

in process of formation, no less than three hundred disappointed candidates applied in vain for commissions, in spite of the very onerous terms on which they were offered,—at one and the same time establish the complete feasibility of the scheme here detailed and supply a striking comment on the inconceivable infatuation which actuated the British government when, in the very midst of the Crimean contest, they risked embroiling themselves in war with the United States for the sake of obtaining a few miserable recruits, at the very moment when (if the facts were one iota less well known I could not hope to be believed) they had ungraciously refused our offers to furnish them with at least two excellent regiments. Surely if a dozen gentlemen could raise one thousand men in the Canadas alone on mere ordinary conditions of service, it is a fair assumption that three hundred, with such inducements as I propose to offer, and the range of all British North America to boot, would find it an easy task to secure at least five times that number. It needs but to proclaim to these gentlemen that, if amongst them they can collect five thousand men, commissions will be distributed freely as far as they will go to all who can pass a reasonable examination (rank being determined as in the case of the 100th by the number of recruits obtained by each) and, in all probability in less time than the 100th itself was obtained, we may be able to congratulate your Excellency on having achieved the formation of a contingent such as Canada might justly be proud to give and England to receive. And surely if any proposal can be left to stand or fall on its own merits one which combines the quadruple advantage of furnishing all British North America with a rallying point and common centre of interest,—which will afford to Great Britain in time of need a supply of excellent soldiers far from despicable in point of numbers and yet more valuable from the moral support which they will bring with them and perhaps from the precedent they will furnish,—which will at once give a vent for the useful employment of our more adventurous spirits and aid in rais-