

this country ought to be prepared to do all that in them lies to place it in a position to meet that event.<sup>89</sup>

Recalling past military glories, William McGiverin assured his listeners that, if the proper precautions were taken, “we are in quite as good a position to hold our own as those who successfully resisted the invader in the war of 1812.”<sup>90</sup> Joseph Blanchet echoed these patriotic sentiments with his own pledge that if “we are ever invaded by the United States, I shall ever be ready to take up arms to drive the invaders out of the country.”<sup>91</sup> J. Beaubien linked military preparedness specifically to confederation by asserting that the proximity of the British colonies to the United States required that they “unite together in order to form a stronger nation, and one more able to withstand the onslaught of an enemy . . .”<sup>92</sup> For Thomas Ferguson the situation was grim indeed for the Americans “are at this moment a war-making and war-loving people.”<sup>93</sup>

These statements all came from men who supported the Quebec Resolutions and used the military threat from the United States to bolster the case for confederation. Those opposed to confederation tended to be somewhat skeptical of the potential dangers of American aggression, but rather than deny them outright, they turned them to their own advantage. Thus, Matthew Cameron argued that if the military threat were as great as the confederationists say it is, the proper course would be to stop wasting precious time debating the merits of confederation and to get on with the far more urgent business of building the proper fortifications at once.<sup>94</sup> J.B.E. Dorion cleverly tied the threat of war to his favorite theme on the need to submit the Quebec Resolutions to the people for their consent. Answering those who recalled the patriotic days of 1812, Dorion argued that “you must not suppose that the people will fight as they fought in 1812.” And why not? Because the people cannot be expected to fight to defend “a Confederation like this which is now proposed” to be forced upon them “without consulting them and even against their will.”<sup>95</sup>