

took in it was that one Mr. McDermont, of Belfast, had received a large sum from the Government to raise a regiment of volunteers in Ulster, and that he suddenly disappeared with the money and was never seen in Ireland nor heard from since.

Down in Quebec, one Mr. Dennis was forever standing up to interrupt Mr. McGee or some other member. Mr. McGee called the attention of the house to "the rising man." The correction however had but a temporary effect, until one night after various interruptions, Mr. McGee said that, "The hon. gentleman must have had in view to initiate his protonym—in that he came into the capital without his head."

It was in Quebec that one of Mr. McGee's best parliamentary speeches was delivered on the ever recurring topic of Orange incorporation. In a three hours' discourse he gave the whole history of Orangeism from its origin in 1795 and its first grand master, Thomas Verner, down to its then grand master at that time a prominent member of the house, Hon. John Hilliard Cameron. Among other amusing incidents he stated that he had just been furnished with a book most difficult of possession by anyone outside of the Magic Circle of initiated members. It was the Orange ritual.

"Here I read," he said, "taking up the book, 'that the applicant for membership is blind-folded in the ante-chamber, then he is conducted by the Tyler to the door of the lodge-room, where he is presented with a bowl containing W. and W. There is no foot-note stating what these initials stand for, but I should fancy they mean—whiskey and water—(great laughter)—then the applicant is told to dip his hand in

the bowl and sprinkle with its contents the lintel and the posts of the door—and this makes me believe the bowl does not contain whiskey and water at all—(renewed laughter). The candidate is then led to the middle of the lodge room—and made to kneel down on his bare knees. Now can you fancy the fastidious member for Toronto (John H. Cameron) rolling up his trousers to kneel on the bare floor?—(laughter) or imagine the Hon. Post Master General (Sidney Smith)—sinking down without even an empty mail bag to place between his knees and mother earth?"

Thomas D'Arcy McGee was not more than one year in Canada before he conceived the idea and made plans for the Confederation of the British Provinces.

In a conversation I had with him one night in Toronto, I remarked that he was gaining unpopularity for himself in Lower Canada by joining in the Reform cry of Rep. by Pop. I should explain that when Lower Canada had a much larger population (200,000) than Ontario, she was satisfied with the same number of representatives. But when Ontario's population grew to be 180,000 more than Quebec's, the Reformers raised the cry that Ontario was unfairly represented, and asked for a change. The French Canadians and the Conservative government opposed the change. "The complaint must be of short duration," said Mr. McGee; "in a few years we shall have all the British Provinces united in one grand Confederation, when changes must occur and adjustments be made constitutional that will satisfy all the Provinces." This conversation occurred in 1857, exactly ten years previous to events foreseen and foreplanned in his poetic or rather prophetic eye.