













CONFEDERATION FROM THE ANNEXATION POINT OF VIEW.

BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

CANADA AN ARMY OF OBSTACLES AGAINST THE REBEL.

If anything were needed to convince us to the retention of the Empire of England as to the retention of her Canadian provinces as a presence and a sham of a people with the proverbial duplicity of that schuering and wily Power, it is furnished by her course during our recent war. Four years ago while our government was in danger, she took advantage of our possessions on this continent to throw fifteen thousand well armed troops as the nucleus of an army, upon our rear and flank. Her people began to talk about disputed territory and the invasion of the Maine boundary, and even to talk as if she were the rebel government.

The truth is, England has always used, and desires to continue to use, Canada as an arm of strength against the United States. England is weakened by her Canadian provinces, for she can be invaded through her colonies, say some. But what care England for an invasion that only costs her the lives of an army of her colonies, whom she regards as sturdy beggars, and of a garrison of two or her paid troops, so long as her enemy is expending his energies upon these victims, and so much lessening his efficiency against her? Can any man suppose that the United States, with all her back doors closed, with her rear and flank entirely secure from danger, with her teeth of her seaboard alone liable to England's approach, with her back as it were, against the North pole, and her face to her front, would be a weaker enemy than she is now, with the St. Lawrence ready to admit a hostile army in her inland waters?

What England did design was, as we have said, to build up a power on our north during the absence of our army, which at its close she could use to act in alliance with a slave confederacy and a French empire by the south, and to cripple us by crushing the power of the Northern republic. For, as is well known, the European Powers believed that the war was to last for some years longer, and to end in the establishment of Southern independence. There are some who believe that a portion of the north was already planned—England to take the New England States, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota; the Southern confederacy to take the rest, and France to be secured in the possession of the whole of Mexico, with probably the addition of Arizona and a slice of Texas.

But these family arrangements being knocked in the head by the collapse of the Rebellion and the triumph of the government of the Union, and the great republic coming out of the conflict with her name intact, her strength strong, her bayonets fixed and her powder dry, ready to punish her enemies and to push forward to a position in the progress of which she is changing. There is no prospect of partitioning our States, but there is at work Machiavellian policy, against which it is prudent and incumbent upon us to be prepared.

England, our enemy, although not so bold a one as our friends in the past, is in our distress, now designs, under the pretence of legitimately aiding her colonies to put her back to a position in which she can be used to act in alliance with a slave confederacy and a French empire by the south, and to cripple us by crushing the power of the Northern republic. For, as is well known, the European Powers believed that the war was to last for some years longer, and to end in the establishment of Southern independence. There are some who believe that a portion of the north was already planned—England to take the New England States, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota; the Southern confederacy to take the rest, and France to be secured in the possession of the whole of Mexico, with probably the addition of Arizona and a slice of Texas.

At Point Levis, at the present time, a work of defence is being rapidly built by the English government which, if suffered to be completed, will render Quebec impregnable, commanding the St. Lawrence, giving free passage to British gunboats in Montreal, if not Lake Ontario, surrounded by a camp of British troops, British engineers (and among these some French engineers) are busy at work strengthening the British grasp upon the American continent.

The heights of Point Levis, overlooking the St. Lawrence, are the most important points of defence there for an army turning camp at a right angle, from the south shore of the main channel of the St. Lawrence, of which the Island of Orleans forms the north shore. The heights stretch for some distance up above the city towards Montreal, and in some places extend in altitude the citadel itself. They thus command the great channel, the channel between the Island of Orleans and the north shore, the river above Quebec, the city and harbor of Quebec, the citadel itself, and the Plains of Abraham. Their military importance can be at once understood. A hostile power occupying those heights would have the best of the citadel of Quebec as its moory. The importance of the position was appreciated by the French engineers who, in 1759, had built earthworks and mounted guns upon the heights, and by General Wolfe, who at once occupied the heights, threw up works, and from them brought such artillery as he had to bear upon the city.

At Kingston—Two field batteries, ten guns each, Armstrongs, two hundred and twenty-five men each battery. Squad of Sixth British Heavy artillery, two hundred men to work the guns in the forts.

At Quebec—Sixth British Heavy artillery, Fourth Battery; one thousand men; Twenty-fifth British Infantry, or "King's Own Borderers," nine hundred strong; Tenth British Light Infantry, nine hundred strong, under command of Colonel Packenham; two batteries of field artillery, each battery six guns, Armstrong twelve pounders, two hundred and fifty men, about one hundred horses.

At Quebec—Seventh British Fusilier Guards, eight hundred to nine hundred men; First battalion British Rifle brigade, nine hundred strong; Tenth brigade Royal artillery, three hundred strong; Fourth battalion Rifle brigade, nine hundred men at Point Levis; two field batteries, six guns each, twelve-pounder Armstrongs.

The force of the regular British army in Canada is therefore about five thousand eight hundred men, and nine field batteries, numbering sixty-two guns. The volunteer force in Upper Canada consists of the following:—Eighteen cavalry companies, seven cavalry companies, one hundred and ninety infantry companies, eight rifle companies, two engineer companies, four companies of garrison artillery and six field batteries.

The volunteer force in Lower Canada is—Fifty-two rifle companies, sixty-nine infantry companies, two engineer companies, nine cavalry companies, twelve companies of garrison artillery and two field batteries. In garrison towns the volunteer force is as follows:—In Quebec—Quebec squadron (cavalry), two troops, two hundred and fifteen men; Quebec field battery, three six-pounders, and one twelve-pounder gun, one hundred and twenty-five men; Provisional battalion of garrison artillery, four batteries; Eight companies of "St. Lawrence Rifles," four companies, four hundred men; Civil Service Rifle corps, one hundred and twenty; Ninth battalion, "Vetligards de Quebec," six companies, about five hundred men.

At Point Levis—Seventeenth battalion of infantry, five companies, about five hundred men. In Montreal—The Montreal squadron (cavalry) two troops, about one hundred and fifty men; "The Royal Guides, or Governor's General Body's Guard," about fifty men; Montreal Light Infantry, three six-pounders, and one twelve-pounder gun, one hundred and twenty-five; battery of garrison artillery, two engineer companies, about sixty men; Montreal Light Infantry, six companies, about five hundred men; Fifth battalion, "The Royal Light Infantry," four companies, four hundred men; Sixth battalion; "Moosehops Light Infantry," six companies, about five hundred men; First battalion, "Princes of Wales," nine companies, seven hundred men; Third battalion "Victoria Volunteer Rifles," six companies, about four hundred men; Fourth battery Chasseur Canadiens, ten companies, about seven hundred men; City Police Rifle companies, two companies, one hundred and sixty men.

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