

must be dealt with, not only by domestic legislation, but also by international agreement.

If, on the other hand, the object of the outrage was political, we stand on more familiar ground, and are face to face with a danger not less serious because we have had to encounter it before. The nature of the attempt to destroy the canal, its folly and its wickedness; its callous disregard to human life; its audacity in projection, and its uselessness if accomplished; and lastly the clumsy way in which the details were carried out, are strongly suggestive of what we know of Fenian exploits of a similar character. The probability of this suggestion being the correct one is enhanced by the fact of the close sympathy both in Ireland and America between the Fenian and pro-Boer elements. Each of these has striven to involve Great Britain in difficulties with foreign powers of which advantage might be taken either in Ireland or South Africa. An Irish agitator has been the chief speaker at pro-Boer meetings in the United States, and has been the most persistent in denouncing the conduct of the British Government. Why the people of Canada, who have neither act nor part in the government of Ireland, and who indeed have not been wanting in expressions of sympathy for the Irish cause, should be made the victims of Fenian machination has often been a puzzle to the people of this country, but, apparently, animosity to the British Empire is too strong in the Fenian mind for any minor consideration of either justice or reason.

It is, however, with the international aspect of the case rather than with the criminal vagaries of Fenian or Boer agitators that we are concerned. A retrospect of our relations with the United States is not indeed reassuring. Twice has the soil of this country been made the theatre of war with the avowed intention of holding the country by right of conquest, regardless of the wishes of the people. Two boundary disputes have been settled by the sacrifice, for the sake of peace, of our rights, and our interests; and it would appear that the one now pending can only be peacefully settled by a similar sacrifice. When an unauthorized attempt was made during the Crimean war to obtain men in New York for the British army an abject apology had to be made, and for the St. Alban's raid immediate compensation had to be paid, but the Fenian organization was allowed, openly and without hindrance and with the knowledge of the American authorities, to carry on