

PART II.—THE RAID AT FORT•ERIE.

PREMONITORY SYMPTOMS.

Sweeny having declared that the last sun of May should not set before a blow should be struck for Irish independence on Canadian soil, it became very evident, towards the latter end of that month, that some movement was in progress, though it was impossible at the time to more than surmise where the attack would be made. On the 30th May, telegraphic despatches from Buffalo stated that nearly six hundred men had reached that city, coming from Cincinnati and points further south *via* Cleveland. When the train, on which they travelled, reached Buffalo the police were in attendance, but the travellers evaded them by leaving the cars at an outside stopping-place. The Fenians had some 3,000 stand of arms in Buffalo. The report was that they intended making a raid into Canada for the purpose of destroying the locks of the Welland Canal, and doing any other mischief that lay in their way. A full account is contained in the following despatch of that date :

“ Buffalo, May 30.

“ A great deal of talk has been caused here to-day, and some excitement among the worst class of the population, by the arrival of considerable numbers of Fenians from a distance, and the rumors of their intention to make a raid across the border.

“ About 350 of them arrived by the Lake Shore Railroad from Cleveland this morning, and are now here scattered through the Irish boarding houses of the city. It is stated that on the passage they were very turbulent, and fought amongst themselves. A number of them who were injured in these rows were left behind, among them one who, it is expected, will not recover.

“ On approaching to within a mile of the city, the party left the train and came into town in separate bodies, when they were distributed through Five Points and other disreputable parts of the city along the canal. They have been very riotously disposed during the day, and to-night some of them are in the police stations for assaults upon officers. The whole police force of the city, which is no longer a partizan body, being now governed by commissioners, is on duty to prevent any disturbance of the peace.

“ It is not known what the intentions of the Fenians are, but the general impression is that they contemplate a movement on some exposed part of Canada. The commander of the U. S. steamer Michigan has been notified of their presence here, and will probably hold himself in readiness to prevent, if possible, any hostile passage across the river.

“ At night there was a fresh arrival of about two hundred more Fenians, who came into the city in the same way as the others. These, with the resident members of the Brotherhood, make a body of perhaps over a thousand men, for whom, it is believed, arms are now stored here. The