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ALEX. RIGGS.

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The United Service Gazette.

"Free be our aid, independent our might,
 "And the sword that we brandish, our own."

OTTAWA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1869

THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

From the United Service Gazette.

LAST week, in advocating the speedy construction of the Ottawa Canal, not only as a means of defence, but as taking advantage of the position which nature has given us to become a powerful and wealthy nation, we noticed incidentally the impositions inflicted upon the producers of the Great West by the tariffs made for the benefit of New England manufacturers, and stated that the dwellers at the Occident would not long submit to the burthen, if free communication with the sea and the markets of Europe were offered them through Canadian territory, and especially if that communication was made some 50 per cent. cheaper and shorter than the present circuitous route by the Erie Canal and New York, as would be the case, if the Ottawa Canal were built. In order to show the rate at which the West is made to contribute to the wealth of the East, we take the annexed from an American paper:

"The following statement shows the par value and the market value of the stock of a few of the New England manufacturing companies:

Androscooggin Mills (par value \$100)	185
Pepperell Manufacturing Company (par value \$100)	1,105
Pacific Mills (par value \$100)	2,015
Nashua Company (par value \$100)	755
Stark Mills (par value \$100)	1,275
Chicopee Manufacturing Company (par value \$100)	275
Salisbury Manufacturing Company (par value \$100)	270½
Boott Cotton Mills (par value \$100)	1,080
Laconia Manufacturing Company (par value \$100)	1,200
Amoskeag Manufacturing Company (par value \$100)	1,312½
Great Falls Manufacturing Company (par value \$100)	215

"These are the people who are persistently howling for 'protection,' and it is 'protection,' which is only a refinement for downright robbery, which has raised the stock of these companies to ten and twenty times their par values."

While New England writers, and Northerners with New England ideas and interests, have endeavored to maintain that the late war was waged to liberate the slave—and in this they have been joined by the Bright school in England—it was patent to every

one else that it was to enforce New England tariffs upon the agriculturists of the South; and that the major part of the patriotic fervor bestowed upon their striped bunting, which with pathetic anachronism they denominated "the old flag," was in reality the result of a sordid affection for the base material interests of the cotton mills of New England. Nullification in South Carolina, in the days of CALHOUN, arose from the same cause, and South Carolina would then have seceded had she been strong enough, as she and the other Southern States recently attempted to do, and as the West will eventually be pretty sure to do, when New England capitalists lose their gripe upon the throat of western enterprise; and there can then be no pretext of a common opposition to human slavery to draw sympathy from any portion of the people of the West for the East, as was the case in the late war. But, whether the West remains a part of the Union or not, it is its interest to make Canada its highway to the ocean, and it is ours also, both in a material and national point of view. In the first, it would give employment to immigrants opening up our waste territory, employ our great facilities for ship building, give us a market for our mineral wealth, make our vast water-power the basis of manufacturing enterprises, the products of which—freed from protective duties which the West would have no interest in imposing—would completely outstrip the manufacturers of the Eastern States in the western market, and eventually it would culminate in an extension of our lines of communication through British territory to the Pacific, thus making Canada the highway for the traffic of England with China and India. In a national point of view, the opening of the Ottawa Ship Canal would give us back bone, and so strengthen us that, with the aid of the naval strength of England, we would be in a position to maintain our independence, and dictate the terms of a treaty by which the Great West might secure our great thoroughfare and seaboard, for the purpose of establishing free trade with the markets of Europe; and at the same time give us facilities for opening up and incorporating the wealth of our own great and fertile North-west. Thus, from a position of isolated and unimportant colonies, we would grow into an Empire rich in its own resources, and holding the key to the trade of half the world. In our last we urged a speedy consideration of these features in our own natural position, if we would avoid the loss of some of their advantages through the more daring enterprise of the United States. Already the Americans of the West see the advantages of our position, and although we may smile at the crazy idea of that people robbing us of our country and its advantages by force, we must not overlook the facts contained in the bombast written by Mr. Medill, of Chicago, to Gen. Rawlins. In his letter Mr. Medill says:

"I esteem the acquisition of British North America as almost equal in value to the seceded States, which we conquered. We need that country for its vast forests, its wheat and barley lands, its fisheries, its furs. New England needs Nova Scotia for its coal. The West needs the St. Lawrence for its natural outlet to the Atlantic Ocean. The Saskatchewan Valley will in future be a great wheat-growing region. The Northern Pacific Railway, from the head of Lake Superior, via St. Paul, will run close along the boundary line for more than 2,000 miles, to Oregon. We don't want a naval power, supported by a foreign nation, established on our Northern frontier."

There can be no doubt that the Americans do "need that country," but if we are true to ourselves they will only acquire the use of its highways on the terms which we shall dictate, instead of this country becoming a mere satrapy of the Great Republic. Once make our defensive position secure, towards which the construction of the Ottawa Ship Canal and the carrying out of our Militia system to its full extent would go a great way, and we shall be in a position to profit by any disagreements which may arise between the Eastern and Western States regarding trade, as arise they must, if Congress, under the influence of the East, continues to rob the West. There is one, feature of the above extract which, above all others, demands prompt action on the part of Canadian statesmen, and that is the reference made to the North Pacific Railway. Notwithstanding their immense

burden of debt, the United States have already, in the face of immense difficulties, and over a thousand miles of inhospitable and barren desert, nearly completed one road to the Pacific, and there can be no doubt that they will exhibit equal energy in attempting the construction of a Northern line. The success of such an undertaking would reduce greatly the prospects of an inter-oceanic road through British territory. Let us hope that the mission of SIR GEORGE CARTIER and Mr. McDougall will be so successful in the acquisition of the Hudson's Bay territory, and in opening the eyes of the British nation and British capitalists to the advantages of this territory, that we may be enabled, not only to open the fertile valley of the Saskatchewan to British civilization and industry, but also be the means of securing such aid for the construction of a railway that we shall be able to outstrip the American project, and thus put all the disadvantages of building a competing line upon them. The subject of the future Canadian Empire is too vast to permit of more than touching a few of the salient points in a brief article, but even these are sufficient to show the vital interest we have in strengthening our position by all the means in our power. This we cannot do without large expenditure; but, even if we were to become involved to the extent of the United States debt, proportionately to our population, we should have vast and productive public works, and a great and prosperous Empire to show for our money, instead of the prostration and blackened ruins of a great war, which is all the Americans have to exhibit for their loss of blood and treasure. To avert the horrors of war we must spend liberally in making our defensive position impregnable, and in the march to imperial power and prosperity we must add both energy and daring to our natural position and resources. These projects must go hand in hand, and when we find statesmen able and willing to grapple with them, our countrymen should aid them with no niggardly hand, and with no narrow-minded or sectional selfishness; and we have greatly over-estimated the patriotism of those who compose our Militia strength, if they are not found ready and willing to bear their share in the onward march of British freedom and British institutions on this continent.

THE FENIANS.

So long as peace continues between Great Britain and the United States, we need trouble our heads very little about the cut-throat fraternity; but there are constantly recurring subjects of disagreement between the two countries which it would be folly not to take into account. When these have heretofore arisen the calm patience of England has given time for the popular ebullition of Anglophobia on the part of the American masses to subside to such a degree that the American Government could control them, and then statesmanship has stepped in and settled the difficulty. We of course hope that all matters of disagreement will continue to be disposed of in the same way; but in our speculations on this subject, we would show a lack of common prudence if we did not take some note of the possible influence which the horde of Fenian scoundrels may have at some critical moment in the relations of the two countries, contemptible in everything but numbers as that lawless faction is now. Had the organization existed in the time of the settlement of the boundary question, when the popular cry in the United States was "54.40 or fight," or at the time of the Trent affair, or at any time when popular phrenzy was excited against Great Britain by blatant demagogues and an irresponsible press, it would have been quite possible for a few hundreds of these piratical and lawless ruffians to have made a descent upon some point of British territory, or to offer such an insult to the British flag on the high seas, as to greatly diminish, if it did not altogether destroy, the hopes of responsible men in the maintenance of peace. We know how near we came to a war through the act of Capt. Wikes in boarding the Trent; we know that he was sustained by popular clamour and by resolution in Congress, and it is pretty certain that had not the madness of provoking war with Great Britain, when they had a war with the South already on their hands, struck even the frantic masses, it would have been next to impossible for the American

Government to have over-ruled popular sentiment and preserved peace by giving up the confederate envoys. Although we have no reason to anticipate a similar state of affairs now, it might possibly arise suddenly as that did, and in every branch of the United States service there are members of the Fenian Brotherhood, holding high positions, who would be only too glad to perform over again the role of WIKES if an opportunity offered. Simply as Fenians, armed or unarmed, they are only terrible to the pockets of unsophisticated servant girls and the communities which are unfortunate enough have them in their midst; but as an element ever ready to take any means, lawful or unlawful, to create or promote bad feeling between the two countries, it would be impolitic to ignore them, or permit ourselves to be at any moment unprepared for their diabolical machinations. Because we did not anticipate any immediate opportunity of displaying their malignity, we took no notice of the meeting of the Fenian Congress in Philadelphia, and if we notice any circle now it is simply because we consider it our duty to keep our readers alive to the fact that there are in the United States a vast number of lawless men who only await an opportunity to carry the sword, fire and rapine into our peaceful country. They have the will and only want the way; and though we do not believe they will find the way, in any case we should be prepared to show them a stern and invincible front along the line. At a meeting of the Wolf Tone Circle in New York, one evening last week, one noble cut-throat said "every Irishman was now required for the movement of General O'Neil, which was to take place against the enemy in a short while." Another preferred fighting Ireland's battles on English battle fields, and "At any rate, he had no sympathy with the Canadians nor could he respect them for their supineness in not rising in the war of '76 and throwing off their allegiance." A higher compliment could not be paid by a treacherous ruffian to the sturdy loyalty and faithfulness to monarchical institutions of a people made up of all nationalities. Another unsavoury brother referred to the impression that had got abroad that every one connected with the organization was a swindler. Notwithstanding the popular conviction of the truth he mentioned that their principle was not swindling, but "liberty, equality and fraternity," which means the same thing in Fenian circles.

"And he would tell them that after peaceable means had been scoffed at and ridiculed, that they were about to inaugurate those principles with infantry, artillery and cavalry. He showed that there could not be the swindling and corruption going on which some had pronounced, for the committee appointed at the late Congress at Philadelphia examined into the whole organization, and what did they report? They said to the Irish people of the United States: 'Give us \$100,000 and in six months we will grapple with the enemy hand to hand and decide upon the field of battle the issue between us and them.'"

We fancy we see the triumphant attitude of the orator when he proved there could not have been swindling, because they only asked for a hundred thousand more! After this outburst of logical eloquence "half a dozen came forward and joined the civic and three or four the military branch of the circle." How they manage to procure the necessary bad whisky to keep the circles together we know not, but it is an undeniable fact that there are circles in full blast all over the United States, and the highest officials there are not ashamed to fraternize with them, as was the case recently with the Mayor of New York; and under such circumstances, degraded as they are, there are more improbable things than that they will be able to give trouble both there and here; and it is our duty to be prepared, by a well drilled and disciplined force, to offer them bloody graves in the land they covet, should they ever again desecrate an inch of our soil; and by this course we will take the best means of deterring them from any unprovoked attempt to carry out their blood-thirsty and thievish designs.

RIFLE MATCH IN LAMBTON.—We learn from a correspondent that the recent Rifle Match in Warwick, Co. Lambton, was a very good one, \$150 being distributed in prizes. In the Battalion Match six companies were represented by five men each, the following being the scores: Warwick team, 127 points; Sarnia, 121; Warwick, (No. 2,) 118; Moore, 115; Watford, 114; Widder, 113.