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CANADA: THE FENIAN RAID AND THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

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[CONTINUED.]

Verily it is not surprising that the Canadians, who have felt the pinching of the shoe, should think there has been somewhat too much of obsequious demeanor on the part of the imperial authorities towards the United States Government, recalling as they do the facts following:

1. That in 1866, although the Fenian preparations were as open as day, and though parties of armed Fenians were collecting and drilling at different points along the frontier for weeks before the raid actually took place, the President's proclamation was not issued until after the marauders had entered Canada, whereas its publication a few days earlier would not only have prevented the violation of Canadian territory on that occasion, but, by demonstrating that the executive was in earnest, would probably have prevented the repeated attempts of the same nature that have since been made.

2. That in 1866, as in 1870, the only effect of the presence of United States troops, when they did reach the frontier to the number of a few dozen, was to shelter and protect the Fenians in their flight.

3. That the arms captured from the Fenians by the United States authorities in 1866 were, a year later, and just when the Fenians were openly preparing for another raid, restored to those excellent men. After such a scandalous measure, is it wonderful if the poor deluded wretches could never be brought to believe that the United States Government had any real desire or intention to interfere seriously with their operations?

4. That every year since 1866 the Canadian people have been subjected to a heavy military outlay directly, and to a serious industrial loss indirectly, by the necessity of calling out an armed force to repel threatened incursions, for which the Fenians made their preparations in the most open and deliberate manner; establishing depots of arms and military stores at various points within the territory of the United States along the line of the Canadian frontier; and even concluding contracts for the supply of biscuits and provisions for the subsistence of the invading army! All of which measures were matters of notoriety, and were published in the American and Canadian journals.

The above are a few of the facts, for the

literal correctness of which we can vouch of our own knowledge, which explain and go far to justify the soreness of feeling now prevalent in Canada; but whether justified or not the feeling is there—it is intensely real—and it would be fatuous on the part of our rulers to disregard it.

In direct opposition to the representations of military officers who had served in Canada, and in disregard of the remonstrances of the Colonial Ministers, who declared that their hands would be seriously weakened for the maturing of their military policy by such a measure, the English Government at the end of last year resolved to persevere in their declared intention of further denuding Canada of troops. In vain it was represented that the state of affairs which necessitated the despatch of reinforcements to Canada in 1866 had not passed away; that the Fenian organization still retained sufficient vitality to give trouble; that any sweeping reduction of the Canadian garrison would be magnified by the Fenian leaders for the purpose of persuading their followers that Canada would prove an easy conquest: that those leaders were careful to proclaim, *more Hibernico*, that they did not come to make war on Canadians, but on England for the liberation of Ireland; and that the Canadians felt, and justly felt, that so long as their country was likely to be made the battleground of the Fenians against England, the efforts they were both able and willing to make in their own defence, even although those efforts were more than sufficient, should in honor and justice be powerfully seconded by the presence and co-operation of English troops.

The following extract is from a letter written during the summer of 1869 by a gentleman who commands a frontier battalion of volunteer militia in Canada:

"I am not very apt to take a gloomy view but I must confess that things look rather dark in Canada just now. Here we are with the military force of the Dominion only partly organized, the troops of the line ordered home, and the Yankees, I honestly believe, preparing for war. What is to become of us? You know that the men of Kent or of the Lothians are not more devoted to Britain or more loyal to her constitution than the Canadians are, and Britain ought now to say whether we are wanted or not. If the English Government is not prepared to leave enough experienced officers to handle us, or enough regulars to steady us till we get licked into shape ourselves, they ought to tell us plainly, 'We don't mean to fight, even to save the Canadas.' That would be a far honest course than the present

shilly-shallying of cold shoulder and wet blanket, varied by an occasional fine period in the House of Commons that 'war with the colonies means war with England.' The colonies don't make war, and if they have to fight it will be in England's quarrel? yet they strip Canada of troops, not even leaving men enough in the country to form up the moveable columns which it was judged necessary to organize and to keep in hand against the Fenians. I hope I am wrong, but sometimes I cannot help thinking that English statesmen nowadays don't think the possession of half a continent, and the prestige belonging thereto, worth striking a blow for; and that the sentiments of Messrs. J. S. Mill, Goldwin Smith, and Dilke in his 'Greater Britain,' are the opinions which are entertained by the ruling classes of England generally. It looks very like it; and there are thousands in Canada who cannot help thinking what I have endeavored to express.

"If such is the policy of the Cabinet, they ought to tell us plainly, 'Make your own arrangements either for independence, or with your neighbors. We neither intend nor can we afford to help you.' And yet we don't want a great deal of help to hold our own. The Yankee frontier is as open as our own, and far richer; and if it came to harrying, they might discover the meaning of the war being carried into Africa. The sack of Buffalo would pay for all the towns on the Niagara frontier, and Detroit would compensate for Windsor. Oh! I do think we could, even if we did get a thrashing, give Uncle Sam such a taste of what war meant, that he would be satisfied to live in peace with us afterwards for another fifty years—and by that time I hope Canada could stand alone."

Although the views above expressed, especially with reference to the Americans being desirous of war, are doubtless exaggerated, they indicate faithfully the state of feeling along the Canadian frontier, the existence of which is of itself dangerous to the continuance of friendly relations between the two countries.

The Fenian operations during the past spring had so far the effect of modifying the policy of the Home Government, that the withdrawal of the regiments, which were ordered home in April and May, has been postponed till the autumn. There is no doubt that the Fenian move was premature. It was not intended to be made until after the troops had departed, in the one direction to Red River, in the other to England. The attack was first ordered for April, and the assembly along the frontier of armed bodies during that month rendered it neces-