

Our system should therefore be made to conform to this view of the case—a view which British statesmen have long endeavored to impress on us by words and policy. As yet we have done little or nothing to acknowledge this policy, or to prepare for our altered relations with the mother country; and hence we found ourselves at the commencement of the present winter, suddenly menaced with danger, and totally unprepared for any unexpected emergency. It is unjust to censure England for leaving us in such a defenceless condition, for we are ourselves wholly to blame for it.

The old proverb says, 'forewarned, forearmed.' It is fortunate for us that the 'Trent' affair occurred as it did, and at the time it did. We now see what our condition might have been had the exigencies of the great civil war between the two sections of the old Union been such as to have warranted the United States in accepting a war with England. We cannot, now, without being criminally guilty of inviting an attack next winter, or on some future occasion from our vain-glorious and ambitious neighbors any longer delay the energetic exercise of a clear and manifest duty to ourselves, our children and the empire at large. That duty is to provide the best, and in every way the most efficacious means of resisting invasion, and if necessary of carrying the war into the enemy's country. We shall thus greatly lessen the chances of war.

To accomplish either of these objects requires a well organized and efficient army. Organization requires time and practice, and England can no doubt supply us with excellent drill sergeants; but where are we to get a supply of experienced officers to command our Canadian army? Shall we invite the supernumeraries of the British army, if any such there be, to command our battalions and to be captains, lieutenants and ensigns? Admitting that a sufficient supply can be had for the asking, would such a policy, carried out on a large scale, be acceptable to Canadians, or even practicable? It is all very well to assert that there should be no invidious distinctions, but would Canadians be content to yield positions of honor and responsibility to their transatlantic brethren? Here is a possible stumbling block which the commission will no doubt find means of avoiding. But I have been told, lately, by military gentlemen, that we have no men in the country fit to command regiments, and but few fit to fill the subordinate positions. This is a mistake that is too apt to be made by those who are strangers to the country. Canada is full of intelligent