

Toronto, April 21st, 1865.

*To the Editor of the Irish Canadian :*

SIR,—It must somewhat puzzle Americans to comprehend the prevalent fear that exists in England of a war with America. The recent speeches in the English Parliament upon the defence of Canada plainly evince that such fears do exist to a great extent. The Ministers of the Crown declare that the relations of the two Countries are amicable, and immediately after vote £50,000 for Canadian defences, and maintain the necessity of expending further immense sums to place our frontier in a condition of defence. The question naturally arises, against what enemy are these preparations needed, if not the United States?

There is no sane man in Canada will believe that the United States have any hostile designs upon this Province with a view to forcible annexation. The only danger is that a quarrel may arise between the Cabinets of London and Washington—a quarrel in which Canada may have no interest whatever—which may result in war. In that case, our Province would be made the battle-ground; our quiet towns and Cities, our peaceful and happy homes will be made the scene of desolation and sorrow. I would ask, is our connexion with Britain worth these sacrifices, which we would most surely have to endure, in the event of a war between England and America. Canada, from her position, would be called upon to make a sacrifice of her peace, her property, and the lives of her people; while England, at a distance of 3,000 miles from the scene of conflict, would be exempt from all these dangers. Every intelligent man in Canada must feel convinced of the results which