

THE FENIAN PRISONERS.

(Dublin Freeman, Dec. 26th.)

Canadian Government Emigration Offices,
14 South Frederick-street.

TO THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M. P.

SIR—I read with great interest, in the FREEMAN of this day, your admirable letter to Sir William Carroll in reference to the liberation of the Fenian prisoners. The policy of clemency announced by you will be hailed with pleasure—not, however, unalloyed—by all right-thinking men throughout the civilized world. There is only one drawback in the action of the Government. Permit me the liberty of saying it lacks that generosity and magnanimity which would serve to render the condoned prisoners comparatively harmless wherever they might go; and would, for ever, silence their sympathizers, here and elsewhere. What is now the case? These men are debarred from returning to their native land. Very good. What will happen? Invested with the character of martyrs, and glorying in the prestige which they have earned in the cause of Fenianism, they will, in all probability, and naturally enough, betake themselves to that land where their antecedents are most favourably regarded, and will receive from them a most cordial welcome. In the United States Luby and Ross, Mackay and Burke, and their confrères will be received—as outlaws from Ireland—with open arms and with unbounded enthusiasm. Fenianism, which, if not actually moribund throughout the extent of the Union, is in a very prostrate condition—will, through the instrumentality of these men, have new life infused into it, and will, doubtless, cause fresh troubles, fresh complications, and additional expense both to the home and Dominion Governments.

It is as a Canadian, solicitous for the future peace and well-being of my adopted country, that I venture most respectfully to invite your attention to the untoward consequences which are most likely to result from the forced expatriation of these men. They are bold and determined spirits. Their release, hampered as it is by a galling condition, must render them vengeful instead of grateful; and they will go forth breathing animosity against that Government which claims to have extended to them mercy and freedom. They will proceed to America, there to find legions of their countrymen ready to embark again in any enterprise against Great Britain or the colonies that the "martyrs" may indicate. It is unnecessary to remark that no time could be more opportune for the resuscitation of the Fenian movement in the United States than the present in view of the approaching Presidential election. The "Irish element" is a most important contingent on such an occasion. It requires consolidation and direction. No confidence is now reposed in the *quondam* leaders. New chiefs are needed to reorganise and re-animate the mighty host of Irishmen, from gulf to gulf and from ocean to ocean, that pants for an opportunity to wreak its vengeance against England or any of her assailable dependencies. Such leaders the Imperial Government will supply in the persons of the Fenian prisoners who are about to be set free, but who are denied the privilege of returning to Ireland, where, to use the language of this day's FREEMAN, they "would be very small fry, indeed, if free amongst their fellows, restricted from all pernicious agitation by the consciousness that they breathed the free and untainted air of heaven, by the generous mercy and royal grace of the Sovereign against whom they had offended, but to whose forgiveness they were debtors."

In advocating the unconditional pardon of the Fenian prisoners, I beg to disclaim all sympathy with the utterances or acts which rendered them amenable to the law. Whilst ardently wishing to see Ireland occupying the same political position as Canada, I would not care to have this desirable result achieved through such agency—"non tali auxilio, nec defensoribus istis." As an adopted son of Canada, I deprecate the course of the Government, foreshadowed in your letter, as calculated to lead to evil consequences there, which your own or any future administration, however well disposed, may be powerless to avert. I raise my feeble voice in the interest of that splendid young country which has already passed through more than one trying ordeal, and has poured out her blood and treasures in bearing the brunt of enmity which she has had no part in provoking.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES G. MOYLAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMAN,
Canadian Government Emigration Offices,
14 South Frederick-street,
Dublin, December 26.

DEAR SIR—I beg leave to thank you very sincerely for your kindness and courtesy in publishing this morning the letter which I had the honour to address the Premier on the 19th instant. It was very generous of you, Sir, to give the benefit of your columns to the remonstrance I made in behalf of Canada, in relation to the liberation of the Fenian prisoners, cramped, as that act of grace is, with the condition of exile. If not trespassing too much upon your valuable space I would feel obliged by your inserting the following reply of Mr. Gladstone:—

10 Downing-street, Whitehall,
December 22.

SIR—I am directed by Mr. Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, which he has read with attention. Mr. Gladstone has every confidence in the motive which dictated it, but does not consider that her Majesty's Government would be responsible for allowing persons, of whose future obedience they have no assurance whatever, to remain in the midst of the community whom they had sought, and probably would seek again, to disturb.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ALGERNON WEST.

J. G. Moylan, Esq.

There is nothing of special moment in this note, but it affords me an opportunity of stating through your widely-read journal that the Government and people of Canada will be slow to appreciate the motives which have influenced Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues to recommend the expatriation of the prisoners. Mr. Gladstone says, in effect—These men gave trouble before, and they may do so again; therefore we must get rid of them. Now, the Government of England takes credit for having at its control in Ireland all the means necessary to overawe or frustrate any attempt at insurrection.

The people of this country, taken as a whole, guided by their bishops and clergy, have not taken part in a movement involving disaffection and disloyalty. At no time, within the last decade of years, would they feel less inclined to countenance any men or any propositions that might tend to disturb the existing order of things than the present. This fact is universally felt. I earnestly hope that the contentment and increasing prosperity which are beginning to dawn upon Ireland will daily extend and become the normal condition of the country. With all these advantages the Government forbids the return of Luby, Rossa and their confrères to Ireland, lest they might cause annoyance. At the same time the fact is lost sight of that, in forcing upon these men the alternative of seeking an asylum in another country, her Majesty's advisers are exposing to incalculable risk a people whose well-being and interests it is their bounden duty to consider and protect. To say the least, the action of the ministry in this particular, coupled with the withdrawal of the forces from the North American provinces, argues very little concern for Canada or for the welfare or feelings of Canadians. Either the New Dominion is, in the estimation of Mr. Gladstone, an integral part of the empire, or it is not. If it be, there appears to be some inconsistency in taking such slight heed to guard that distant, and comparatively unprotected territory against danger far more formidable and imminent than the Premier is disposed to encounter at home, notwithstanding all the moral and physical force at his command. If it be not, and Canada be cast adrift, in all fairness and justice Canadians ought to have proper intimation that the connection heretofore existing with England is now barely nominal, and that in future they must depend solely upon themselves. Although the people of Canada may regret the severance of the tie which binds them to the parent countries, and will not be the first themselves to snap it asunder, I have too much confidence in their dignity of character and their sense of self-respect to fear for one moment that they will not receive with fortitude and equanimity the *fait* of divorce whenever England may pronounce it. Should separation be forced upon Canada, at any time, what may be lost in one respect will be gained in another. The connection with England led to the Fenian raids in 1866 and during the present year. Let the policy of the empire but decree the independence of the New Dominion, and these troubles will cease at once and for ever.—I remain, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES G. MOYLAN.

Dublin Freeman, Dec. 28th.

A FAVOURITE PASTIME THIS WINTER.

We should think so indeed, if the operation so graphically depicted by our artist be one of the adjuncts of snow-shoeing! Why, merely to look at the delicious little dark-eyed young lady with the fur round her boots is a pastime, but to be the favoured swain who fastens the snow-shoes on Arabella's charming "tootums," to get such soft glances from those bright eyes, and such bewildering smiles from those rose-buds of lips, is indeed to be in the seventh heaven of bliss. One feels like abjuring boots and rubbers and taking to moccasins and snow-shoes for ever, on contemplating the scene our artist's imagination has created. Where is the misogynist that can look on such a picture, and not be converted?

WAR INCIDENTS.

Twenty-three Trappists have quitted their monastery at Dombes, in the Ain Department, and have joined the Garde Mobile.

Rochefort has disappeared from Paris. Some say that he has been assassinated, but it would seem more probable that, not wishing to embarrass the Government, he has withdrawn from the public service.

A German paper states that on the person of a French prisoner of the name of Berlan, interred at Landshut, papers have been found concerning the Traupmau murders, and proving the existence of two accomplices. An investigation has been commenced.

M. Gustave Doré is reported to be in Paris and unharmed. A French journal, describing one of the subordinate incidents of the sortie from the capital at the beginning of last month, stated that the artist was seen among the crowd, watching the return of the wounded defenders of the city.

The other day the *Daily News'* correspondent with the Saxon army dined with the deputation who went to Versailles to ask King William to accept the imperial dignity. The deputation, says the correspondent, "expressed with hearty warmth their pleasure that when the time came that William's son should reign in his stead the Princess Royal of England should be empress of Germany;" and just before the party broke up "all the room joined with acclamation in drinking the toast 'Prosperity to Germany and England; may they ever be friendly.'"

HOW THE PAPAL ZOUAVES FIGHT.—A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writing from Nantes speaks in the highest terms of the courage of the Papal Zouaves, and relates the following incident, which occurred during one of the recent engagements before Orleans. When, as usual, the men of the line, who were in front of the Zouaves, turned tail, General de Sônis, finding it impossible to arrest their flight, addressed De Charette's gray Zouaves thus:—"Messieurs, montrons à ces lâches comment de vrais Français savent se battre. En Avant!" Like the English six hundred at Balaclava, they obeyed the word of command with perfect discipline, and went calmly and steadily forward to certain death. The bearer of their colours was instantly shot down, Jacques de Bouillé seized the flag and immediately shared the same fate. The Count then took it from his dead son's hand, and was shot through the breast, expiring shortly after; while his son-in-law had his arm so shattered that it has been amputated, and he is now a prisoner of the Germans. You may judge of the sentiments and memories of the remnants of this noble family. The Zouaves went into that valley of death 800 strong—about 250 only returned alive.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* thinks that had railways existed and been worked as they are at present in 1661, when the Prayer Book was revised, there would have been a special service composed (to follow, perhaps, that "to be used at sea") in behalf of railway passengers, "that they might be preserved from sudden danger and a bloody death."

VARIETIES.

OLE BULL is writing a book to be entitled *The Soul of the Violin*.

LI SHU is the name of the oldest of the Chinese deities. His name got mixed in coming across.

Messrs. Fields and Osgood propose to publish soon a new volume by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, entitled the "Mechanism of Thought and Morals."

The New York Medical Gazette will shortly begin the publication of a series of analyses of such patent medicines as are brought prominently before the public.

A man with a new patent medicine warns the public against drinking "those simmering compounds of liquid Devils, those mixtures of concentrated death called bitters."

At a bazaar held in New York, in aid of the French wounded, a coloured photographic likeness of Mdlle. Christine Nilsson, with her autograph, brought 250 dollars.

The Dominion of Canada is the largest country in the world except Russia. Its present area is 3,127,045 square miles; that of the United States 2,999,848 square miles. We can easily furnish homes for 100,000,000 of people.

Count von Moltke is not, as has been asserted, a Dane by birth; he was born on the 26th of October, 1800, at Gnewitz, near Parchim, in Mecklenburg. His father is buried in the Wandsbeck Cemetery, about one hour's walk from Homburg.

There is a tradition that in its earlier days a California paper appeared with this paragraph: "VVe have no vv in our type, as there is none in the Spanish alphabet. VVe have sent to the Sandvich Islands for this letter; in the mean time, vve must use tvo V's."

The directors of the Union Bank of London, Eng., have forbidden those of their employees who have salaries less than £150 per annum to marry. A wise provision, but rather hard on those of the clerks who contemplated entering upon the married state.

It has been ascertained from the last annual report of the New York coroner that, during the year 1870, 112 persons committed suicide in that city. Of these 89 were men, and 23 women. The following are the numbers by nationalities: Americans, 23; Germans, 55; Irish, 15; English, 9; Scotch, 4; French, 3; unknown, 3. 26 committed suicide by hanging, 22 blew out their brains, 9 cut their throats, 26 took poison, and 14 drowned themselves.

It appears by a telegram from Oran that the intended eclipse observations there were entirely frustrated. Dense clouds covered the sky for twenty minutes before the period of totality, and till after it was over. The day before the observers' tent and telescopes were blown down, but the damage had been repaired in time for the instruments to be used if the weather had been fine. At Catania the observers were more successful.

A San Francisco undertaker claims to have discovered a new method of preserving the dead human body. By his process he petrifies it. He exhibits a body that he petrified in July, 1868, and it exhibits no signs of decay. When struck, says the editor of the *Morning Call*; it gives out a ringing metallic sound. The colour of the flesh is not changed. The ladies make excellent bells, and have already been set up in several of the California churches.

Diamonds of great value, and in large numbers, continue to be found at the Cape of Good Hope. A new diamondiferous track has been discovered, and the old ones are keeping their ground. The diggings now extend over 100 miles of country, and the population has increased to 15,000. One man has found two diamonds valued at £120,000. News from Natal reports that one party belonging there had found diamonds to the value of £150,000, one gem found by them weighing 105 carats, which has been lodged in the Natal Bank. The Star of Beaufort West, a splendid gem, over 88 carats, has been exhibited at Cape Town for the benefit of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Many persons, however, had been unsuccessful at the diggings, and some of them were suffering great privations in endeavouring to return to their homes. Mr. John Campbell has been appointed British magistrate at the diggings.

Mr. G. A. Sala, it appears, is now among the prophets. In *Notes and Queries* he draws attention to a parallelism which he has discovered between the events of the present war and those which are foretold in the sixth chapter of Jeremiah. Briefly his interpretation of the Hebrew's prophecy may be thus epitomized. "The daughter of Zion," "the comely and delicate woman," is Paris—*la belle Paris*; "the shepherds that pitch their tents against her" are the drovers who parked their sheep and cattle in the Bois de Boulogne; "Arise, and let us go by night and let us destroy her palaces," is an allusion to a "night attack and ultimate bombardment threatened," and the phrase "their voice roareth like the sea" is obviously intended to describe the guttural language of the Germans. But Mr. Sala is not satisfied with this exercise of ingenuity, nor in detecting minute resemblances between circumstances which must be common to all sieges. With an amount of daring of which even Dr. Cumming need not be ashamed, he gives special prominence to the following choice bit of Scriptural exegesis. The words of Jeremiah are, "Thus saith the Lord, Behold a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth." Mr. Sala's comment is: "Obvious reference to embattled Germany. The Romans who destroyed Jerusalem were not northerners." It is perhaps hardly necessary to observe that no commentator before Mr. Sala ever supposed that the siege of Jerusalem by the Romans was predicted by Jeremiah. All the prophet's references are to the Chaldeans, whose chief city was on a higher parallel of latitude than Jerusalem.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

The English speaking Catholics of Montreal have resolved to petition the Queen on the subject of the dispossession of the Pope by King Victor Emmanuel. They will send an address to the Pope, accompanied with a subscription, which will doubtless be a liberal one.

The thermometer marked twenty degrees below zero at Ottawa on Thursday night of last week.

The Dominion Board of Trade meets at Ottawa on the 18th inst., the Dominion Parliament on the 15th prox.