

CHAPTER XVIII.

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Lieut.-General Commanding Her Majesty's Forces, Alex. G. Montgomery Moore. Major-General in Command of Militia, Ivor Herbert, C.B.

1341. Previous to the confederation of the provinces, the defence of this country was entirely in the hands of the Imperial Government, who, for that purpose, maintained troops in each province, supported by various local volunteer militia corps. This volunteer militia had, when called upon, rendered most efficient services in times of trouble, an account of which would be beyond the scope of this chapter, being, as it is, part of the history of Canada.

1342. After Confederation, the British Government gradually withdrew all the Imperial troops from this country, and at present only maintain a garrison at Halifax, and a naval establishment there and on the Pacific coast. Halifax is said to be one of the most strongly fortified places on the American continent, and an arrangement has now been made for the fortification of Esquimalt, B.C., by which the Imperial Government will construct the works, while Canada purchases the sites and contributes a fixed sum. The works will be garrisoned by Imperial troops.