

wonderfully chequered career. No sooner did he take up his residence in the valley of the St. Lawrence than he was again at his old work for Ireland, and Irishmen and their faith; and last, though not least, for the moral and material prosperity of that new country which he now adopted forever as his home. In furtherance of this policy, he established the *New Era*, a journal which plainly told, in its very first numbers, of the genius of the new emigrant, and of the eminent service he was likely to render to the country at large. Within a year from his arrival he made his mark, and took such hold of the public that at the first vacancy he became Member of Parliament for Montreal. During that short year there was scarcely a literary club, or society, or a scientific re-union, from end to end of the land, that was not charmed by the magic of his euphonious voice and the flashes of vivid lightning that shot out from his prolific brain. At the first outset he found in Canada many and signal advantages denied to his people in the old country, and not enjoyed to the same extent by emigrants in the neighbouring republic; but yet even in Canada he but too plainly saw that much was still to be achieved before his fellow countrymen would be effectually placed on the same perfect level with their fellow subjects of other creeds and nationalities. They were nominally equal before the law, but in some vital instances the law was defective and one-sided, and proscriptive to some extent. The anti-Catholic and anti-religious school system of the United States was thrust on them in Western Canada, making their condition in this respect worse and far more galling than in Ireland itself. The rampant spirit of Orangeism imported from the old country seemed to have acquired new vigor and increased intensity on this new soil. Priests were insulted—their lives threatened—some few churches, I believe, were burned, and even several unavenged murders were committed in the daylight, without a jury unprejudiced enough to find an honest verdict. Hundreds of Catholics sold out their farms, and thousands of mechanics and labourers were forced, for the same reason, to seek employment elsewhere; and Fenianism to-day in Canada, odious and indefensible as it may be, is, I solemnly believe, to some extent, the inevitable recoil and the natural off-shoot of all these unfortunate ultra Protestant exhibitions. We can