

Devlin's then company, the Prince of Wales regiment. Captain Devlin was not present in person. What, however, gave significance to the affair was that it had its origin among the F. B. in Rutland, Vermont. A Mr. Keogh, or MacKeogh, of that town, with twelve or thirteen others, purchased return tickets at Rutland and came into Montreal that day. They were the nucleus of the rioters and this Mr. MacKeogh was so elated with his success on his return to Rutland that he described the whole scene of the break up of "the Irish battalion meeting" in a letter over his own name, addressed to the editor of the *Irish American*, of New York, a paper edited by Senator Meehan, of the F. B., and now the recognized organ of the Roberts or anti-Canadian Fenians.

## X.

Anxious to prevent at the outset, if possible, the introduction of so dangerous a society into Montreal, Mr. McGee, soon after the above occurrence, published a warning letter in the *Montreal Herald*, with which he was then on friendly terms, over the signature *Civis Canadensis*, referring especially to the very severe act against secret seditious societies remaining on our Lower Canada statute book since 1839, the two first clauses of which he quoted and re-quoted in a letter to the *Gazette* over his own name somewhat later. These clauses are to be found on page 48 of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada and, as they define the illegal nature of Fenianism precisely, may here be once more quoted:—

1. "Any person who, in any form, administers or causes to be administered, or is aiding or present at and consenting to the administration or taking of any oath or engagement purposing or intending to bind the person taking the same to commit any treason or murder, or any felony punishable with death, or to engage in any seditious, rebellious or treasonable purpose, or to disturb the public peace, or to be of any association or confederacy formed for any such purpose, or to obey the order or commands of any committee or body of men not lawfully constituted, or of any leader or commander or other person not having authority by law for that purpose, or not to inform or give evidence against any associate, confederate or other person, or not to reveal or discover any illegal act done or to be done, or not to reveal or discover illegal oath or engagement administered or tendered to, or taken by such person or persons, or to or by any other person, or the import of any such oath or engagement, shall be guilty of felony and *may be imprisoned in the Provincial Penitentiary for any term of years not exceeding twenty-one years.*"

3. "And every person who takes any such oath or engagement, not being compelled thereto, shall be guilty of felony, and may be imprisoned in the Provincial Penitentiary for any term of years not exceeding seven years." 2 Vic. (2), chap. 8, sec. 1, and 6 Vic., chap. 5, sec. 4.

This warning did not prevail. Fenian sentiments were expressed and were traced to more than one individual among us during 1862 and 1863. In September of the latter year 1863 there was evidence enough of the spread of such sentiments to some considerable extent, to call the attention of his Lordship Monsignor Bourget to the subject. Our Bishop accordingly issued a solemn pastoral letter of warning