

# FENIAN INVASION OF CANADA.

## PART I.—INTRODUCTORY.

As a fitting introduction to the account of the Fenian Invasion, it may be well to glance at the imposture two years ago. We therefore extract from the pages of "*All the Year Round*" the following article on

### FENIANISM IN 1864.

Not long ago a meeting was held in the Rotundo at Dublin to express the indignation of Young Ireland at a vote of the Dublin corporation, which gave a site upon College-green for a statue to the late Prince Consort. But although Young Ireland was left in quiet possession of that meeting, it did not choose to be quiet. There was no proud Saxon to lay low, so, at the mention of a name welcome to some patriots, but unwelcome to others, uprose a band of Fenians, tore off the legs of chairs and tables, smartly applied them to the heads of brother patriots, carried the platform by storm, and waved triumphantly the green tablecloth of Erin over a mad hullabaloo. This was a grand exhibition of the materials for that peculiar joint-stock society, "the Fenian Brotherhood," promoted by a few sharpers for the profitable cultivation of Irish flats. Appeal is made to the unreasoning love of a row still common among the uneducated Irish. The Irish faction against the English faction! Whew! what a grand fight it'll be! It would "electrify the world," says the editor of the *Chicago Fenian*, and it would be "one of the grandest events in history, because it would necessarily involve the overthrow of an Imperial system greater than any the world has seen since the fall of the Roman, perhaps greater than the Roman itself." If Hungary overthrew Austria, he goes on to show, five years hence, general history would give only five pages to the fact. If Poland overthrew Russia, five pages would be more than enough to tell that tale: but the overthrow of the British Empire, that would be grand indeed! The day Irishmen humble the haughty crest of England, they chain the glory of Ireland for ever to the stars. To this eloquent prophecy is added, "Who can doubt the ultimate success of a cause, the undying faith in which is cherished in the hearts of a people from father to son, and evident by acts time and again significant as the following:—" The following fact being, that the brothers John Patrick and Edward Gaffney have sent to the Irish National Fair, Chicago, "two pairs of boots, patent leather and morocco tops." Surely these patent leather boots of the Gaffneys, wherewith England is defied, are sublimer than the boots of Bombastes, that were not chained to the stars, but only hung from a tree:

Whoever dare these boots displace,  
Must meet BOMBASTES face to face!