

and Tempo were overflowing with righteous indignation at the proposal to land foreign forces to protect foreign citizens. In spite of anything they can say, the forces will be landed at the first sign of riot, and it will probably be necessary to land the moment Floriano sustains a reverse. The sack is the real danger.

C. B.

Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 2nd.

CANADA AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

All along the frontier between Canada and the United States can be found old residents who have a lively remembrance of the "skedaddlers." This was a term—an expressive term—coined for a special occasion, viz., to denote those Americans who had fled to Canada to avoid the horrors of the war between the wearers of the blue and the gray. As early as Christmas, 1860, this exodus began, when it had become apparent to even the dullest that war was inevitable, and thereafter for four years the stream of American fugitives flowed into Canada in greater or lesser volume. The term "skedaddler" on the American side soon passed into a scornful word of reproach, as indicating a coward, and there seems much justice in this resentment of a high-spirited people towards those in the community who deserted in the hour of peril. But if many of the unwritten, but not outspoken facts of history were jotted down in the chronicled accounts, we would not have to seek far for parallels to the American "skedaddlers." During the Servo-Bulgarian war it was found that many of the Servian recruits—sprung from a brave, hardy people—had blown off their thumbs so as to incapacitate them for military service, and so frequent did this practice become that the death penalty was finally introduced as a deterrent. Indeed in every country there will always be found those who, rather than engage in the horrors and dangers of war, will flee, even if by so doing they incur the opprobrium of cowardice. However, the Canadians along the frontier among whom the "skedaddlers" resided, generally speak of them as being fairly good citizens. Many of them were of good families, and not a few fell easy victims to the winning glances of Canadian maidens. Along the St. Clair river the "skedaddlers" found work among the farmers, cutting firewood, whilst others engaged in business in the towns and villages. In the early days of the war it was comparatively easy to slip over the border into Canada, but after the first campaign when each able-bodied citizen was sorely needed at the front, pickets were stationed along the frontier, and the man who had no desire to face Southern bullets found great difficulty in reaching Canada, and even when he did so his property in the United States was usually confiscated.

But if the "skedaddlers" caused the North some uneasiness, much more did those Southern sympathizers, who, having taken refuge in Canada, looked upon it as a vantage ground to project mischief and confusion into the Northern border States, and thus by causing a scare, hold troops at home, who else might be used in crushing the rebellion. Competent authorities of that period place the number of Southern refugees in Canada at 2,000, and these were scattered along the frontier, from Halifax to Windsor. These refugees were suspected of having the most horrid designs of waging un-

natural war, and in the minds of the people of the Northern frontier cities nothing loomed up so portentous as the alleged manufacture of "Greek fire" at Windsor. This "Greek fire" had an element of misty supernaturalism about it that intensified the dread. In the popular imagination it was a semi-liquid, that when scattered about a city took fire, and the pouring on of water only increased the flame. No city could be safe against this subtle agent, which silently scattered about in the dead of night would inevitably destroy all before it. The military could face an open enemy, but here was a silent foe that artillery was useless against. We find the following official report of this new and formidable force:—

Headquarters, District of Michigan,

Detroit, Dec. 3rd, 1864.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that from information I have received, I am satisfied that very extensive preparations are being made in Canada for burning not only cities on the lakes, but others, and it is very necessary that great precaution and vigilance should be observed everywhere.

I have the assurance that "Greek fire" is being prepared in Windsor, Buffalo, Cleveland and this city will be principal cities to be burned, and there will be armed attempts to rob and plunder. Cincinnati and Louisville are also mentioned. I am also informed that by some means a large number of rebel soldiers have been introduced into Canada, some it is said have been furloughed and have made their way through the lines. I have at this time very excellent means of obtaining information and the only apprehension I have is that the person in my employ may fail me at the last moment. In this city I have called the attention of the hotel keepers to the necessity of observing great vigilance in regard to their guests, and the hotels are daily visited by a secret agent in my employ.

I am,

R. H. HILL,

Lieut.-Col. 5th U.S. Arty.,

Comdg. District of Michigan.

To C. H. Porter, Captain and A.A.G.,
Headquarters, W. Dept., Cincinnati, O.

The attention of Viscount Monck, then Governor-General of Canada, was at once called to this matter and steps were taken to prevent the carrying out of the project—if such had been the intention. It was strenuously denied by the Southerners, then resident in Windsor that they had any intention of burning Northern cities, and it is now pretty well settled that the main object was to keep Northern troops away from the scene of conflict in the South. For a time it succeeded admirably, as nothing so alarms a community as a horrible, vague, unknown enemy. The vigorous measures of the Canadian authorities to stamp out this alleged plot restored confidence, for we find the able American Secretary of State, W. H. Seward, writing to the British *attache* at Washington in this manner:

Department of State, Washington,

14th January, 1865.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 31st. ult., informing me of the measures adopted by the Governor-General of Canada to prevent the manufacture in that province of "Greek fire" to be used by the insurgents in their attempts to burn the Northern cities of the United States, and in reply to express my satisfaction with the action of Viscount Monck in the matter.

Accept, etc.,

(Signed) W. H. SEWARD.

To J. H. Burnley, Esq.

The bugbear of "Greek fire" having been finally laid at rest, another horrible rumour was started, well calculated to again alarm the community. This was that infected clothing would be sent into the United States from Can-

ada for the deliberate purpose of spreading smallpox and other diseases among the soldiers serving on the Federal side. The leader in this infamous scheme was said to be one Dr. Blackburn, a prominent Southern sympathizer, then residing in Montreal. He was arrested in that city on a warrant issued in Toronto, brought back to Toronto and committed for trial. The point was raised by his counsel whether he could be placed on trial for an alleged intention to commit murder in the United States. The matter being referred to the Imperial authorities, they clearly decided that he could be so arraigned, as the following letter shows:

Downing St., 22nd July, 1865.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 128, of the 2nd ult., transmitting among other documents, a copy of the Report of the Solicitor-General of Canada West in the case of Dr. Blackburn, who is charged with having conspired with others to send infected clothing into the United States, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government are advised that Dr. Blackburn is liable in Canada for conspiracy to commit murder in the United States, though it is not apparent how he can be indicted upon the same facts for that which is termed a breach of the "Neutrality Laws." I have, etc.,

(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

Governor Viscount Monck, etc., etc.

The evidence disclosed at the trial before the Police Magistrate in Toronto showed that whilst there could be no moral doubt that such a hateful conspiracy had been planned, yet the evidence was not sufficiently strong to convict the prisoner, and he was accordingly discharged on his own bail. It is only fair to add that no Canadian was connected with this unnatural plot, and that it and its authors were regarded with detestation by all citizens, no matter which side they favoured—the blue or the gray.

C. M. SINCLAIR.

CANADIAN STUDENTS AT CORNELL.

Canadians are justly proud of their educational institutions. It is doubtful if any other country in the world possesses a better system of schools—a system which has diffused an intelligence among the people of Canada, that is at once the glory and pride of every true Canadian. Go where you will and you will not find the masses more liberally educated than in Ontario. Nor is it a superficial education. Scholarship there means serious labor—personal toil, brainy effort. What effect has such schooling, such mental training upon the character of the people? It assuredly builds up stalwart manhood. If there is one lesson more than any other which the youth of to-day requires, it is the lesson of subjecting themselves to hard mental discipline, while treading the steep path of knowledge acquirement. It is not enough that we have facts pumped into us by the latest and most approved methods; we ourselves must labor at the pump handle if we would hope to benefit by the exercise involved. Commendable, however, as is the Canadian system of education, it is lacking in one particular—provision for carrying on special investigation, or, if you will, post-graduate work. This want drives to American Universities such as Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and Cornell a large number of Canadian young men who, not satisfied with graduate work, desire to penetrate the very *arcana* of the temple of knowledge and lay bare its inner secrets. It