

Without doubt the future of the Dominion is hopeful, as her present is prosperous, but it is equally certain that she is insufficiently provided with those safeguards which prudence, under the teaching of experience, declares indispensable to lasting prosperity and honour.

We by no means make light of the strategic difficulties presented by the geographical peculiarities of the country. The inhabited part may be roughly described as a narrow belt of land, in some places very sparsely peopled, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This, of course, implies a frontier of such length and so weakly defended, that the line of defence could be cut with ease in the event of an attack from the south. War with the United States is neither to be desired nor to be anticipated; it is on the contrary remote, unlikely, and on every account to be deprecated; but in considering the position of Canada as a Military Power, we ought to form some idea of the policy which she ought to pursue in certain given circumstances, before we can judge whether her military strength is adequate to her requirements. Were such a war to take place, it would be hard for Canada to cope with the disadvantages of her long, weak line of defence, especially as she is so unfortunate to have her base of operations on the extreme left of that line. If the Canadians take more than a barrack-yard view of the situation, they will not be content with the deficient base afforded by Quebec and a sea which is ice-bound for seven months in the year, but will, on the commencement of hostilities, take the initiative by occupying Portland and the intervening part of Maine. They would thus obtain an improved base, carry the war into the enemy's country, and be supported by the British fleet and transports both in summer and winter. Such a course is, however, possible only for a country which stands always prepared.

We cannot congratulate the Canadians, as we would fain have done, on the success of their military organization. They became aware thirteen years ago that the Imperial troops were shortly to be withdrawn, and that the duty of defence would devolve upon themselves, but up till the present time, no efficient measures have been adopted for placing the defences of the Dominion on a sure and satisfactory footing. As in the old country, so in the colony, the absence of imminent danger lulls into false security, paralyses the arm of the military reformer, and encourages the