

An additional treat was also afforded to the audience in shape of two very choice readings from Mr. Thomas Batty Conolly, appropriate to the occasion, entitled "The Death-Ride," or a tale of "The Light Brigade," from the pen of Dr. Westland Marston; and "The Irish Volunteers," by Samuel Lover. It is but just to add that Mr. Conolly acquitted himself admirably in the rendition of the difficult pieces he had selected; his rich and sonorous voice, coupled with his fine elocutionary powers, rendering every word intelligible to the large assembly present, who testified their approval by a hearty encore, to which he responded by giving "Bingen on the Rhine" in a masterly and affecting style. The evening's entertainment was brought to a close by the band playing the National Anthem.

After the Concert the officers of the 39th Batt. together with a few invited guests, among whom we observe Lieut. Col. Villiers, and Capt. Armstrong of the 13th Battalion, sat down to a sumptuous supper at the Norfolk House, at which the usual loyal and complimentary toasts were heartily done justice to. Toast and song were the order of the evening and shortly after midnight the company broke up, having enjoyed themselves as much as usually falls to the lot of mortals here below;—the whole of the day's proceedings having passed off in such a manner as to leave the most pleasant impression on all who had been in any way connected with them.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19, 1867.

The people of the United States are very apt to boast of the celerity with which they raised, equipped and drilled an army larger than the world, perhaps, ever saw, certainly unequalled by any in modern times and only inferior to that of Alexander, with which he traversed the western portion of Asia, as far as the Indus, in search of another world to conquer; or the yet earlier, though perhaps more fabulous, one of Xerxes which met its first check at Thermopylae, and finally came to grief at Mycalé. Certainly the United States have proved that a peaceful country without any standing army, or nearly so, and without any of the expensive war machinery of the countries of the Old World, in the shape of war departments, armies, navies, arsenals, fortifications, officers, and the innumerable contingencies that cost every one of the nations of Europe millions of dollars yearly, can, on a pressing emergency, place a vast army in the field in an incredibly short space of time. That army also proved that men accustomed to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, trade and commerce could fight well and bravely; suffer fatigue, want and deprivation of many kinds almost without a murmur; but the less said about their excellence in drill the

better. Many of the Canadian Volunteers are better drilled than the United States army; though, maybe, that very fact goes far towards exploding the time honored belief that precision in movement and machine like regularity, is a *sine qua non* to an efficient army. However that may be, the Americans with less machinery or red-tapeism, raised, equipped and maintained their army while they avoided many of the blunders which disgrace the administration of similar affairs in England and some other countries in Europe. But they are now beginning to count the cost, or rather to realize the immense expense at which all this work of which they so fondly boast, has been performed, and to experience some of the inconveniences (to use a mild term) of so hastily, and as a natural consequence, a so slovenly devised scheme. During the continuance of the war the immense taxation was borne, if not cheerfully at least uncomplainingly as a necessity, but the emergency past, the same taxation calls forth murmurs not only loud but deep. Yet there appears to be but slight chances for the lessening of the taxes for some time to come. What the Americans lacked at the breaking out of the war in well established war departments and experienced officers, they made up by a lavish use of money, and operations that if carried on by a European nation would have caused but a slight accumulation of debt in addition to war taxation, have in four years plunged the United States in a debt nearly equal to that of England, which has been a century and a half in accumulating. The taxes at present are weighing very heavily upon the people and seriously affecting trade and commerce. Doubtless much of this is owing to the reckless manner in which the financial affairs of the country are now carried on, but the chief cause is undoubtedly payment of interest upon their immense debt, and however economical the Government may be administered that must hang a heavy incubus around the neck of the United States. There are but two ways to get out of it. Payment or repudiation of the debt. The first must be a work of many years, during which a heavy taxation will be necessary. The latter is in the highest degree dishonorable. So much for one of the inconveniences arising from the vaunted celerity with which the United States managed their war operations. Another inconvenience, more individual than national yet giving rise to much ill will and party intrigue, is the final disbandment of the army, the contraction of operations, and the sweeping away of the vast machinery which set those operations in motion. The mustering out of volunteer officers is causing no slight trouble to the President and great dissatisfaction to the officers themselves. I need hardly remind you that at the outbreak of the war, people of all classes flocked to the support of the Stars and Stripes, and joyfully volunteered to defend them without thinking of what they should do when that de-

fence was complete, and apparently the Government gave as little thought to the matter. It is almost incredible how many briefless barristers put away the gown to take up the sword, and now finding themselves as briefless as ever they vent their spleen upon the Government. In 1861, an act was passed obliging the President to muster out of service all volunteer officers. This was done with the captains and all beneath that rank, but many of higher rank were retained and offices of various kinds were found or made for them. The same mustering out is still going on, but moots with less favor than it did at first. A short time ago General Sickles, who had been retained contrary to the Act of 1861, was mustered out and the consequence was a great outcry about the injustice done a gallant officer. His friends commenced it and the Press took it up. Many of the papers wishing to make political capital, reviled the President in unmeasured terms, rang all the changes upon "fighting for the national honor," "shedding blood for the country," "gallantly leading men to victory in the face of death," and all that sort of baldorash that writers of mediocre ability are so ready at. Notably the *Herald* at first took up the cudgels in Sickles' behalf, but a day or two ago their Washington correspondent referred to the Act of 1861, and to-day's *Herald* contains an editorial in defence of Johnson's course of action. So much for the *Herald's* consistency. A great meeting of Fenians is to be held at Cooper's Institute in the City next week; Savage and Roberts, the respective heads of the two factions, are expected to be present, and some kind of endeavors are to be made to effect unity of action. I shall let you have the particulars of the meeting. The sentence of death passed upon the Manchester rioters and the imprisonment of several American citizens, Fenian agents, in England, is creating quite a stir among the Irish here, and the question is being asked, what is the use of becoming citizens if the United States won't interfere for their protection? It is to be prominently brought forward at the meeting referred to. They are vowing all kinds of vengeance if the condemned are hanged. Lift for life is the mildest conception they have. Fernando Wood is likely to be elected Mayor, notwithstanding the Fenians are vigorously working against him for the reason I have before mentioned.

L. E.

NEW YORK, Nov. 25, 1867.

It is difficult to the uninitiated to follow and understand the drift and operations of the Fenians. Experience makes fools wise, and in a certain way it has had an effect even upon the deluded Irishmen who, by joining the Fenian Organization, have ranged themselves against England and bid defiance to her. The first movements of the Brotherhood were patent to the world, and the result was that their every object was defeated. Now the greatest reticence is observed with