

or the penny may be saved by simply extolling the advantages of the United States and the facilities of desertion. The school-master has, unfortunately, been abroad among the soldiery, and taught them that they are responsible agents, and not passive instruments in the hands of despotic power. I doubt if Irishmen would fight against the Colonists, especially when it would be so "mighty convenient" to pay a visit to their friends or cousins at Albany or "Balty-more." Indeed, it would only be necessary to commence a canal or rail-road within a hundred miles of the lines, and whole regiments, whatever their nation, "pioneers and all," would emigrate with drums beating, preferring digging, at a dollar a day, to sixpence and a red coat, to be the mark of a musket ball whenever it strayed thirty yards from the barracks.

With the passing of a bill for robbing the Canadian Treasury will commence the separation of Canada from the British Crown. I speak not thus confidently, because *I wish*, but advisedly, because *I know*. Though a nominal allegiance may for a while continue, it will be nominal. The people have wary leaders, who will not hurry them into premature or partial rebellion merely to gratify the impatience of city loungers, but preparations are already commenced that will render them invincible whenever they choose to say, "*we are ready*." I allude not to the proceedings of simultaneous public meetings, but to the still small voice which, moving from house to house, from neighbor to neighbor, slowly, silently and irresistibly animates, ennobles and unites the determination of a people. War is a game of desperate chances, never to be commenced

when it can be honorably avoided. The horrors of rapine and bloodshed, the ignominy in comparison with a base political ignominy. Better expire in martyrdom for a country's wrongs, than wretched slave, insensible to her miseries. Better that our bones should lay whitening the fields, or be raised in one vast monument over the departed liberties of the country, than that they should live and move to witness her degradation. What is there in life so lovely or in death so horrible, to make men quietly submit to threatened insolence of office?

The British Government has assumed a position reconciling no dispute; leading to no result; which it cannot itself defend, except upon the plea of temporary necessity—a plea which if once admitted, would sanction every deed of enormity that man or government ever did or ever can commit. That government has, with an imbecility inexplicable, stripped all extraneous matter from the question of Canadian grievances, and reduced the whole to a single point of contest—a bare naked point upon which the whole world must declare Great Britain *wrong*, and the Canadians *right*, whatever may be the ulterior consequences.

The gift of foresight is misnamed. To know the future we need only look back upon the past. The scenes of the old colonies have been enacted in the new—the same catalogue of charges against the British Crown has been nearly refilled. The result *must* be the same. For Great Britain there remains but one choice—quietly and peaceably, while she may wish to retain honor, to relinquish a country that she cannot retain, that now spurns her protection, and which can never flourish while it continues.

I am, your very obedient.

L. M. N.