

safely to be prepared against them. There is one contingency in which we may be sure that hostile raids, more or less dangerous, will be made upon our frontier, and that is, if England should go to war. Even the miserable fiasco in the Kerry hills excited a great deal of hope among the ruffians of the States; and if it should prove true, as announced by the cable, that "war has broken out in India," a thing which the intrigues of Russia may at any time make possible, both the republican ally of that northern despotism and its lawless citizens would seize the opportunity of offering insult to England, just in proportion to the magnitude of the operations in the East; and under any circumstances it is our duty, while hoping for the best, to be prepared for the worst. The New York 'Times' ridicules the proceedings at Utica; but we give two extracts, one from a Democratic and the other from a republican paper, showing the view both parties in the States take of Fenianism it is at present. The 'World' says:

"A convention of the Canadian fighting Fenians was opened yesterday at Utica. There was a fair attendance of delegates. This is the first of a series of conventions to be held during the coming month in the various States of the Union, from Maine to Missouri. The second raid on Canada, it is said, will commence on or about the 4th of May, and present indications promise a more successful termination than that which culminated affairs last June. There will be some 20,000 men thrown across the border simultaneously, each man properly uniformed and well equipped with repeating rifles and ammunition. There is at present a very large amount of money on hand, which is being very judiciously expended by the senate for war material, &c. Stores of ammunition are being secreted at various points in Canada, and not, as before, on the American side of the line. The Canadian Fenians report fortnightly to President Roberts, and these reports show a marked increase in numbers, discipline and enthusiasm. The fight this year will either leave the Fenians conquerors, or end in their utter annihilation."

The 'Tribune' says:

"The Fenian convention adjourned this evening after a session of two days. The delegates all departed in high spirits, and a more intelligent and patriotic body of Irishmen never assembled in this State. They say that at no period of the Fenian organization were their hopes so high or their prospects brighter. It is understood that matters of the very highest importance have transpired in secret session, but owing to the injunction of secrecy, they refuse to give even the slightest information, save in relation to those matters which are intended to be made public. That serious work is in contemplation there can be no doubt, for the men who composed this convention were men of character and years, who would not apparently lose their time in trifling, or in vain pursuit after impossibilities, and from what can be judged, the new kingdom of Canada will have no easy work to perform ere long. The feeling of the members as expressed outside, in relation to the passage of the amended neutrality bill, was strong in its favour, and the belief was expressed that the dominant party in Congress would be true to their pledges in this regard. The

rumor that Dart has been re-appointed U. S. District Attorney, caused the greatest indignation.

#### THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA BILL.

We have to thank Col. ARTHUR RANKIN, M. P. for Essex, who is at present in England, for an early copy of this measure. By referring to it we find that the three Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia are to form One Dominion under the name of CANADA. The general features are the same as those we published last week as having come by the Atlantic Cable. Among the property enumerated in the third schedule, as to belong to Canada, we notice Military Roads, Ordnance Property, Armouries, Drill Sheds, Military Clothing, and Munitions of War, and Lands set apart for general Public Purposes. Thus it will be seen that the framers of the measure have taken the whole question of defence from the influence of local jealousies, and made it what it should be, in order to be successful, a purely national question. As long ago as in 1859 Col. RANKIN introduced a series of resolutions, favoring a scheme of British American Consolidation; and it must, under the circumstances, be more than gratifying to him to be present in the Imperial Legislature and witness the triumph of a national project of which he has been so long an advocate.

#### THE PENSION LIST.

The Toronto 'Leader' complains of the "long and unseemingly delay in the payment of the pensions awarded many weeks since;" the 'Telegraph' re-echoes the same complaint, and both put the blame upon the Receiver-General's Office, at the same time exonerating the Militia authorities from censure. The Receiver-General's Department, we are satisfied, was equally free from blame. The fact is, that the extreme caution of the Legislature, in hedging the money grants of the Province, has made it necessary that every item be authorized by Parliament, and afterwards be passed by an Order in Council. By this system, the Order in Council, for instance, granted a pension to one "Pattecoart;" this was a mistake. The name should have been "Penticost;" but there was no authority to change the name except by order in Council. It will easily be seen that under this system every clerical error in the list led to delay, and it was only by getting authority to hand over \$13,000 to the Militia authorities for the payment of such claims as were found to be correct, that the difficulty was got over. Under such circumstances it is most unjust to put the onus of delay upon the Receiver-General's office, which really belongs to the system insisted upon by our vigilant revenue reformers. Than the Deputy Receiver-General, T. D. HAUSERON, Esq., no one could have been more anxious to do prompt justice to the sufferers from the late raid, and we can only hope that hereafter a more elastic system

will emancipate officials from the trammels of routine, and secure our Volunteers from unnecessary and irritating delays. We, to day, publish a corrected list, in which it will be seen that there are a considerable number of alterations from that originally published in the 'Canada Gazette' and in THE REVIEW, some of them of considerable importance.

#### PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

BELGRAVIA.—The February number of this aristocratic favorite is very interesting. "Birds of Prey," by Miss Braddon, increases in interest. "Belgravian Prose Ballads, No. III. Honeymoonshine," are in an entirely new style, and produce a very piquant effect. "How I Heard My Own Will Read" is one of the most amusing and cleverly written sketches we have read in a long time. For a fit of the blues a dip into it is invaluable, and worth a year's subscription to the magazine. To be had at Durie & Son's, booksellers, Sparks street, opposite the Russell House.

THE ARMOY.—Messrs. Durie & Son have also the February number of this favorite serial. The broad Scottish dialect in which "The History of Robert Falconer" is written will find admirers among that nationality, and the quaint ideas of theology and glimpses of Scottish life will be admired by every one. The continuation of "Shoemakers' Village" is also a pleasing feature. In short, all the articles in the current number are interesting and instructive.

ARMING THE FRONTIER.—"Straws show the way the wind blows." It is, of course, absurd for the frontier States to talk of arming for defensive purposes under any pretence than that the hostile policy of the United States towards this country may in the end make reprisals necessary. The Military Committee of the Maine Legislature has reported a resolution directing the Governor to procure from the general Government, or elsewhere, three batteries of light artillery, of six guns each, and two thousand of the best pattern of breech-loading rifle muskets. The guns, should the resolution pass, will probably be either the brass Napoleon, iron Parrott, or "ordnance gun." The report says: "As Maine is a frontier State, and liable to be suddenly called upon to defend her territory from invasion, there is an obvious propriety in her possessing some of these superior weapons; and it is to be hoped that the General Government will, for these reasons, be liberal towards the State, by furnishing or aiding to procure these arms."

MILITARY FUNERAL.—On Wednesday last, the Civil Service rifles paraded for the sad duty of escorting to its last resting place the body of their late comrade, G. R. BOULDER. The deceased had been for upwards of three years in the service of the Militia Department, and by promptness and diligence in discharging his duties, had won the high