

easily conceive why an uneducated Irish Catholic might be a Fenian in Ireland; but why Fenianism, in its most odious and assassin forms, should have acquired such intensity in Canada rather than in any other part of the whole American continent, cannot be otherwise explained. Besides all this, there was no fellowship—no bond of union—no common stand-point whatever between Protestant and Catholic; and what is still more extraordinary and unintelligible, the same rule obtained to a large extent between French and Irish. On the occasion of my first visit to that country, the three parties seemed to me to resemble three unleashed bulldogs, more or less ferocious, let into the same enclosure, for the mere purpose of worrying each other, without any imaginable benefit,—nay rather with sundry unsightly cuts and ugly bruises, and positive and downright injury to the most successful among the three.

Such was the social and political state of Canada when Mr. McGee arrived. His life was threatened, far as I remember, on his first public appearance in Toronto. For aught I or any one else could foresee at the time, there was never to be an end of it. Instead of improving as years rolled by, and the country was becoming settled, this gangrene seemed to be gnawing more and more into the social system, and wide-spreading, till it seemed to infect all classes. Every new importation from Ireland but added new virus to the malady, until the case appeared to be desperate as it was incurable.

In the honesty and simplicity of my heart at the time, I looked to the United States eventually for the only possible solution of the problem, but the unexpected phenomenon of Know Nothingism in that country, of which I was an eye-witness, dispelled that delusion forever. We had the same evils to complain of, in an exaggerated form, in the neighboring province of New Brunswick, where, together with the usual excesses, a mid-day and murderous conflict took place, which well nigh threatened the peace of the whole colony. But few years since the same, in lesser degree, occurred in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island, where the banners of the respective contending parties seemed to be