

and if this were done, and if the Provinces, as they would, bore a large part if not the whole of the burthen of local defence, they would do all that could reasonably be expected. If the county of Annapolis were attacked, I would not pay a militiaman out of the Imperial Treasury for defending his own county, but if a regiment were drawn from Annapolis to defend the citadel at Halifax, or the coal mines of Pictou—if it were marched into New Brunswick, or volunteered to defend these islands, then it should take its number, draw its pay, and be treated in all respects like any other regiment of the line. So long as this is done we shall have an Empire and an Army. We shall soon cease to have either when the other system is tried. And why should we try it? Why should we reverse Menenius Agrippa's fable, and teach the belly of the Empire—the common treasury and storehouse of all its wealth, to complain? The British soldier is no longer viewed with distrust or apprehension in any part of the Empire, he is every where recognized as a citizen with a red coat on, prouder of his citizenship than of the highest grade in the finest regiment in the service. Nor is he viewed with any jealousy or dislike by the Provincial militia. Our young men know that they can study the use of arms from no more gallant exemplars, and they know also that when summoned to the field, they can rely upon the steadiness, the endurance, the discipline, and the humanity of the