

But you will naturally ask, may they not be improved? and should not the youth of the Colonies be trained to arms that they may be better able to co-operate with British troops in defence of our common country?—and I answer, that we are training, and preparing to train them in a mode suitable to the condition of our country—in a mode that, while it is but little burdensome, and excites no ill will in the Provinces, can give no offence to our neighbours.

Let me illustrate this part of the subject by facts drawn from Nova Scotia, with which I am best acquainted. During the long peace which followed the Treaty of Paris our Militia laws were very rarely revised, the Militia were never called out, and our population, busy with the arts of peace, “studied war no more.” Matters continued in this state till the Volunteer movement began in this country. Almost simultaneous with that movement, under the personal superintendence and guidance of Lord Mulgrave, we began to raise Volunteer Companies in Nova Scotia; and there are now between three and four thousand young men, in the flower of life, who have selected their own officers, approved and commissioned by the Commander-in-Chief, purchased their own uniforms, and, under the sharp training of efficient drill sergeants, taken from the British army and paid by the Province, have become, in a marvellously short time, very effective troops. We have one battalion that brigades with the garrison, strong companies at Pictou and Sydney for the defence of the coal mines, and many others, formed and forming, in the seaport towns and rural districts. Taking the number at 4,000 and our population at 350,000, this would be equal to 86,000 Volunteers to be raised in this country. Taking the cost of uniforms and amounts expended in ammunition and organization at £25,000, and, comparing our revenue with yours, it can be shown that our expenditure is, in proportion to our means, equal to an outlay of £9,733,000 for this country. Should we be scolded for doing this in the short period of three years?

But we have done more. We have set seriously about re-organizing our Militia. The whole force is being enrolled. Old officers are retiring with their rank. Those who are young enough and still desire to serve are told to qualify or resign. No young officer is appointed who has not qualified. The military spirit has revived with the apparent necessity, and is fast spreading all over the Provinces. Half the members of the Legislature last winter earned an appetite for breakfast in the drill-room, and used to pass my window on the coldest mornings with their rifles over their shoulders. The crack of the rifle is as common a sound as the note of the Bob Link, and intercolonial shooting matches are becoming an institution.

Our Militia Laws had not been revised since that rather memorable period when Governor Fairfield called out the militia of Maine to settle the north-eastern boundary question by an invasion of New Brunswick. What took place then finely answers the argument that in the Provinces we wait for British troops to defend us.

On that occasion there were but a regiment or two in all the maritime Provinces. The Canadian garrisons were too far off, and, it being winter, could only come to us by the road the Guards traversed, or through the enemy's country. But we did not wait for