

FRANKLIN Illustrated News

Vol. II.—No. 4.]

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1870.

{ SINGLE COPIES, TEN CENTS.
{ \$1 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

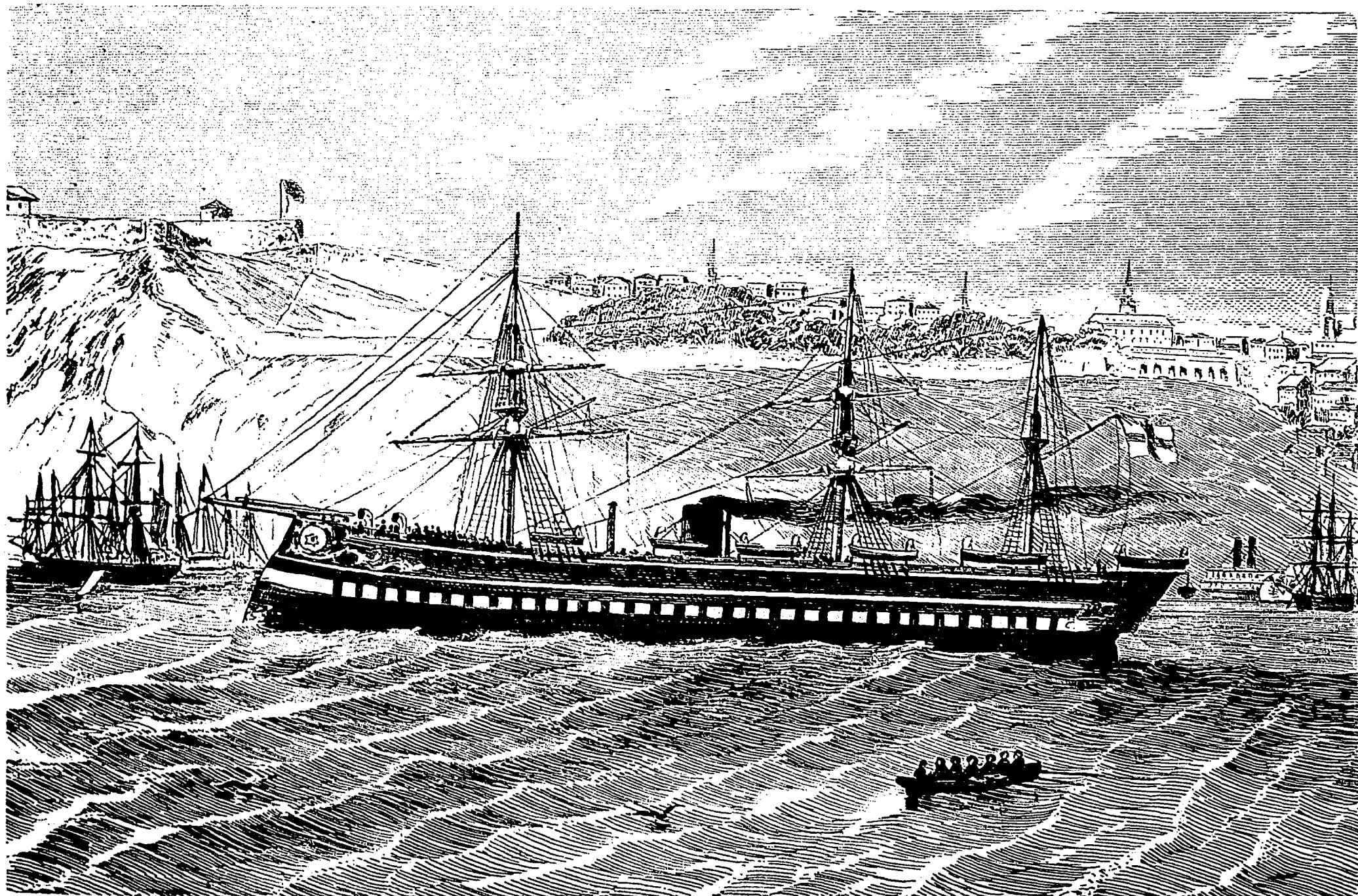
FENIANISM AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

The result of the trials at Canandaigua of the Fenians accused of violating American neutrality must, we are sure, be gratifying to every Canadian, and to every man who desires to see the United States occupy an honourable place among the civilized nations of the world. It was feared, and with good reason, too, that the farce of 1866 would have been repeated; that the United States, presumably compromised in the inception of that wicked and worthless organization, would have been compelled to blink its every crime. But no. For the first time in a decade, the world has seen that the neutrality laws of the American Republic are not a dead letter; that an American prosecutor, an American judge, and an American jury, can do their duty impartially—without fear or favour—in a case involving international obligations, with which national prejudices are most intimately bound up. Now, though what has been done is no more than justice of the very barest kind, still we may be pardoned for rejoicing that justice has for once overcome prejudice; and that our Republican neighbours have shewn, in this particular case, their right to recognition in the great family

of nations, by their impartial infliction of punishment upon those of their citizens whose conduct had proved them unworthy the freedom and the responsibility conferred by popular government. The men who have been condemned to penal servitude had previously won military honours under the banner of the Government whose laws they had defied by invading Canada; they, therefore, hoped to be excused for their rash deed on the ground of national gratitude. But, as Judge Woodruff well put it, the very fact of their having been soldiers under the Stars and Stripes made their violation of the laws of the country a more flagrant abuse, and he accordingly—without straining the law—awarded them a measure of punishment that bears a close approximation to the weight of their offence. The prisoners, as most of our readers know, were: Gen. Starr, Col. Thompson, and Capt. Mannix. The two first received each two years in the State prison at Auburn, and the last named one year. This was supplemented with a fine of ten dollars each. The judge, doubtless, believed that a money fine would be no punishment to the offenders, because their friends would make it up. Accordingly he administered a measure of personal chastisement

which, if carried out, can hardly ever hereafter be forgotten. In this no one will deny that Judge Woodruff has fully vindicated the honour of his country—even if trading politicians should set the rogues at liberty within the next three months.

In our issue of the 28th May last we said, “were only half a dozen of them (the Fenian leaders) put on trial and duly punished on conviction, it would do much to restore the feelings of friendship and respect for the United States, which in this country have been very much impaired by the toleration heretofore accorded to the Fenian nuisance.” We must say now, therefore, that with these characters—Starr, Thompson and Mannix—already consigned to punishment, and with Gen. O’Neil awaiting trial, we are pleased to note the very great advance which the United States have made within a few years in the faithful discharge of the duties imposed by international obligations towards their neighbours. A persistent disregard of these ought to entitle any country to the united hostility of every other nation in the civilized world; and if the United States had continued, as they have done in the past, to harbour and encourage the



H. M. S. "CROCODILE" AT QUEBEC. From a sketch by W. Carlisle.—SEE PAGE 51.