

mate unfavorable to military operations at nearly all seasons of the year. Now look at Canada. Here it lies, a long, narrow, and comparatively sparsely settled country. From the head of Lake Superior to the boundary line of New Brunswick, a distance of more than 2000 miles, is bounded by the territories of this dangerous neighbor.

But we are earnestly reminded of how the brave militia of Upper Canada, with the aid of one or two regiments of the line, drove back the 'Yankees' in the war of 1812-14, when that part of the Province had under 100,000 inhabitants. "If we were able then, with such limited means, to defend ourselves," it is argued by a portion of the press and by gentlemen everywhere, "we shall give good account of any foe who dares to set foot on our soil. Look at our population—two and a half millions, and look at our railways and our steamers, and at the British troops already in the country and those that will come, when more are needed, and at the British gunboats," (which may never float on the waters of our lakes) "what more do we need, than an enrolment of our militia." These are words I have heard very often of late, and those who use them pretty generally do so, deprecating the necessity of additional taxation to provide defences.

Those who can so readily compose themselves into a state of fancied security had better reflect on the result of the American Revolutionary war, as well as on the progress of events since the war of 1812. Did not a larger British force, of the hardiest and finest veteran soldiers Britain ever had—a force larger by half than that now in this country, lay down their arms to three millions of the old Colonists, and five or six thousand French soldiers, after an exhausting war of seven years? And whilst the population of Upper Canada has grown from 100,000 to 1,500,000 has not the population of Western New York and the Western frontier States grown from 400,000 or 500,000 to 8,000,000?*

* The population of Ohio and the territories now forming the Western Lake States contained in 1812, in round numbers about 300,000 souls. Of these 230,000 belonged to Ohio alone, and 70,000 to the Western territories.

In 1860 the Western Lake States contained the following population :

Ohio,.....	2,339,599
Michigan,.....	749,112
Indiana,.....	1,350,941
Illinois,.....	1,711,753
Wisconsin,.....	775,873
Minnesota,.....	172,022

7,099,300

The 30 Western Counties of New York (out of 60 comprising the whole State) contained, in 1812 about 200,000 souls. They had increased in 1860