

us from that quarter that this proceeding would in the slightest degree tend to avert it? Is there a man in the Dominion simpleton enough to believe that the "Fenians" could achieve even a temporary success, except through the active support of the United States Government? When the movement ceased to be "Fenian," it would necessarily assume the characteristics of international warfare. Of what avail under such circumstances would the suspension of the *habeas corpus* be? None, whatever. Whoever believes otherwise is paying a very indifferent compliment to the statesmanship of our rulers. If true, then what a commentary on our national maturity, on our aspirations after independence, that we could be alarmed out of our wits like children by nursery tales of ghosts and giants. The whole proceeding was solely directed against the Irish Catholics of Canada, for it could avail nothing against foreigners. It was determined to bring us into disrepute, to declare by extraordinary legislation that we were all disloyal, and conspiring with strangers against the peace and institutions of our adopted country. In order to appease the hatred of Orangemen, intensified by their fears, a holocaust must be offered to the manes of their exasperated feelings.

Each scene was admirably arranged, and every actor played his part in true dramatic style. To "prosecutor" McGee was assigned the disreputable part of *accuser-general* and *alarmist-in-chief*. Who, than he, could be more familiar with the dark designs and lawless proclivities of his countrymen: who, than he, more capable of tracking their black deeds and unearthing their midnight plots; who, than he, more intimate with the labyrinths of their secret, treasonable machinations? I believe in my soul that there was not a shadow of foundation for vilely aspersing our reputation; and now that the Habeas Corpus Act is in full force, I challenge our accusers to produce one tittle of evidence to justify so foul a stigma on the fair fame of the Irish Catholics of Canada. Whatever may be our feelings towards England, I contend that we are as true and faithful citizens of Canada as any other class of the people. Nor is the position of distrust of the former incompatible with fealty to the latter. The reason is manifest. England does not interfere in the internal affairs of Canada. Therefore she is blameless. Had she pursued a like course in Ireland, she would not have truer friends and more faithful allies than our people.

They ushered our new constitution into life under the patronage of this monster—midwife and sponsor, and its infancy was nursed and cradled on its bosom. Pitt carried the Irish union when Ireland was bleeding under martial law. May the resemblance cease at the initial points. It was continuously suspended for over three years, and during this time the public ear was tickled with the mockery of the great efforts being made to attract immigration hither. What a farce to suppose that people fleeing