

war is not always unjust, on the contrary war is imposed on states by an irreconcilable opposition of purposes. Peace cannot be secured by a policy which adopts it as a supreme end. If a government is not prepared to fight, there can be no limit to the concessions which must be made to avoid a quarrel, for whenever the point comes at which concession is refused, the quarrel will be there. It is certain that pacific intentions are a poor protection against aggression, and it is a delusion for us to expect to escape the universal lot. No nation can exist except by enforcing respect for its power. At any time questions might arise embroiling us with European nations. Canadian citizens may need protection in South America, or the Mediterranean. In particular we have bold and determined neighbours, who are difficult enough to deal with and whom the exigencies of party politics might compel to undertake a campaign aiming at the absorption of Canada. To oppose them we have our Canadian militia of less than forty thousand men and our few hundreds of Canadian regulars. For every adult man of our country the Americans possess twelve capable of bearing arms. In presence of a people so powerful, composed of such heterogeneous elements, so uncertain of its own future, what do you think would be the lot of our unsupported country of less than one twelfth of the American numerical strength? We should be like the proud but weak Spaniards, condemned to choose between submission with or without a battle.

That we cannot become the sport of ambitious politicians, that we are conscious of strength and national dignity, which