

ests, and improvements of society, to unprincipled rapacity, whether of domestic or foreign foes.

In the words of Dr. Whewell :—

“ The obligation of national defence is the first obligation of a nation, for it is necessary to the existence of a nation. Without the fulfilment of this obligation, a State cannot exist even in the most imperfect form. A State which used no means of defending itself, would soon be blotted out of the map by the pressure of surrounding States.”

As Dr. Haven puts it :—

“ No State is under obligation to commit suicide, or to suffer itself to be overrun by invasion and conquest, and trampled out of existence by unscrupulous and lawless force, so long as it can resist and repel this violence.”

“ Yes,” cry the faint-hearted, “ granted, *so long as it can resist and repel this violence*. But this is the question, and the question you must beg in setting out any rational scheme of defence for Canada.”

We have endeavored to show that we Canadians *can* resist, and with certainty of success. That instead of having a compact and united foe of forty millions of souls, to crush us, in the event of a disagreement between the Imperial and Washington Governments, we should see the colossal Republic spontaneously disintegrated into four or five sections mutually inimical, by the declaration of war alone ; the invading forces of any one of which sections, it would be shame on us not to make short work of.

With this hopeful assurance, we can afford to spend a little time in the consideration of what is the best and most economical system of defence for Canada, at the same time taking care to select one capable of a cheap, ready and economical expansion to meet any efforts which may be put forth in the same direction, either in time of peace or war, by our neighbours and possible enemies.

We have in former pages declaimed at length against the evils consequent upon the employment of standing armies or permanent forces (no matter what their numbers) as the means of defence ; we will close this part of our subject by extracts from eminent politicians, in further support of our views.