

The aggressive programme of the rabble leaves that menace our peace, as far as it is known, so utterly preposterous as to make one doubt the possibility of men being deluded enough to engage in so rash an attempt. But however cavalierly Fenian threatenings deserve to be treated, it would not exonerate the Government from blame were it to neglect due precautionary measures for the country's quietude. And should future events demonstrate that such measures have been unnecessarily elaborate; carp, cavil, and detraction must alike be mute against an error on the side of safety. Professing every confidence in the capacity of our Administration, Civil and Military, there yet remains the humiliating conviction that, the more elaborate our means of defence, the greater the compliment paid to the foe we despise, and in spite of ourselves invest the vagabondage of a continent with the prestige of a formidable, if not, a well organised force.

Our attitude at this moment must be an enigma to surrounding nations—a political tableau, as incongruous, as it is assuredly derogatory to us as a people to exhibit—in the irksome fact of some four millions of British subjects being periodically compelled under the passiveness of a preparatory defence against a ruffianism they could, *per se*, so easily crush. I can hardly believe that this nucleus for a world's rascality, is cherished as a thorn in our side by the country that at least affords it shelter, but there cannot be a doubt of its power of annoyance being due either to the treasure of partisan exigencies, or the more culpable exigencies, of the more culpable apathy of the Government, which has proved its tardiness in restraining, and certainly has given its pretensions the moral prestige of being "eminently political." In the first case we, as a people, decidedly object being a safety valve for the surcharged ebullition of political complications in a foreign state. And in the next case would suggest that, it would be fair to strenuously insist upon a perfect immunity from aggressive demonstration on the part of the subjects of a nation with which we hold, ostensibly, at least, amicable relations. It is more than time that the politeness of its, it is presumed, diplomatic remoteness should assume the graver tone of a policy based upon serious alternatives. I can imagine nothing more sportless and unmanly than the wretched conciliating sophistry which can find extenuating circumstance in the peculiar institutions of the United States for the encouragement it extends, directly or otherwise, to the pseudo patriotism of Fenianism. A people who claim to be some few days march in advance of European civilization, and political liberty, should exhibit something more attractive, than the anomaly of an uncontrollable power within a power, to render their superior precocity still desirable to other peoples who are loitering in the race of advancement.

Now without imputing divine attributes to the *vox populi*, yet should our soil be again desecrated by the foot of the invader, who shall limit the degree of retributive justice which an already outraged people will be justified in demanding. The penalty exacted might be more than justified by the offence, and yet excite the sympathy of that manly humanity for the worst offenders, which reigns supreme over Exeter Hall, and if we are fortunate enough to escape a

Governor Eyre persecution collectively, or individually, yet a quiet inoffensive people might be too easily stigmatized as cruel and revengeful. This hypothesis is only one of the many evils to which, as a people, we are subject to by the nonfulfilment of international obligations on the part of the United States. The weaker nation can afford any sacrifice better than the slightest concession of its rights or dignity to submit to one innovation upon its recognised dynastic attitude, is only to encounter further encroachments from the stronger power. But at the same time should England deem it compatible with her power, sense of justice, and standing as a nation, to admit the legitimacy of the "Alabama" claims, then the depredations Canada has suffered, and the heavy drain upon her exchequer for defensive purposes against marauders, armed, equipped, and issuing from the United States territory, might fairly figure as a formidable item in the offsets of the account.

Yours respectfully,
SABREUR.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—To ascertain that the Snider Enfield is perfectly clean I have found that to place a small piece of card-board or paper on the end of the shoe-piece, the breech being open. By looking down the barrel the very smallest speck of dust or rust is visible at once. I trust this hint will prove as useful to others as it has been to myself.

Yours, &c.,
GEO. H. DARTNELL,
Aug. 5th, 1868. Captain, 34th Batt.

SCULLS VERSUS OARS.

During a late discussion on the slip of screw propellers, at the Institution of Naval Architects, London, the chairman, Vice-Admiral Belcher, incidentally said he wanted to know how it was that a Japanese vessel of 65 or 70 tons pulling against his 36 ton gig, with 18-foot oars, beat them out-and-out with two sculls? There were four men at each scull, the sculls being in the direction of the axis of the vessel. The two sculls drove the Japanese vessel ahead faster than his gig could follow. The distance the sculls passed through the water could not have been above six or eight inches, and it was only the bend of the oar which gave a diagonal jerk to the vessel.

The question was not there answered, but it is evident the Japanese scullers had an advantage in an almost continuous application of their power. In Venice, the gondola is often driven by a single scull, held, not behind, but on the side of the vessel, and worked to the right and left, without being raised from the water. Thus, the expert gondolier propels and steers his craft with the same paddle.

When the French military medal of the Legion of Honor is given to privates or non-commissioned officers a pension of 100*f.* is attached to it, but there is no pension when it is given to general officers. There are also establishments attached to the Order of the Legion of Honor for the education of the daughters, neices and sisters of the members. The principal or central one is fixed in the large buildings of the famous Abbey of St. Denis, confiscated at the Revolution. It was founded by Napoleon in the Chateau of Ecouen, and was placed under the superintendence of Madame Campan.

THE MAZATLAN CASE.

Later advices from Mazatlan deny the truth of the statement to the effect that Capt. Bridge, of Her Majesty's frigate "Chanticleer," had either been reprimanded or recalled, and announce that the blockade of that port is still fully maintained.

The following extract from Wheaton meets one of the most important points in the case, and seems to indicate that the British Commander was justified in the course he adopted by one of the most eminent writers on international law:

Wheaton, in book 2, chapter 2, paragraph 10, section 3, says:—"A foreign army or fleet, marching through, sailing over, or stationed in the territory of another state with whom the foreign sovereign is in amity, are exempt from the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the place. If there be no express prohibition the ports of a friendly State are considered as open to the public armed and commissioned ships belonging to any nation with whom that nation is at peace. Such ships are exempt from the jurisdiction of the local tribunals and authorities, whether they enter the port under the license implied from the absence of any prohibition, or under an express permission stipulated by treaty."

The total strength of the army in British India during the year 1866, consisted of 66,814 Europeans and 117,095 natives. The staff and staff corps consisted of 1,366 Europeans; the engineers, sappers, and miners, of 373 Europeans and 2,794 natives; the artillery, horse and foot, of 12,299 Europeans and 1,891 natives; the cavalry of 6,050 Europeans and 18,779 natives; the infantry, of 45,916 Europeans and 93,631 natives; and the invalids, veterans, and warrant officers, of 810 Europeans; the medical establishment being included in each arm of the service. Of these total numbers, 39,992 Europeans and 43,394 natives were stationed in Bengal, 14,184 Europeans and 46,435 natives in Madras, and 13,638 Europeans and 27,266 natives in Bombay; those stationed in the North-west Provinces and Punjab being included in the presidency of Bengal.

The Paris correspondent of the *Army and Navy Gazette* writes:

"The *Rochambeau* (the *Dunderberg*) has been disarmed. It is probable that the Rodman which was to be tried on board her was too much for her feeble constitution and started her timbers."

On Saturday fortnight Sir Henry John Seton, Bart., was knocked down by a cab and killed in St. James street. An inquest was held on his body, and a verdict of accidental death returned. Sir Henry was a Groom-in-Waiting to Her Majesty. He served in the Peninsula during the great war.

The 1st East York Artillery Volunteers has been disbanded on account of insubordinate conduct in refusing to march when ordered by their commanding officer to do so. They had taken affront at a junior corps being placed in front, a position which, as the first and oldest corps, they thought they had a right to occupy.