

## FENIANISM AGAIN.

With the approach of Spring we are again treated to a Fenian scare, which seems to have become a periodical occurrence. The Fenians, it is true, are not altogether idle, but that they will attempt any movement on Canada at an early day is very improbable. The fact of the matter is that this conspiracy, like all previous humbugs of the same kind, is gradually dying out, and only requires to be left alone to perish ignominiously. Like the scorpion surrounded by fire it is turning its poison upon itself; and, from the virulence of the venom of the reptile, we may safely anticipate an early decease. The sources from which it drew its strength are no longer available, and with the triumph of the Republican party in the United States the destruction of Fenianism is certain. Indeed it would never have risen to any importance were it not for the violent political struggles which have lately convulsed the neighboring Republic. Each party, in its struggle for power, sought every available means to increase its strength, and the ultra Irish or Fenian element is one not to be despised by such politicians as sway the destinies of the American union. But, while they may use Fenianism as a weapon in party warfare, it is certain beyond a doubt that did the conspirators meditate and proceed to any overt act of aggression the strong hand of Federal authority would be immediately put forth, as on former occasions, to vindicate the majesty of the law; and prevent the possibility of an embroilment with Great Britain. Fenianism, as we understand it, is altogether distinct and foreign to Ireland and the Irish proper, as it is to Canada and the Canadians. Irishmen in Ireland, who agitate for reform in the administration of the affairs of their country are vastly different from the irresponsible rowdies who go there from the United States for the prosecution of objects which it is hard to understand how any sensible man could contemplate. Therefore it is necessary to keep in mind, in dealing with the subject, the difference between the native discontented Irishman and the foreign aggressive Fenian. The wrongs of which the former complain may not and, as a general thing, not affect his loyalty, the wrongs of the latter are purely imaginary and sentimental. And while the British Government are willing and desirous to ameliorate the condition of the one, they are wisely indifferent to the mouthings of the other, unless, as in the Manchester and Clarksenwell outrages, they proceed to acts of violence which bring upon them the abhorrence of all right-minded people, and the just vengeance of the law.

When, in 1846-48, the terrible calamities of famine and pestilence destroyed fully one fourth of the whole population of Ireland; a regular exodus of the people was made to America, there were people who, from the

worst of motives, instilled the idea that all the misery and suffering they endured were directly traceable to English misgovernment. And those same persons, finding this hatred of England a convenient lever to their hands in their new found nationality, exerted its power for the furtherance of objects totally distinct from any connection with Ireland. The gullibility of the Irish in the United States was never better displayed than in this instance, and it is astonishing how such a number of people could allow their feeling and sentiments to be systematically traded upon and still remain so blind as not to see it. However it may be regarded in England, to us in Canada Fenianism is more than a political bugbear; for we have suffered and are still suffering from it, not only from the expense it entails upon our limited resources, but from the alarm its existence creates along our open and extensive borders. Indeed we cannot but think that, in dealing with this and kindred subjects, the Government of Great Britain has shown more than forbearance with the United States. The people of Canada, peaceable, industrious and law-abiding, cannot conceive why they should be harassed and annoyed by an irresponsible horde of ruffians with whose grievances they have no connection whatever. A common respect for justice and international law should compel the United States Government to prevent those misguided people from continuing their nefarious practices. But it would be hard to expect a calm and dispassionate consideration of this question in the United States, at the present time. Such being the case there is but one way to deal with Fenianism in Canada, and that is by rigid and stern administration of the laws to all taken in connection with its movements.

We are aware that a dash upon our borders has long been meditated by the more determined and active members of this organisation, and that for this purpose they have collected considerable quantities of warlike stores at various points along the borders; but our Government is well advised of all their doings, and such dispositions have been and are being made to meet them that there is little need to be alarmed at any threat we may hear of raids from over the border. Pertinent to this subject a writer in *Blackwood* remarks:—"Although these noble colonies positively swam with Irishmen, Fenianism is scarcely known except through the newspaper, which narrates its doings in the United States and in England and Ireland; and that if any invasion of the territories by the American Fenians were to be attempted, every man's hand would be against them, and that people of English, Scottish, Irish and French descent would with one unanimous purpose turn out en masse to repel and punish the aggression."

That this is perfectly true the Fenians in the United States are well convinced, that, however they may talk, there is little danger of their doing anything. It would be a positive benefit if they would come in good round force that our Volunteers might have the satisfaction of wiping them out completely and so have done with them forever.

## COL. MACDOUGALL'S REPORT.

The Adjutant General's Report on the state of the Militia for the year 1867 has been received by us from the office of Routine and Records. It commences by the statement that since the spring of 1856 the Volunteer Force of Ontario and Quebec has increased from a nominal strength of 19,597 men to 33,754 men. Thus is a very gratifying fact and speaks well for the spirit of the Volunteers, when the disadvantages they had to labour under are taken into consideration; and which is immediately referred to. The formation of the county Companies into Battalions is briefly referred to, although this was a move much required to make the force really effective. Col. Macdougall says:—"The force is for the most part fairly efficient, and animated by a good spirit; but it is a fact that the Volunteers generally are looking forward with hopeful expectation to the removal, by Legislature, of those irregularities in the pressure of military service from which they consider themselves to suffer." Of these inequalities the Adjutant General further remarks:—"The men entertain the feeling that their military service subjects them to a burthen of expense and inconvenience, which is not shared by other classes of the community. A Volunteer contributes in the same proportion with those other classes of the community towards the expense of the military establishments of the country, but he gives his personal service in addition." In times of peace this service "is as little onerous as possible. But it is far otherwise when, owing to any emergency, the Volunteer is placed on active service for a continuous period." These and all the other "inequalities" enumerated by Colonel Macdougall are the same as have been frequently pointed out in the pages of the *Review*, and he endorses the axiom long ago laid down, "that all citizens should contribute equally in proportion to their powers towards the burthens imposed for the defence of the country." And we agree with him in what he says that:—"The only sound basis on which, in a country like Canada, any successful system of compulsory Militia service can be erected, is the practical recognition of the principle that every man not actually contributing his personal service during any one year, should pay a tax in money which should bear some proportion to the property for which the military force of the country is to afford protection." To remedy the evils pointed out and ensure careful performance of Militia service, Col. Macdougall suggests:—"Either a general tax, proportionate to property must be imposed on all not actually serving, supposing the service to be compulsory. Or, in the case when the service is by voluntary enlistments, the rate of pay awarded to the Militiaman must be a real compensation for the loss of time entailed on him by his military duties." In thus coming to the point the Adjutant Gen-