

Headquarters, Ottawa, January, 1875.

The Hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence, &c., &c.

Sir,—The Militia Reports which have been presented to Parliament for several years past, have treated exhaustively the question of its organization and development.

It will, therefore, be my duty to confine myself to a few condensed remarks, as to the probable improvement of the Dominion forces.

I approach the subject with hesitation, having so recently arrived for the first time in Canada. I would hardly do so at all, but from the experience gained in my late journey through the provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

To Nova Scotia and New Brunswick I am still a stranger.

#### THE GAME OF THE TRADUCER.

Now, Sir, it seems to me that my vindication ought to be complete, but I know that to-morrow and the day after to-morrow, and every day and every week and every month, so long as there are some of those instincts which are now prevalent, in order to defeat a fair opponent, I shall be traduced before my fellow-countrymen as having tried to malign and insult them.

Mr. SPROULE. Hear, hear.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes, there is an echo.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Shame, shame.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Let me say this to that hon. gentleman that I am familiar with these appeals to passion and prejudice. In my own province—

Mr. SPROULE. I want to tell the right hon. gentleman that I have never appealed to passion or prejudice—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Mr. SPROULE—to race or religion, and I defy him or any man to say that I have done so, I do not care who he is.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. In my own province, the allies of the hon. gentleman, those who fight with him, have traduced me for years as a traitor to my race and religion. But, the cry is getting stale, and a new one has to be invented. I have no more fear of this one than I had of the other. My experience has convinced me, my experience has proved to me, that in this good land of Canada, in all sections thereof, in all classes thereof, in all races thereof, in all creeds thereof, appeals to prejudice may create a flurry of excitement, but they will invariably end in producing nothing but contempt in the hearts and minds of an intelligent and honest people.

#### DUNDONALD'S COUNTERBLAST.

In Toronto, on Saturday, June 18th, Lord Dundonald handed out the following statement, which is printed here as published in the *Toronto Mail and Empire* of June 20th:

Considering it desirable that I should lay before the people of Canada a statement of my position with reference to the difficulty between myself and the Government of Canada, I may say:

I was fully aware of the gravity of the step which I took in making a public protest. I was fully aware that it was an unusual step. I decided to take it because I was convinced that it was the only means of serving the militia of Canada.

I have for two years been General Officer Commanding the militia. I have worked hard to improve the force, to devise a scheme of reorganization, to create and organize numerous departments, and to revise the system of training. I have sedulously avoided taking any part or interest in Canadian politics.