

Cutting up such fantastic tricks before high heaven,
As make the angels weep."

All hail to Messrs. Michel and John Scanlan ! These seem to have been the gentlemen who got up the other day at Chicago a Fenian Irish National Fair, which began on Easter Monday, and was to have a season of a week. There were sold for a dollar apiece season tickets of admission. "One dollar," said the announcement, "one dollar will aid the holiest cause that ever engaged the heart and brain of man," besides giving a chance of winning one of a thousand prizes to be drawn for : a rosewood piano, a diamond-cased lady's gold hunting-watch, a fine French clock, a silver plated tea-set, a meerschaum pipe, a sewing-machine, a dozen fiddles, five boxes of Havannas, two dozen sets of heavy plated spoons, or a marble bust of General Corcoran. Gifts of all kinds were to be sent from all parts for sale at the Fenian Fair, and the proceeds—ah, well, they would be invested in U. S. bonds until wanted.

These patriotic people call themselves a "Fenian Brotherhood," because Irish tradition says that the Fenians were an old militia employed to protect the Irish coasts from all foreign invaders. Each of the four provinces is said to have had its band or clan, Fionn and Oisín (Fingal and Ossian) being chiefs of one of the clans with which the other clans fought, till the institution came to its end pretty much in the same way as the meeting did the other day at the Rotundo. But there were Fenians in Scotland and North Germany as well as in Ireland, and, in fact, there is good reason to suppose that they were a distinct tribe of those Celts who preceded the Germanic races in occupation of the North German and Scandinavian shores. No matter for that. Tradition connects them with the best of the early Irish poetry as the home militia and coast-guard, composed of men of miraculous attainments : so nimble that they could walk over rotten sticks without breaking them : so fleet that each of them could outstrip in the race all "the rest" of his comrades : so brave that any one of them counted it equal battle to fight nine of any other nation. So here we have the Fenians again, though the boldest of them don't hold by the old traditional rule that prevented her militia from passing out of Ireland ; and in America they take one John O'Mahoney to be their Finn McCoul.

The professed object of this band of brothers is the national freedom of Ireland. The congress of November last began by proclaiming its determination to uphold the laws and constitution of the United States ; it then went on to say that, in consequence of the hostile attitude assumed by the English Oligarchy, merchants, and the press, towards the United States since the beginning of the civil war, hostilities between the two countries is imminent ; and they resolved that the younger members of the Brotherhood be drilled so as to be prepared to offer their services to the United States when these begin their war with England. Ireland at present being the vanguard of America against British aggression, "her organised sons keeping watch and ward for the United States at the thresholds of the despots of Europe, nay in their very citadels," it was resolved that the Brotherhood is open to every man who is loyal to the principles of self-government, and will oppose the emissaries of foreign despotisms who would feign (Fenian spelling again) crush the growth of republican principles, and stop the onward march of freedom. The preamble to another resolution admits the existence of dissension among the Brotherhood, and it is therefore resolved that American politics and religious questions shall