

practised upon. From that period till the occurrence of the Trent affair, last winter, the prevalent belief in all the Provinces was this, that for no North American interest, on no North American question, would Great Britain go to war. In this belief our militia laws were neglected, our training ceased. Our officers grew old and obese, or died, and nobody would take their places. No Government would spend a pound upon defence, and, after the withdrawal of the guarantee to the Intercolonial Railroad in 1851, the impression deepened that the people of England were indifferent to our prosperity or defence.

When the Trent affair aroused the indignant feeling of the empire last autumn, we were, as we were in 1812, utterly unprepared. The war again was none of our seeking.

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had thousands of vessels upon the sea, scattered all over the world. Canada had her thousand miles of frontier unprotected. Had war come, we knew that our money losses would have been fearful, and the scenes upon our sea coasts and our frontiers, sternly painted as they must occur, without any stretch of the imagination, might well bid the "boldest hold his breath for a time." But, did a single man in all those noble Provinces falter? No! Every man, ay, every woman accepted the necessity and prepared for war. Again, it was a question of honour and not of interest. In a week we could have ar-