

about 160 miles, while the mouth of St. Mary's River, the entrance to Lake Superior, is 110 miles to the Northward. The only defences to the Straits of Mackinaw is to be found on the island at their Eastern entrance, but as there is navigable water on every side they could offer no serious obstructions to Gunboats—and the consequences of having the rich cities on the shores of Lake Michigan at the mercy of a squadron of these hornets can be easily anticipated; and the effect on the issues of the contest would be similar to the capture of New Orleans during the late civil war.

It would appear then, by a judicious combination of Naval and Military operations, that a thorough system of defence, adapted to the social condition and means of the people of Canada, can be easily devised and that the resources of the Empire in men, money or material need not be seriously diminished by the operation.

There can be no doubt of the fact that the people of British North America are willing and eager to take their proper position on this question of defence, and they require nothing from Great Britain beyond the duty she owes to her own integrity and the support of her Naval supremacy.

A full consideration of all the circumstances of this question of defence shows that there is only one vulnerable point in the whole, and that is soil consecrated by the blood of heroes. The position of the Maritime Provinces renders their defence a matter of mere naval operations, and as if the military operations would be in a great measure local, it is not likely the Provinces of Quebec or Ontario would require assistance from them; but would probably be able to render assistance if required. Therefore they have been entirely excluded. It behoves the people of Canada to see that some system of organization based on the principles sketched out or some other better mode be adopted, and that the defence of the Dominion be no longer a question of speculation. Their present commercial and other interest demand attention to some such measure—on which their future prosperity depends.

WILD LANDS.

We are glad to see the Ontario Legislature has taken the first step towards opening up the wild lands of that province to the settler and emigrant. This is a subject of such paramount importance to a new country that the most liberal terms should be offered to secure a fair portion of the vast wave of immigration which annually rolls westward from the shores of Europe, and which has been a great source of power and wealth to the United States. There are in Canada immense tracts of unsettled lands which, instead of being allowed to remain a howling wilderness, should be thrown open to settlement by the hardy and willing sons of toil from Europe who now only make use of our

Railroads and Canals to transport themselves farther west into the American union where they go to swell its gigantic power. This should not be, we have lands equally good and better to tempt them to remain upon our soil; our taxes are infinitely lighter, our climate the healthiest in the world, and our laws and institutions every way superior to those of the United States; therefore if we were only to place our wild lands in equal competition, as regards price, with those of the Western States there can be no doubt but the tide of emigration which now only flows through our country would be turned into the avenues of wealth and plenty which are at present virtually closed. Every one who is at all familiar with the history of America, and who has studied the means by which its wonderful progress has been maintained, must know that it is to the overflow of the old world that the great prosperity and advancement of American communities is due. Should the liberal terms embodied in the resolutions laid before the Ontario Legislature be adopted, there can be no doubt whatever but a very few years would see a vast improvement in the, as yet, unsettled portions of that province, which would by this means acquire an accession of strength and prosperity heretofore unequalled. Entering as we are upon a new state of political existence, it is our great duty so to dispose the means at our command that all possible sources of future strength may be made available. And, as we are situated in a position of peculiar difficulty in our relations to Great Britain and the United States, we should deem no sacrifice too great, that would in any degree assist us in securing permanently those institutions under which we have lived so long contentedly and prosperous. As this is a subject which is intimately connected with the question of defence, and one bearing directly upon the means which must be hereafter provided to extend and perfect the means of intercommunion, (apart altogether from its importance in an agricultural and commercial sense,) we hope to see such action taken upon it as will give good hopes of seeing our vast unoccupied territory the home of a thriving and patriotic population.

This subject naturally recalls our attention to the question agitated some time ago, in reference to rewarding Volunteers for their services by free grants of land. This idea is so good that it should not be lost sight of for want of some one to bring it before the Legislature. Some provision should be made for those who give their time and attention, not to say money and labour, to the public service; for our country, poor in other things, is rich in land and should not grudge a portion to those who deserve it so much. In the surveying of every township there should be a "Volunteers Reserve," which should be bestowed upon such members of the force as have served a prescribed number of years or who have otherwise proved their claims upon the country for substantial reward.

This would prove of vast benefit to the force and provide one of the best means for keeping the ranks always filled with the best strength of the country. Volunteering as a system, in times of peace, which may nevertheless be the prelude to war, requires support and encouragement, and as our great reliance will be in the future, as in the past, upon this portion of the population of the country it is the duty of the Government to inaugurate such a system of reward as will naturally lead every member of the force to look forward to some return for the time and labour he may bestow in preparing to defend his country. Viewed in this light the question of Wild Lands, may be made available so as to doubly serve the interest of the nation, and we hope Legislatures of the different provinces will act upon an idea, which is well worthy of their careful attention.

NATURALISED CITIZENS.

The subject of the rights of naturalised citizens of the United States is an old question revived under a new aspect, and as on a former time it led to a foolish and distressing war it is just within the region of possibility that, taken with other causes of quarrel, it may lead to a serious breach of friendly relations between England and the United States. The former power holds the doctrine of perpetual citizenship in common with the other European powers, and affirms that no citizen can absolve himself of his allegiance. Although he may leave his country and settle in a foreign land for any number of years, yet on his return he at once assumes the position and responsibilities of a citizen of England. Prussia and other German powers go still farther than Great Britain, and in time of war call upon all those belonging to them who, although residing in a foreign country, are drafted by conscription into the service, to return under pain of certain penalties. A man may leave the three Kingdoms and go to the United States, where he becomes a naturalized citizen; very good, so long as he remains in the United States, but should he return to Great Britain he returns a British subject, and it is not necessary for him to become re-naturalized. This is the doctrine the Government of England has ever maintained, but the United States (or rather the ranting demagogues of that country, for it is very hard to know what the United States maintains as either law or doctrine on any subject,) seems to hold the contrary, declaring that every man has the right to change his nationality, and that all American citizens, whether native born or naturalized, are entitled to the protection of the Government under any circumstances. Of the justice of their view of the question they have yet to convince the British Government. When one hears so much about the rights of American citizens he naturally enquires:—who are those citizens about whom there is so much bother? and we find them to be