

with the only country upon earth which stands between them & universal despotism.—their armies therefore must evidently be composed of the refuse & scum of the Earth, Renegadoes and Vagabonds of all Nations, who having fled from justice in their native land, have found an asylum in the United States, and unhappily for that country, and their neighbours, an impunity to their crimes.—Men of this description may no doubt be found to fill up their ranks.—Our fertile plains, and the fruits of our industry are no doubt temptations every way calculated to excite their avarice, and gratify their abominable and licentious passion for plunder and rapine. It is no ideal picture I attempt to delineate, as the objects of the Government of the United States have been fully discussed in Congress, and this system of plunder and robbery openly avowed.

They have no objection whatever in letting loose upon us this horrid Banditti, & pouring in upon these Provinces an array of Savages of the very worst description; and yet they are extremely ticklish on that head themselves, and are very desirous of fastening upon us every hostile measure of the Indians. They have even carried this jealousy so far, as to accuse us of having stirred up the Prophet, and set him upon the *Great*, the *Mohock*, & the *Confederate* Gen. Harrison. It is by these lies they have succeeded in prejudicing the minds of the people against the only Nation now left worthy of their alliance and friendship. But every man who knows any thing of war must know, that this very army prepared to invade our Provinces, will prove the greatest scourge to their own Country that they ever experienced. Admitting they are successful to the full extent of their object, and both the Canadas in their possession, let us see for a moment how the case would stand. The horrors to be committed in performing this great exploit will (like those which have marked every step of their Ally Bonaparte) be guided over with the false glare which is the sure attendant of successful villainy. The present population put to the sword or driven from their habitations the weaker sex disposed of as is usual on like occasions, and the lands divided amongst these modern Vandals.—This, it is to be presumed, is the consummation of their object, and the prize for which the Government of the United States are to commit so many crimes, and pour in upon their unoffending neighbours such a torrent of misery. It is not difficult to shew that this very success would prove the ruin of all the Countries situated on both Banks of the St. Lawrence, and all the Lakes and waters of which it is the discharge or outlet. Is it in human nature to suppose, that the British Nation will sit down tamely, & allow her enemy to enjoy the fruits of her rapacious and cruel conquest? The Empire, of which we form an integral part, has in a high degree those attributes which are the surest indications of her strength. Her moderation, justice and magnanimity, are themes of admiration amongst the lovers of virtue in all Nations. The glorious contest she is now maintaining for the independence of Europe, is unparalleled in the annals of the world. A nation boldly

standing forward, single handed, to stem a torrent that has borne down the greatest military powers, and but for her generous efforts would long ago have obliterated every trace of liberty, and reduced us all to a state of slavery the more insufferable, as we have already felt and enjoyed the blessings of freedom. Is it to be supposed that such a nation, after having driven this modern Attila from the Ocean, and now beating him in every battle upon land, where he dares present himself, will suffer a parcel of peddling land jobbers to wrest from her a foot of territory? A territory now rendered doubly valuable to her from the abundant supplies she is yearly deriving from it for the use of her Naval arsenals, &c.

The evils of war, as they affect their own Country, no power upon Earth but themselves can avert, as success or defeat are to them equally ruinous. If they had possession of the Canadas without permission to avail themselves of the St. Lawrence, what benefit could they possibly derive from any increase to their already too widely extended possessions? If we discharge the duty we owe to our Country, & to ourselves, we have nothing to fear. We have daily experience that bold & manly policy is the safest & the wisest. All the Nations of Europe who have temporized, or cringed to the bloody usurper, have invariably been trampled upon in the most barbarous and wanton manner. The brave alone have averted his desolating fury. Let us act worthy of the British character, & instead of becoming the victims of their rapacity, we shall teach our enemies a maxim they seem to have forgotten, *that honesty is the best policy.*

I do not presume to say what measures our Government has adopted; but what most materially concerns us, every man in this Province may readily know. That the Government are determined to defend the Country to the last extremity, there can be no doubt; and that every means we possess will be called into action, is equally unquestionable. The value of these Provinces to Great Britain is now so greatly enhanced, that we may rest assured she will never abandon them. If a temporary possession of them could even be obtained, they must inevitably be delivered up on a peace taking place.

As I have not withheld from my countrymen the evils we are threatened with, I shall with equal candour say a word or two for the benefit of my Yankey friends, *before they pass the Rubicon.* Whilst you gentlemen are playing the Devil with us poor Canadians, what do you imagine we are doing in the mean time? Do you suppose we are a parcel of Quakers? You have probably forgot that Great Britain has either a Navy or an Army. Be assured brother Jonathan, that for every Canadian Cabin you burn or destroy, the British will retaliate upon you ten fold. If you are determined upon becoming such deadly sinners, it is not reasonable to expect that John Bull will be quite a faint.

You calculate also upon exciting Rebellion amongst us, by making a party in the Country. This gentlemen, is as repugnant to humanity, as it is to good policy. If you

will condescend to read the history of the British Nation, you will find that Rebellion never escaped punishment, or the excitors of it, the chastisement due to their crimes. And as for the policy of the measure, I shall merely beg of you to recollect that there is a certain class of miserable fellow creatures amongst yourselves, that would require the help of very little Logic to see the justice of cutting the throats of their oppressors. You had better not begin to throw stones, lest you get your own windows broken. I could mention other dangers you have reason to dread, if it were my wish to intimidate you; but I have no intentions of the sort, my appeal is to your understandings, not to your fears.

I shall now conclude with an earnest exhortation to my fellow Countrymen, that they will come forward and rally round the Government and brave the impending storm like men. No cause can be more glorious, than that in which we are engaged, nor incitement to action greater than ours. The enemy threatens to wrest from us every object that can render life desirable, and reduce us to a state of dependance and misery. The defence of our Country, & the safety of our Country; & all that is dear to us, is a sacred trust, which it would be the highest degree of baseness to betray. However strong the temptations and motives for action may be on the part of the enemy, they hold no degree of comparison with ours. We have therefore every advantage which is derived from a good cause, and an honorable and justifiable motive for entering upon this contest. The general selected to command us, is perfectly acquainted with the Country and Inhabitants he has been called upon to defend. He can entertain no fears as to the issue, and I am confident there is not an Officer under him, who feels the smallest apprehension for the safety of the Province. Let us therefore step forward with one accord, and second the efforts of Government by presenting our services in any way where they can be of use in the common cause, and I will pledge my life for it, that the Province is invulnerable.

A LOYALIST.

YORK, February 4.

Yesterday at one o'clock, his Honor ISAAC BROCK, Esquire, President, administering the Government of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding his Majesty's Forces therein, accompanied by a numerous suite, proceeded to the Government Buildings and opened the present Session of the Legislature, when he was pleased to deliver the following SPEECH to both Houses.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
And, Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I should derive the utmost satisfaction, the first time of my addressing you, were it permitted me to direct your attention solely to such objects as tended to promote the peace and prosperity of this Province.

The glorious contest in which the British Empire is engaged, & the vast sacrifice which Great Britain nobly offers to secure the independence of other Nations, might be expected to still every feeling of envy and jealousy, and at the same time to excite the interest &

command the admiration of a free People; but regardless of such generous impressions, the American Government evinces a disposition calculated to impede & divide her efforts.

England is not only interdicted the harbors of the U. States, while they afford a shelter to the cruizers of her inveterate enemy, but she is likewise required to resign those maritime rights which she has so long exercised and enjoyed. Insulting threats are offered, and hostile preparations actually commenced; and though not without hope that cool reflection, and the dictates of justice may yet avert the calamities of war, I cannot under every view of the relative situation of the Province be too urgent in recommending to your early attention, the adoption of such measures, as will best secure the internal peace of the Country, and defeat every hostile aggression.

Principally composed of the sons of a Loyal and brave band of Veterans, the Militia, I am confident, stand in need of nothing but the necessary Legislative provisions, to direct their ardour in the acquirement of Military instruction, to form a most efficient force.

The growing prosperity of these Provinces, it is manifest, begins to awaken a spirit of envy and ambition. The acknowledged importance of this Colony to the Parent State, will secure the continuance of her powerful protection. Her fostering care has been the first cause, under Providence, of the uninterrupted happiness you have so long enjoyed. Your industry has been liberally rewarded, and you have in consequence risen to opulence.

These interesting truths are not uttered to animate your patriotism, but to dispel any apprehension which you may have imbibed of the possibility of England forsaking you, for you must be sensible, that if once bereft of her support, if once deprived of the advantages which her commerce & the supply of her most essential wants give you, this Colony, from its Geographical position, must inevitably sink into comparative poverty and insignificance.

But Heaven will look favorably on the manly exertions which the loyal and virtuous inhabitants of this happy land are prepared to make, to avert such a dire calamity!

Our gracious Prince, who so gloriously upholds the dignity of the Empire, already appreciates your merit, and it will be your first care to establish, by the course of your actions, the just claim of the Country to the protection of his Royal Highness.

I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of announcing to you, from this place, the munificent intention of his Royal Highness, the Prince Regent, who has been graciously pleased to signify, that a grant of One Hundred Pounds per annum, will be proposed in the annual Estimate, for every future Missionary of the Gospel, sent from England, who may have faithfully discharged for the term of ten years, the duties of his station in this Province.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have no doubt, but that with me, you are convinced of the necessity of a regular system of Military instruction to the Militia of