

But this measure alone was not sufficient. The Democratic party though not in the ascendant, was still powerful, and with the ample materials furnished it, by the past misdeeds of its opponents, it might prevail in the struggle. Safety to the delinquents could be secured only by dividing the Democrats. For that purpose other objects of diversion were required. The times furnished those objects, and they were eagerly seized on and used.

The people of the Northern States had become somewhat exasperated during the war, against England, and partially so against Canada. Hence the mischief-makers resorted to the Alabama claims. So far so good. But the best stroke of all is yet to be told. The Irish of the Northern States were then, and perhaps they are yet, an important constituent element of the Democratic party. They had to be attracted from that party, or, failing that, so agitated within the party as to make the pursuit of a domestic party policy weak, and uncertain, and harmless. For effecting this, a fitting instrument ready made to hand was found in Fenianism.

It was then an insignificant institution, of which Mr. John O'Mahony was the head; and from which he derived an income greater, no doubt than he could have obtained from any honest pursuit, which he was capable of following. But although insignificant then, it contained two elements which, worked and directed by skilful operators, would render it most formidable as an engine of agitation. It had that mysteriousness which always attaches to secrecy, which produce marvellousness, and excites and feeds the imagination; and it had been constituted professedly to procure or effect the independence of Ireland and the humiliation of Great Britain. Than this, no instrument could better suit the purpose of the knaves who had enriched themselves by despoiling their own country, while she was drenched and reeking with the blood of her own people shed in fratricidal strife. It was adapted to answer a two-fold purpose: each useful to the other, and both answering the primary object of the secret operation. Agitation for the payment of the Alabama claims served to embarrass Great Britain, and it stimulated agitation for Ireland's independence, and *vice versa*. Each so materially aided and supported the other that they formed a common cause, having unity of purpose and consistency of end. The proverbial temperament of the Irish race, their keen sense of the wrongs which their country had suffered, and their excitability when the memory of those wrongs is revived, were known to and understood by the shrewd operators; the game was therefore plain and certain.

The wrongs of Ireland were glibly recited, exaggerated, and denounced on the rostrum, on the stump, in saloons, in the Senate, by demagogues who cared as little for Ireland and the Irish, and for their wrongs, past and present, as they did for Arabs and the Arabs. The internal enactments of the penal code were inveighed against, as if they were all still in full force. The atrocities of former days were spoken of, as if they had just happened, and as if they were daily recurring with increased violence. The Irish heart was assailed and agitated, and the imagination tortured by every art and wile which the acuteness of cunning men could