

England, and not good as against the United States? A short survey of the facts will enable us to answer the question.

British Coun-
ter Case, p. 40.

Several societies of Irishmen, based upon the sentiment of hostility to England, were formed in America. The earliest was called the "Irish Republican Union," but we need not notice any other until the "Fenian Brotherhood" was established at Chicago in November, 1865. The Chicago meeting was attended by 300 delegates representing "circles," including twelve from military and naval circles. At the second annual congress of this society the President declared that they were "virtually at war with England." In October of the same year Fenian Bonds were issued, and an "Irish Republic" was established at New York, with a President, Senators, a Secretary of the Treasury, a Secretary of War, and other officials.

As a measure of precaution against the constantly-expressed threats of this body, the Canadian Government were obliged to call out nine companies of Militia, and to station them on the Frontier.

1866.

Early in 1866, meetings were held at which it became evident that the Fenians were on the eve of some great aggression. War-like stores were purchased, and large contracts made. The American papers reported the proceedings at the meetings, and the *New York World*, of March 5, concluded an article with the plain words, "if they really mean war, if, as is given out, they contemplate the invasion of Canada, this is a serious business, which challenges the thoughtful attention of all Irishmen and all American citizens." On the 7th March the Canadian Executive called out 10,000 Canadian Volunteers, but it was not till the end of May that the Fenian preparations were complete. On Friday, 1st June, a body of Fenians, between 800 and 900 strong, crossed the frontier from Buffalo to Fort Erie, and on the following day came into collision with the Canadian Volunteers from Fort Colborne. Reinforcements soon arrived to the assistance of the Canadians. Sixty-five prisoners were taken, and the remainder recrossed the Frontier, where they were taken prisoners with O'Neill, their leader, by the United States authorities. The stores of arms which the Fenians had provided were also seized by the Americans. Here was a hostile force fitted out on American soil for the invasion of a friendly State. Their leader, with his stores and many of his men, were in the hands of the American authorities. What did they do? The President issued a proclamation against similar expeditions in future, but on the very day that the proclamation was issued, the Fenian leader, O'Neill, was released from custody, and before the end of the year, the arms and other war-

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