

Day celebration of 1864, when he delivered a panegyric of Ireland's Apostle, in the presence of a vast multitude of the faithful. The sermon established Father Ryan's reputation as a pulpit orator, and followed, as it was, by other equally brilliant efforts, no marvel was it that, upon the opening of the College term of '64, there appeared on the roll-books a larger attendance of pupils than ever before presented themselves. The number of students in my first College year was about 150, a very large aggregate for the time and circumstances. Father Ryan's administration extended over a period of three years and is chiefly memorable for the incorporation of the College as a university. This measure was passed through all the branches of the last legislature of Old Canada, which here met, for the first and the last time, on the 8th of June, 1866. Father Ryan's administration, not proving, for many reasons, the success it had promised at the outset, the Rev. Father Tabaret was, in 1867, recalled to the government of the College, and then followed a long and uninterrupted period of prosperity. I cannot, however, suffer Father Ryan's presidency to drop out of notice without an allusion to what I may term the Fenian scare of that period. Every one knows that from the year 1864 to 1868, the whole British empire was agitated and disturbed by the organized efforts of a vast secret organization, known as the Fenian Brotherhood, to secure Ireland's deliverance from English rule. Many of the things said and done everywhere, at that time, would now seem ludicrous in the extreme. But no incident of College life affords, I do venture to think, more hearty amusement than Father Ryan's discovery and frustration (!) of a College plot to overthrow Queen Victoria and subvert the mighty empire of Britain. A few of the students, none of them at the time, fifteen years old, had, it appears, out of sympathy for the struggles of Ireland against English misrule, and in protest against the super-loyal extravagancies of a number of their College comrades, organized themselves into an association, to which they gave the pompous title of the "Irish Republican Brother-

hood," which had its officers, designated as centres, head centres, and the like, its secretaries, its assistant secretaries, and of course, its poet. The latter was a very voluminous writer, who, evidently had more talent to compose, than discretion to conceal his poetic effusions. In a nocturnal visit of some of the staff of disciplinarians through the College, a large bundle of the poems of the I. R. B. was discovered, and, as might be expected, at once handed over to Father Ryan who, strange to say, attached great importance to those productions, and had the guilty writer, his aiders, abettors and accomplices summoned to the presidential bar of justice, to answer for high treason and divers other crimes and malefeasances. Vainly did the accused call the worthy president's attention to the fact, that the Irish Republican Brotherhood had, like so many other similar bodies, fallen, several months before, victim to the foul fiend, dissension. The poems were there, they breathed forth an intense love for Ireland, gross disrespect for the misgoverning tyrants, then ruling that unfortunate land, and were, in general, indicative of insubordination and disloyalty. Father Ryan would hear of no defence; the traversers were condemned, but . . . not executed. All have lived to laugh over the Fenian scare of 1867. Men of position as high, and talent as eminent as Father Ryan's fell, at the same time into errors of judgment as grave and as surprising on the subject of Fenianism, as to throw doubt on their sincerity.

I am here, too reminded of another episode of the days of Father Ryan. The boys of those days, like boys of all times would put nicknames on some of their masters. There was one very estimable master to whom a smart little female *soubriquet* was applied. He accused a certain number of students of gross disrespect to collegiate authority, in that they had on a certain day, at a certain hour, and in a certain place applied this nickname to himself. The delinquents had to appear before Father Ryan, and as it was not their first appearance for transgression of rules and disregard of solemn ordinances, they had good reason to fear speedy con-