

CHARACTER OF THE PRESENT UNPRINCIPLED CONSPIRACY.

That a conspiracy—formidable by its numbers, though not extending to the classes possessed of education, intelligence or property—exists against the government of that country is now beyond doubt. That such conspiracy has been encouraged if not originated, fostered if not created, by men of Irish Birth or of Irish descent, resident in the United States, is brought home to our conviction by the daily record of passing events; and that the inevitable result must be prejudicial to the peace and prosperity of Ireland is as obvious as the necessity for vigorous measures of repression and restraint.

ATTEMPT OF THE CONSPIRATORS TO MAKE CANADA A BATTLE GROUND.

We might, here in Canada, whilst earnestly desiring the maintenance of the established government in Ireland, and that the mad effort to dismember the United Kingdom might meet with speedy and ignominious failure, have thought ourselves beyond the immediate reach of the threatened conflict. We might expect to hear its echo, but not that we should be made parties to it in our own land. For, admitting, for the argument sake, the existence of injustice and oppression which is advanced as the justification of this conspiracy—no such discontent exists or ever has existed here. Canada, among whose most valued inhabitants are many of Irish birth and descent, is no more responsible than the United States of America, in which a very large number of the Irish become domiciled, for any of the causes, real or fictitious, which are made the manifesto of these conspirators—and I firmly believe that few indeed, if even one of all the Irish residents in Canada, no matter what his creed or party, are so insensible to the advantages of our present form of government as to desire a change, least of all by armed invaders. And yet such is the danger that seems to be imminent. It is not war, as that term is understood in the law of nations, that threatens; war tempered by modern civilization by a regard to considerations of humanity, by a desire not to inflict needless suffering on the inhabitants of an invaded country. It is not even civil internal conflict arising between inhabitants of the same country and subjects of the same government where one part of the subjects, greater or less, of some government desire to subvert it and to establish another in its place. But it is an intended invasion from a foreign country which cannot be carried into effect without violating the laws of the foreign country and the duties of its government by a body of men whose acts will place them beyond the pale and protection of all national law, and who cannot therefore be expected to act in conformity therewith, or to acknowledge any of its obligations. Their avowed motives include that of revenge upon England for the alleged wrongs of Ireland, and as they do not hope at this moment to raise an insurrection and strike at the Queen's government in that country, they propose to assail this province, as a means of insult and annoyance which is more within their reach and in which they may indulge in the hope of an easier temporary success. Such an attack, conceived and executed in such a spirit, would, in all human probability, be an outlet for the most fiendish passions of the most abandoned of those associated in it, where success would be accompanied by rapine and violation, by wholesale plunder and unrestrained licentiousness.

SYMPATHY OF AMERICANS WITH THE ATTACK UPON CANADA.

When I reflect on the consequences of such an invasion, I feel reluctant to believe that citizens of the United States who are unconnected with the alleged motives and excuses, are, as has been repeatedly and confidently affirmed in their own public journals, contributing their means to promote such atrocious results. I do not think the occasional outbursts of "envy, hatred, and all uncharitableness" with no measured mingling of falsehood and misrepresentation, which some portions of the public press display, exhibiting in the same moment the malevolence of the worst passions with the irritating consciousness of impotency to indulge them, require notice at my hand. I can understand political theorists speculating upon the superiority in their estimation of a republican form of government over a monarchy, and that in America at all events the one should supersede the other. I can understand that enthusiasts in favor of this theory would rejoice in any course of events which would bring about such a result, and that if their sense of national obligation, restrained them from active proceeding in its support, they would take no measure whatever to prevent it. But I cannot understand how any men who recognize the force of national and moral obligations can aid, whatever their abstract opinions, in sending fire and sword among a neighbouring people, to force them to change a form of government under which they are prosperous and contented, and to adopt another, against which their feelings revolt and from which they see no good reason to anticipate a larger amount of happiness or liberty.

NOBLE SPIRIT OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE IN THE CRISIS.

But if such a storm be gathering on our horizon, thank God it

will not find us divided among ourselves, or unprepared to resist the invader! I can make no stronger appeal for the truth of this assertion, than to the proceedings in every part of the province on Saturday last (St. Patrick's Day). Whatever our national origin, we are all Canadians. Whatever our convictions and opinions on religious subjects, we are all equally protected in their peaceable enjoyment. Our laws recognize no immunities, privileges or distinctions for any one class that are not equally open to all. Our institutions are both in theory and practice, as free as those of any nation upon earth. To a profound and zealous adherence to our constitutional rights and liberties we add a personal devotion to our Queen, honoring her as the head of our government, loving her as the mother of her people, praying God for the prolongation of her reign and for her domestic happiness and welfare. Experience has amply assured us, that there is no despotism under her sceptre, while we are not equally convinced that there is as great a freedom from it and as great an actual enjoyment of more real liberty under forms of government more popular in their external character. And what stronger proof that we rightly appreciate our advantages, could be given than is afforded by the events of last week. The sounding of the alarm was instantaneously followed by the gathering of willing thousands to defend our altars and our homes. The country which was, as it were, slumbering in peace, has aroused itself into activity and presents the aspects of a vast extended camp, and while relying as heretofore on the co-operation of the mother country, the Canadian people from Sarnia to Gaspé have sprung to arms for self defence. If forced to employ them, they will strike in a good cause, and in the humble hope of protection of the Divine Providence. There can be but one reception for the invaders—a stern and pitiless opposition to repel the aggression—striking for Queen and country, for law and liberty, for wives and children; and may God defend the right!

VIII. Short Critical Notices of Books.

— CIVIL POLICY OF AMERICA; by John W. Draper, LL.D. Foolscape, 8vo. pp. 225.*—This work contains the substance (with additions) of lectures delivered before the New York Historical Society, entitled "Thoughts on the Future Civil Policy of America," and is an application to America of the principles contained in the author's former work on the "Intellectual Development of Europe." It is designed to show the bearing of some of the more prominent principles thus presented on certain questions of great political interest, and that "Social advancement is as completely under the control of natural law as is the bodily growth of an individual." The value of the work may be learned from an enumeration of the following chapters on "The influence of climate," "The effects of emigration," "The political force of seas," and "The natural course of national development."

— SOCIAL LIFE OF THE CHINESE; by Rev. J. Doolittle. 2 vols. 12mo., pp. 459, 499.*—We regard this as one of the most interesting and valuable books on the Chinese that has appeared for some time. It relates to their religions, governmental and educational institutions, and their business customs and opinions. The text is illustrated by upwards of one hundred and fifty excellent illustrations. The author has been fourteen years a member of the Futi-chau mission of the American Board and has had abundant opportunities for obtaining accurate information on the subjects to which he refers. Nearly two thirds of the volume had previously appeared in the *China Mail*—a newspaper published at Hong Kong—and is therefore popular in its style and very agreeable reading. Now, since the Chinese Empire has ceased to be a sealed kingdom to foreigners, an insight into the peculiar manner and custom of this ancient and semi-civilized people, would be the more interesting; we therefore heartily recommend these volumes to our readers.

— A NOBLE LIFE; by Miss Mulloch, author of "John Halifax, Gentleman." 12mo. pp. 302.*—This is a beautifully written sketch of a truly noble life. The hero of the story is "Lord Cairnforth"—a Scottish Earl of the last century. Though suffering under a life long infirmity, he was ever a devoted follower "after good" and exemplified in his history an acquiescence in that prayer of heartfelt resignation: "Thy will be done." The moral of the story is excellent, and its influence upon any one who should read it cannot be otherwise than good.

— RICHARD COBDEN, *his Political Career and Public Services*: by John McGilchrist. 18mo. pp. 304.*—This biographical sketch of the great English champion of Free Trade, is free from some of the defects of ordinary

* Harper & Brothers, New York; W. C. Chewett, Toronto.