

for Imperial purposes, in view of possible wars of the empire? This is impossible. Our fields must be tilled and our branches of industry sustained. [A voice,—But if we should be invaded?] If we should be invaded we would defend ourselves by all the resources we could command, as we showed ourselves ready to do when the imminent peril of last winter was upon us. I will admit the possibility of invasion, but I have no present apprehension of it. Our neighbors on the other side of the line have as much fighting on their hands at present as they can well attend to, and every day of its continuance puts them under additional bonds to keep the peace toward us, and all the world. What then shall we do? [A voice,—Stir up the militia.] Yes, infuse new life and activity into our militia. This we should do as a clear matter of prudence. But who are to be the judges of what is prudent and sufficient in the premises? The Lords and Commons of England, or the people and Parliament of Canada? We must insist, and insist to the last, that we are the most competent judges of this matter. And here we see the anomaly of the existing relations between Canada and Britain. Our mother country does not wish to wrong or injure us. No Colonial child could have a mother more generous than she; but the sphere of her affairs is very widely extended and diversified, and as a matter of prudence towards some branches of her interest or service, she may be compelled to criticise our legislation and attempt a pressure on our legislative decisions. The recent discussions in the Lords and Commons on the defences of Canada, is an instance of what may take place. Then, again, there is the English press, to the criticisms of which, under the circumstances, we are legitimately exposed. We may feel that the parliament and press of England speak under panic, or out of imperfect information, and though their taunts may provoke us, we cannot deny their right to speak. A relation which involves this, is perilous to mutual peace and a permanent good understanding. When the member for Sheffield tells the House of Commons and the world, that he never will vote to tax the poor artizans of Sheffield to defend the rich inhabitants

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