

regard to all their actions, and it is rare indeed that any one not within the inner circle can learn any of their operations. Every member of a circle is sworn to secrecy as to the affairs of the order, but the more important ones are known only to a few who have been admitted to what they call the inner circle and none but well-known, tried members are admitted therein, besides which their obligation is of a very serious nature sufficient in itself to deter any one from violating it. Hence the difficulty of obtaining any thing like reliable information as to their projected movements. The numerous contradictory and improbable statements which are flying about may be referred to the same cause, and I need not remind you not to place too much reliance on any of them. I noticed a day or two ago that the Canadians were greatly moved in anticipation of a raid on the day the Fenian convicts were executed in England. I have reason to know that nothing of the kind was contemplated. I have said that it is difficult to understand their drift. Many of their actions, and yet more of their threats, appear purposeless, wild, and improbable. Yet I think if they are mad there is a strange method in their madness. There is but little doubt that an attempt will be made during the coming winter to effect a lodgement in Canada; still, from all I can learn, the projectors of the movement themselves anticipate but slight success of their own achieving therefrom so far as being able to take Canada, or even to maintain themselves unassisted there for any length of time, is concerned. That they will cause a great deal of trouble, that the scenes of June, 1866, at Ridgeway, will be re-enacted on a larger scale, are about the only immediate results they contemplate from such an expedition. It is well known that the faction of which Savage is now the head, is strongly opposed to any thing of the kind, but it may be that some movement of that nature is necessary to appease the unquiet spirits of the Fenians who have not sufficient stoicism to pay their money and bide their time. The opinion appears to be gaining ground, or rather, is being more irresistibly forced upon them, that in the present state of affairs they would stand but a sorry chance if they attempted to cross swords with England. Their hope is that England will ere long become entangled with the other European powers, that her whole energies and resources will be called into requisition to defend herself that then, the war being hot, the Fenians may strike the blow, gain their cause, establish the Irish Republic, and have the Sunburst proudly floating from every spire and flagstaff in Ireland. The idea thus put may call forth a smile of incredulity, but there is cause for, if not apprehension, at least serious thought upon the matter. Failing a European war, for which they can only hope and pray, they long for a quarrel between England and the United States for which they can and are working. Deducing my

opinion from what I hear generally, rather than accepting the fact from any decided statement to that effect on their part, I should say that their present line of action and their future intentions have this end in view. To incense England into doing something that will be a *casus belli*, or something that may be distorted *thoreto*, and then bring their whole influence to bear upon the Government to act thereon. Their raid into Canada, their sending agents to Ireland was with that aim. The projected invasion during the coming winter is but a greater stride in the same direction. They hope to effect a lodgement and maintain themselves by seizing a town and hastily throwing up fortifications for a few weeks at least. Their friends here, will thereupon urge their recognition as belligerents, which it is not at all improbable the United States Government would do in retaliation for England's recognition of the South. Supplies could then be drawn, expeditions could quietly and secretly be fitted out from this side of the boundary line, and a quarrel between England and America would be the all but inevitable consequence. It must be borne in mind that the influence of the Irish here is not slight. The lower classes of them, 'tis true, are looked upon with but little more favor than negroes, they do the heaviest and hardest work at the cheapest rates, every one of them has a vote, and very many of the more intelligent aspire to and gain the most important offices, indeed the Irish almost entirely rule New York. It is therefore a matter of great moment to certain politicians to propitiate the Irish citizens of the United States; and they might be induced without the exercise of much persuasion, to urge a war with England if they had a reasonable ground upon which to base their claims. Nor would such influence be confined to the Irish, as the meeting which was held at Cooper's Institute in this city on the 23rd clearly shows. In consequence of the imprisonment of certain Fenian agents (American naturalized citizens) in England, the question has been asked by their friends: "What is the use of swearing allegiance to the United States, if the Government will not protect us and enforce our rights as citizens when in a foreign country?" It would be idle for me to say anything about the duty of such citizens to respect the friendly relations of the country, to which they swear allegiance, with foreign powers, but if the Government should be induced to take any action in the matter they certainly might be gently reminded of their duty to deal with, and furnish any one guilty of acts towards a foreign power which were calculated to disturb the peaceful relations of that power with the United States. However the meeting at Cooper's Institute was for the purpose of taking action in the matter, and calling upon the Government to protect Warren and others, now in English prisons, as American citizens, and I need scarcely say it was very largely attended, the Liber-

nian element greatly predominating. Several prominent and talented Irishmen were present, including General C. Halpine, well known by his *nom de plume* "Miles O'Reilly," John Cochrane, U. S. District Attorney, and others. Speeches were made denouncing in strong language the action of England in imprisoning American citizens after trial by an English jury, and denying them the right of trial by mixed jury. The necessity for united action on the part of all naturalized citizens to compel the Government to maintain their just rights in foreign countries was strongly dwelt upon, and resolutions to that effect were unanimously carried amid cheers from several thousand men.

A deputation of German citizens was present, to co-operate with the Irish in urging upon the Government the recognition of their rights as citizens when abroad, and the movement is likely to embrace all classes of naturalized citizens. The formation of a League all through the States for that purpose was advocated, and will doubtless be initiated ere long. If successfully carried out, and honestly acted upon at the ballot box, the organization will be irresistible and able to carry any thing they please.

The despatches from Washington to-day state, that the President will deal at some length in his message to Congress upon the protection of American citizens abroad; and will urge on Congress to take a decided stand in asserting the rights of citizens of this country, who have been either unjustly imprisoned, or denied what they are legally entitled to when on trial in foreign countries.

A private meeting of Fenians was held last night to endeavor to bring about a union between the two parties. The two leaders, Roberts and Savage, appear strongly inclined to amalgamate.

To-day is the anniversary of the evacuation of New York by the English, and quite a display of bunting is made throughout the city. The national Guard is parading, and quite a lively time exists, although the state of the weather and streets is far from favorable for any such display.

L. E.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW:

SIR,—A few remarks upon Mr. Bethune's scheme of defence may be permitted through your columns. The gentleman referred to may recollect the answer given to the enquiry: "For what purpose were the Martello Towers along the coast of England erected? "To puzzle posterity," was the curt reply. Does Mr. B., propose to repeat these absurdities with iron in place of stone and lime? If not he has certainly furnished an enigma very difficult of solution by modern science. But probably he is content to provide a rich morceau for archeological disputation in the future.

We are quite willing to afford Mr. B. every latitude for his evidently very recent aspirations to Vaubanian notoriety, and quite believe that he is not much more reprehensible