

creased forces and increased expenses, and augment the difficulties of aggression by a constant appeal to the real *ultima ratio* of the present day, the practical *pabulum belli*, money. The defence of this Dominion of Canada depends on the patriotism of its people, and the support of two powerful auxiliaries, the navy of England and the severity of its climate. Of the first, something has been already said and more remains to say ; of the second, something may be said at once, and not inopportunately, in relation to the defence of Montreal. The winter in Canada may be held to commence on the 1st November, and to terminate on the 1st May. Within that interval no military operations of any magnitude could be undertaken safely. Indeed it may be questionable if an army with its *impedimenta* could penetrate our country before the first of June. No preconcerted or combined movements at distant points could be relied upon before that time. Between the 1st November and the 1st January the flat country is submerged, the ice takes imperfectly, and yet forms in sufficient masses to make navigable waters impassable. From April, often, until far into May, masses of ice impede navigation, and the St. Lawrence, obstructed by ice-dams or dykes, floods the surrounding country for many miles. The period of pleasant fighting, on civilized principles, would not exceed five months. Before May and after November the weather is often open and fine, but always uncertain. Men in masses do not, like the beasts of the field, change their coats to suit the climate, overclad one day, and underclad the next, they would be tempted to exposure, and be exposed to transitions suggestive of medical comforts and enlarged hospital accommodation. Then, with sudden gripe, comes stern, unmitigated winter. The snow-roads of this country are at this time unimaginable to the unsophisticated mind ; narrow tracks with deep ditches on each side, filled to the level, and snow beyond, waist high, through which neither man, nor horse, nor vehicle, can pass