

across our frontier; besides, time may change their motto to "*ex uno plures*."

The frontier of the Province of Quebec is contiguous to the territory of the United States for a distance of about 450 miles, that is to say, 167 miles of imaginary boundary along the 45th parallel of latitude southward of Montreal and Quebec, running from St. Regis, on the eastern end of Lake St. Francis (an expansion of the St. Lawrence) to the Connecticut river, in the township of Hereford, abutting on the State of New Hampshire. Thence in an irregular line the boundary of the State of Maine follows the high ground which forms the watershed between the Kennebec river, in the United States, and the Chaudière, a tributary of the St. Lawrence, running north-east in accordance with the disastrous arbitration of the Ashburton Treaty of 1842, which brings the territory of the State of Maine to within 25 miles of the St. Lawrence, opposite Rivière-du-Loup. Unfortunately at this point, as before stated, the Intercolonial Railway is close to the frontier, which from this point runs south-east until it meets Dominion territory in New Brunswick. The disadvantage of having a wedge of foreign territory thrust into our own is not altogether so great as might at first sight be anticipated, the character of the country being for the most part rugged, covered with forest, and thinly populated; there are no natural commercial lines, nor any railroads running through it to the north, the watershed north of the St. John's river being close to the St. Lawrence prevents the formation of any long or navigable tributaries to the St. Lawrence; there is, therefore, no natural channel for intercommunication or commerce from the northern angle of the State of Maine into Canada. As military lines of operation always follow natural channels, no invasion of Canada has ever been attempted from this point, the nearest to it being that of General Arnold, of the United States, in 1775, and he followed the line of the Kennebec and Chaudière rivers. On the other hand, in case of offensive operations from Canada, in the direction of the Penobscot valley, or to seize the triple railroad terminus of Woodstock, Richmond, and Houlton, leading to St. John's, N.B., our re-entering frontier would form an advantageous base of operations, backed by Quebec and the St. Lawrence and the Intercolonial Railway. Though the long line of frontier (4000 miles from ocean to ocean) is apparently attackable at all points, the defence of the country, even with its much smaller population than that of the contiguous States, would, with proper forethought and organization, be by no means so difficult nor impossible a task as some would have us to suppose.

Although owing to the length and character of frontier, it is quite impossible and not desirable to protect it throughout its whole length, an enemy must capture and establish himself in some vital points before he could obtain any decided military advantage. There are only a few such points. If they were put into and maintained in a proper state of defence, with a small body of regular troops as the nucleus of a garrison to be furnished by the local militia, such positions could be held during the five months, in which alone it is pos-