

that duty—not to leave Canada unprotected. It was impossible that Canada could, in such a contest as was then threatened, defend herself. She could not raise an army of 100,000 men. England herself would have found a difficulty in maintaining such an army in addition to her present expenditure. The difficulty, therefore, became Imperial in its character, but as members of the empire they thought it their duty to do their share. They were quite willing to furnish all the strength of the country, and to pay as far as they could under the circumstances, but it would be perfectly idle to assume that they could do all the work should a war break out. The proportion in men and means which Canada ought to contribute in the event of a war with the United States could be, he believed, readily settled by negotiation with the Imperial Government, provided difficulties were not made through unjust and acrimonious attacks upon Canada, such as unfortunately had not been infrequent and which could not fail to cause exasperation and to obscure sound judgment on both sides. His own views and those of the late Canadian Government were expressed in the defeated Militia Bill, and are, briefly, that Canada should at her own cost maintain an organisation whereby 50,000 men could be at once placed in the field, thoroughly officered and with a certain amount of drill; and that a reserve of 50,000, in a less forward state of discipline, should be provided, with further provisions for additional draughts upon the militia if required. If war actually occurred, it must be plain to every one that the ability of Canada to pay such a force would almost wholly cease if her territory became the battle-field; and the financial burden would necessarily have to be borne by the empire at large. The question whether colonies were of any value at all was a very important question. Its importance could not be exaggerated, because if a mistake were once made it could not be remedied. For two hundred years England had been obtaining colonies in all parts of the world; and if they were once given up it was clear that they could not be brought back again. In speaking of the colonies of British North America, it had been assumed that Canada could be given up with the most perfect good feeling on either side, and that everything would go on as at present, while responsibility on each side to the other would be wholly removed. Now, a very slight knowledge of human nature would tell gentlemen that if an important community was in this way turned adrift, without notice or warning, that was not the best way to produce good feeling. It was scarcely possible it could exist under such circumstances. There would be great irritation; and in the case of Canada another result would follow. It being impossi-