

Confederation confers, more will be expected of us, and we must be prepared to give it cheerfully. Then should war be waged against us, it can only be successful by the defeat of England as well as ourselves. What the future may unfold, it is, of course, impossible to determine; but should an attack be made upon us now, even were England engaged in a great war, the result would be the annihilation of the United States as they at present exist. The States of the South are panting for just such a development as such an embroglio would evolve, and with Canada in the front, the South again hanging on their rear, the fleets of England on the ocean, and the influence of England's credit and money against them, short work would be made of the insolent pretensions of the Yankees; and the defence of this country would not be doubtful. In return for England's partiality towards them, during the late war the United States have fostered and encouraged a horde of cut throats, whose openly avowed purpose is to attack the integrity of the British Empire. Whatever Earl Russell may have done, the antecedents of the party now in power, lead to the conclusion that the United States will be held strictly responsible for the acts of its vagabond citizens. If, therefore, England remains at peace, the United States will take good care that no future raids take place; but if European complications arise, we may expect them to be not only permitted, but encouraged, to harass our border. In any case, we believe, another raid would lead to war, and it is our duty to prepare to bear manfully our part in any contest which may arise, and which the paternal action towards us by the mother country has prepared us for, and which her friendly arm would make certain of success for us.

THE UNITED STATES MILITARY BILL.

If the President of the United States, in arguing against this measure, in his veto message, were not also arguing in favor of a system which has made such a measure possible, the case which he makes out against Congress would be conclusive. The bill divides ten Southern States into five military districts, to be governed by a military officer, not under the rank of a Brigadier-General. The President shows that the military commander will usurp the place of the State governments now existing in the South; and further, that he will do so, not to restore outraged law and order, but to violate them, inasmuch as the functions of the General shall cease, when certain things are done for the purpose of carrying out the radical proclivities of Congress. He says:—"The excuse given for the bill, in the preamble, is admitted by the bill itself not to be real. The military rule which it establishes is plainly to be used not for any purpose of order and for the prevention of crime, but solely as a means of coercing the people into the adoption of measures to which it is

known they are opposed, and upon which they have an undeniable right to exercise their own judgment." The power given to the military commander over the people is absolute. If a person is tried he cannot be executed without the authority of the President, but Mr. Johnson shows clearly that without even the form of a trial, a person may be condemned and executed at the mere will of the officer, or any of his subordinates, and there is no redress. "Such a power has not been wielded by a monarch in England for more than five hundred years," as will be conferred upon this creature of Congress. "Governments closely resembling that here proposed have been fully tried in Hungary and Poland; and the suffering endured by those people roused the sympathies of the entire world." The President then asks whether they have the power to enact such a law, and answers "certainly not, if we derive our authority from the Constitution;" and continues—"Outside the Constitution we have no legal authority more than private citizens, and within it we have only so much as that instrument gives us." He then goes into an elaborate eulogy of the Constitution, and says—"When it ceases to be the rule of our conduct, we may, perhaps, take our choice between complete anarchy or a consolidated monarchy and a total dissolution of the Union; but national liberty regulated by law will have passed beyond our reach." Notwithstanding this ominous prediction, Congress, without a moment's hesitation, passed the bill over the veto by the requisite majority. We all know that the war upon the South was ostensibly carried on to preserve the Constitution, but those who considered the matter from an impartial point of view, knew that that was only a pretext, and that the real object was to place power in the hands of the Republican party of the North. Speaking of the grounds upon which the South took up arms, Mr. Johnson says:—"Those who advocated the right of secession alleged in their own justification that we had no regard for law, and that their rights of property and liberty would not be safe under the Constitution as administered by the United States, as we now verify their assertion; we prove they were in truth and in fact fighting for their liberty, and, instead of branding their leaders with the dishonoring name of traitor against a righteous and legal Government, we elevate them in the history of self-sacrificing patriots, consecrate them to the admiration of the world and place them by the side of Washington, Hampden and Slocum." There seems to be one idea permeating the thoughts of every Yankee evoked from principles as opposite as night and day. Liberty, to the minds of the Radical majority, consists in enslaving the South; to the President's mind, the course which that majority has pursued is destructive of every shadow of liberty. If we take the assertions of the Radicals, Johnson is a usurper and a traitor to liberty, and yet the system by which he

became Chief Magistrate is described by them as the "best government under the sun." We have above shown that the President's opinion of the Military Bill is that it is despotic, lawless, tyrannical and unjust. He knew that Congress would pass it despite his veto and the arguments upon which it was based, and yet the system which permits and leads to this despotic, lawlessness and tyrannical injustice, is described by him as "the best form of government the world ever saw!" The simple truth is, that "BEAST PUTTER"—and that is the class of men that Congress is likely to select—will be appointed to rule the five military districts or ten States of the South, with a power as absolute as was ever exercised by a Nero. They may murder, steal, burn, ravish and violate under the protection of United States bayonets, till the wretched people kneel at the feet of Congress and beg permission to extol the radical doctrine of liberty, like the wretch on the wheel who in his agony proclaims as truth the lie he knows to be false. This is the fate of those conquered "Southern brethren," whose crime was that they were not strong enough to be free, and whom there was no arm to shield in the hour of their extremity. When such is the fate of their own countrymen under the rule of Yankeeism, what would be our fate if our necks were under its merciless heel. Let us be thankful that republican liberty does not extend to us, and never cease to remember that we owe our exemption from such a fate to the protection of Great Britain, and that we be would unworthy of the solid freedom bequeathed to us if we did not prepare to maintain it to the death. If we do this, we will never want a helping hand while a Briton in any part of the world has a sword to unsheath.

VOLUNTEER EXEMPTIONS, &c.—We may state, in reply to several enquiries, that by the Militia Law of 1855, Volunteers were exempt from serving as jurors or constables during their period of service, and afterwards, if they served the full seven years. By the law of 1863, generally known as Mr. JOHN SANDBFIELD MACDONALD'S Act, Volunteers are only exempt from service as jurors and constables while they remain in the force, and their uniform, clothing, arms and accoutrements, and the horses used by them as such, exempt from seizure in execution, and from distress and assessment. These, with the pay they receive, and pensions for wounds received or sickness contracted on active service, and exemption from draft while they remain in the force, are all the Volunteers can claim under the present law.

DRILL ASSOCIATION.—A Militia Officers' Drill Association has been organized in Montreal—Assistant Adjutant-General, Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, President. In the opening address, he stated that it was intended to have a course of lectures in connection with the association, and that Col. Macdougall, Adjutant-General, had kindly consented to deliver the first lecture at an early day.