy been seriously at fault.

Arnold led a force of 1,200 men up the Kennebec and down the Chaudiere; Montgomery, who had taken Montreal, joined him with the bulk of his force at Quebec. "The garrison of that city consisted only of one company of regulars, with some seamen and marines from a sloop of war lying in the St. Lawrence." Of the 1600 bayonets that confronted this formidable American invasion, 1400 at least must have been wielded by the strong arms of the Canadian Militia. Four simultaneous attacks were made by the combined Republican armies, gallantly led and directed by Arnold and Montgomery. At every point the enemy was foiled and driven back by these sixteen hundred men, four-fifths of them being those raw Canadian Militia, whom it seems to be the fashion, in this country, just now to depreciate and undervalue.

This time, at all events, the Province was saved by the steady valour of the Canadians, as it was impossible for the British Government to send any efficient succour till the spring.

In 1776, Arnold, still encamped before Quebec, was reinforced by a strong column of 3000 men, "with some heavy artillery." 4000 Republicans occupied St. John, Chambly, and Montreal. Help came from England on the 6th of May, and the invading armies were compelled to evacuate the Province, and, in the following year, the war

* See Sir James Carmichael Smith's "Precis of the Wars in Canada," an admirable work, just published by his son.