

duty to advert to the mean and unpatriotic action taken by certain commercial and other institutions, in compelling their servants to retire from the volunteer ranks under penalty of losing their situations. Who, we would ask those people, would be the greatest sufferers in case an invasion were even for a time successful? Would a Bank or a large mercantile firm enjoy a happy exemption from the plundering hands of the champions of Irish liberty; or would they, as the price of immunity from danger, be prepared to discount Fenian Bonds? Shame! shame! There is not in our whole history so mean and paltry an exhibition of stupid selfishness! We have had occasion to mention these things before, but we hope this will be the last time we will be called upon to perform so painful a duty. Only last week we referred to the fact of a Fenian Regiment parading with state troops at Buffalo, on the 4th of July, and this is sufficient proof that those barefoot crusaders have the sympathy of a large portion of that party in the United States which glories under the shadow of the spread eagle, and which for its own selfish purposes keeps alive a monster which it may yet find some difficulty in destroying.

THE HOUSE FOUNDED ON SAND.

WHEN the founders of the American republic framed a constitution based on the false doctrine that all men are born free from prejudice and equal in reason and tolerance, they built on a foundation which was unfit to resist the waves of public feeling, lashed into fury by the fierce storms of popular passion, and it is now no subject of wonder to the thinking men of the world that the political tempests of the last few years have shaken to its lowest stone the apparently fair fabric of American freedom. The dispute now pending between President JOHNSON and that most obstinate of men, Secretary STANTON, may seem to us, as law-abiding British subjects, a most extraordinary occurrence and one which it is hardly possible could take place under our own form of Government; but a little consideration will show that it is just one of a number of clashes in the harmony of American institutions which have already been so disastrous to that country. Having established the erroneous doctrine that all men were born free and equal the adoption of universal suffrage was the next natural step, and having swept away all distinction between man and man the application of the electoral system for the purpose of filling all offices of trust or emolument in the country, followed as an expected sequence. To complete the safety of the people's freedom and preserve their representatives from the undue influence of a political Executive, their next step was to deprive the administration of the day from sitting in the Halls of National Legislation, and render supreme—under certain circumstances—the voice of Congress. Though the system might have worked well

among a people to whom corruption and party prejudices were unknown—to a nation in fact who stood in need of no Government at all—its ruinous effects on a people constituted like ordinary mortals, became visible in the United States at an early date. The Chief Magistrate of the Republic soon ceased to be an impartial ruler of the people, with their welfare as the great object of his interest, and degenerated into the nominee of a party the success of whose schemes he endeavoured to promote. The suicidal efforts of such a state of affairs did not become apparent while the majority of the Legislative representatives of the country were of the Presidential faction, and under party Presidents the rebellious doctrines of the secession party were sown, blossomed and at length bore fruit in a war, which for waste of life, treasure and property is almost without a parallel in the annals of history. From this struggle sprang the abolition of slavery, which had so long given a practical lie to the expression of American statesmen that they believed all men to be free and equal—but the abolition of this "peculiar institution"—not cast aside from conviction of its being a moral evil, but simply as a political expediency or military necessity—has brought, like most make-shifts, not peace, but trouble to the government of the country. The negro, for generations treated as part and parcel of the brute creation, deprived of all education and debased in morals was, through this abolition decree, raised to the legal status of a man to whom in the opinion of many in the country the full liberties and privileges of an American citizen belonged—liberties so extensive that even large classes of the more educated whites showed themselves incapable of using them in the spirit intended by the constitution. Well might the more thinking portion of the American community pause and shrink from at once entrusting to this long debased mortal the privilege of the franchise, and demand that before the negro was allowed an increase of power he should be educated to a proper use of it; and we are not surprised that the President has set himself against the reconstruction policy which would virtually render the late Confederate States the legislative property of the most debased class (because most numerous) of their population. On this rock of Negro Suffrage the President and Secretary Stanton have split, and the Chief Magistrate has signified to him his desire that he should resign his position in the Cabinet. The obstinate Secretary has, however, too strong an affection for the sweets of office to quietly relinquish the reins of power and he as firmly declines, "for reasons of state," to resign. What the immediate result of this difference of opinion may be it is impossible to foretell; but that ultimate anarchy will result from a form of Government so loosely constructed and ill balanced as this is, is inevitable, and the probable reconstruction from the approaching chaos, will result in a despotism more gal-

ling than those of Europe, against which Americans inveigh so loudly. We put no faith in the professions of the party which advocate negro suffrage as a just and equitable measure, but believe they are staunch to the doctrine, because they know that the negro vote would control the election of the late rebel states, and they could in this way strengthen their party in Congress, to secure which temporary advantage they are willing to support an act which every reasoning man among them must secretly condemn. If forced upon the country it may produce unlimited mischief; it can produce no good so far as we can see. Do they imagine that the race to whose moral and mental degeneration they were willing abettors, can be by the mere issuing of a presidential proclamation raised to the level of educated, reasoning men; or can they suppose that the educated whites of Virginia, and the disloyal sister states will resign, without a word, the destiny of their country to a class which they hitherto looked upon with the most supreme contempt, and which was in fact their property? The policy of a true statesman in such a crisis would be to try and soften the asperities existing between the two classes, (late master and slave,) and to strive before entrusting the negro with an elector's privileges, to educate him to such an extent as would give some reasonable hope that he understood an elector's duties. But for this reasonable demand the suicidal haste of immediate party interest will not permit the Republican party to wait, and even at the risk of again embroiling their land in civil war, with a full knowledge that no good either to the blacks or the country can result from it, they will endeavor, for party purposes, to carry their point. With such party fanaticism rampant in the land, nothing but continual tumults & anarchy can be expected; and, cursed with loss of national prosperity, increase of debt, and a war of races, the now proud United States may rapidly sink to the degraded and unsettled state of her unhappy neighbor—Mexico.

CAPT. BRIDGEWATER'S LECTURING TOUR.—We are pleased to learn that Capt. Bridgewater, of Mooretown, Ontario, is meeting good support in his military lecturing tour. His lecture is much applauded and appreciated, as it deserves. Capt. Bridgewater is doing good service through his efforts in keeping alive the military spirit of our young Canadians.

QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.—A regimental order has been issued naming Monday the 9th of September for the annual rifle match of the regiment. The prize list is large and varied, and so arranged that the novice as well as the crack shot will have a chance of success. In consequence of the Snider Rifles not having been as yet issued, the Spencers will be used at the match.