

called *Ghoula*, turned Crown evidence on their associates, and the law was firmly and justly enforced against the conspirators; but the examples made and the inability of the brotherhood in America even to fee counsel for the defence of their dupes at home, acted as an extinguisher on the "Phoenix Society."

VII.

The last and most mischievous of these organizations had its commencement in New York in 1857. In his translation of Keating's history, Mr. O'Mahoney had found, both in the introduction and in the body of the book, very glowing references to a military organization among the Pagan Irish called the *Fiann-Eriann*, from the famous Fion or Fin their leader, better known to English readers as the Fingal or MacPherson. Hence the name, somewhat modified, of Fenian. The founder, Mr. John O'Mahoney, was a middle-aged political refugee of 1848, of a good Munster family and superior education. Mr. O'Mahoney's antecedents, so far as they bear on the society's being founded, must be mentioned. His personal courage was rated very high by his friends, his scholarship is amply shown in his translation of Keating's Irish History of Ireland (New York, Haverty, 1857.) He had soon after coming to New York gone stark mad on spirit rapping, and had been an inmate of the Flatbush Insane Asylum. Mr. O'Mahoney, like Mr. Stephens, and more recently, Mr. Roberts, had been in personal communication with the leaders of the secret revolutionary societies of Europe and he organized his new brotherhood on the true Mazzinian basis. It was to be both a civil and a military organization, and so soon as it mustered men enough Mr. O'Mahoney took to himself the *brevet* rank of Colonel. He was joined by Colonel Doheney and the *debris* of "The Phoenix Boys;" by Captain, afterwards General Corcoran (court martialed for refusing to take out his men to receive the Prince of Wales, in 1860), and some others. The military department of the brotherhood, however, made no great stride till the breaking out of the civil war. According to the audit of the Moffatt Mansion accounts (published in the *New York World*), Mr. O'Mahoney's entire receipts from 1857 till 1861 inclusive did not exceed \$10,000, or \$3,000 per annum. But from 1861 till 1865 inclusive the total exceeded \$250,000 *greenbacks*, or a quarter of a million. It was during this latter period when the organization was petted as a recruiting agency by the Federal Government; when appeals to the Irish antipathy against England resounded on every side; when Senators and Governors of Legislative Assemblies and judges of the land did not hesitate to resort to such incendiary appeals; it was during this period, before the splitting off of the Roberts' wing, when the head centre was full of funds and his staff full of insolent confidence, that the first stealthy attempts were made to introduce Fenianism into our principal Canadian towns and cities, and also into some of our Irish Catholic rural settlements. My present business, however, is with the attempts made to establish the conspiracy in Montreal;