

acts that they consider the connexion worth maintaining; but we do not care to fight for fellow-subjects who are continually singing, 'God save the Queen,' and boasting of British freedom, yet make no preparation to defend the sovereignty of the one, or maintain the possession of the other."

Happily a different state of affairs has been brought about in Canada, and measures are now in force to put the local defences on a proper footing. No one doubts with what results the Canadians would meet any encroachment on their frontier; but as has been truly said, "a strong defence is one of the surest guarantees of peace."

It is argued that by a Union of the Provinces, the means of defence would be largely increased. Supposing the parent government to furnish the chief portion of arms and ammunition, the element of defence to be provided by us would be, properly drilled officers and men; and it is not clear how the mere fact of our being joined under a Federal Government would suddenly magnify the number of able-bodied men in British North America. Nor is it certain that any large portion of our forces could be spared to march to the defence of the Canadian frontier. Doubtless, thirty thousand men from here would be a most acceptable addition to the Canadians, but would not our own country be left unprotected? The desire of the Federal Government (in which it seems our voice would be very weak) to secure a large additional force is very natural, and the wish would certainly be father to the deed. But it is equally certain that if the supposed enemy were to detach a portion of his army to attack Nova Scotia,