

ada are foremost in commending and encouraging them in the use of the rifle. Consequently we find in every village and town throughout the length and breadth of this fair Dominion clubs and associations of riflemen whose members are active and well trained, and able, at a moment's notice, to handle arms with precision in defence of their country. This fact is highly gratifying and we may be pardoned for indulging in a little self-glorification when we reflect upon the vast benefits accruing to the country from the practice of rifle shooting.

Observation of this circumstance has not escaped our acute neighbors in the States, and, as may be seen from an article quoted elsewhere in the present issue from the *Jersey City Evening Times*, they are awaking, through the press, to a proper appreciation of the value of encouraging rifle competition. It seems somewhat extraordinary to us that the American people have not taken up this matter before. There was a time, if we are to trust some of their writers, when Yankee riflemen used to perform prodigies of skill with their favorite weapon. But the practice has died out to make way for the reprehensible revolver, and the abomination of the Bowie knife. Upon this continent the rifle has been nearly as great an instrument of civilization as the axe, and should be as familiar to the hands of United States men as it is to Canadians. During and since the late war American inventors and mechanics have done much towards improving small arms, yet it is somewhat surprising that their use is so little understood by the great mass of the people. In England and Canada target practice has been reduced to a science, numerous books have been written and published upon it, and the annual prize meetings of the various associations are chronicled as among the important events of the time. The effect of all this upon the people of these countries is great, so great indeed that only those in the capacity of journalists or ministers of the Crown can adequately estimate its extent. In Canada, our immediate field of observation, we notice its effects in the manliness and soldierly qualities which it imparts to our young men, and the vitality which it infuses into the Volunteer system; affording as it does an honorable field wherein all classes can meet on equal terms for the attainment of an object worthy of the skilful endeavors of those who delight in manly exercise.

It has been observed by an American editor who looks with jealousy upon our successful and frequent rifle matches, that firing at targets will not make soldiers. We entirely agree with him, but any drill sergeant will tell him how much easier it is to make a soldier out of a marksman than it is to make one out of a man who is not. Intelligence and adaptability are the characteristics of a sharpshooter. Mind and muscle must alike be exercised with a clear head and firm hand. Indeed there is no other

amusement which calls for a greater exercise of those higher qualities of observation, coolness and judgment. In this respect the marksmen of Canada have much to be proud of, and we hope the public at large will long continue to extend to them that encouragement which has already done so much to elevate and improve them in all the attributes of manhood.

It has been said that the character of a people can be judged by the amusements and games most popular amongst them. Thus, when Byron exclaimed to the Greeks,

"You have the Pyrrhic dance, as yet,
Where is the Pyrrhic Phalanx gone?"

he gave the whole history of their retrogression and degeneracy. We hope similar words will never be applied to Canadians, and they never can so long as the rifle holds its present place of esteem amongst them. We would be glad to see our cousins over the border turn their attention to this most invigorating and elevating exercise, for we are convinced it would do them a vast deal of good, physically and otherwise. It would afford our marksmen great pleasure to meet them at the butts, and we hope the press will be successful in its endeavors to make rifle shooting as popular in the United States as it is in England and Canada.

A PAPER published in New York bearing the anæroentic title of *The Irish Republic* has found its way to our table. A perusal of its pages has afforded us one of the richest treats we have enjoyed for some time. It is evident from the tone of the articles and the general character of the sheet, that it is violently Republican not Democratic, and that it represents but one wing in the Fenian brotherhood. It is ultra to the last degree, and sets both the Catholic church and the United States Government at defiance for not strongly espousing the Fenian cause. On the first page we are treated to a grandiloquent article upon and in favor of Protection joined with fulsome praise of Horace Greeley. Some parts of this notable effusion almost took away our breath. The blasphemy of its comparisons was only equalled by the fulsomeness of its adulation. Take a sample passage.—"The contrast between the lives of mere political tricksters and the lives of such men as Horace Greeley is so humiliating to the former, that, like the mob at Calvary, they become incensed and seek to destroy that which exposes their own hideousness."

Violent hatred for England 'sticks out' in every sentence printed in this delectable sheet; and we are only sorry that English rule should have so far been successful as to place the bondage of her language upon the writers. How much better these philippics would sound in the original Irish. How much more characteristic and sonorous. But, alas, how infinitely less funny for the uneducated—even for us.

However, speaking of the fun of the thing, we have on another page a report of the

"Tammany Meeting" of which our readers may have heard before. Intensely amusing it is and deserves the compliment of a quotation. Speaking of the speech of the Mayor of New York, who presided, the reporter says:—

"Here he became 'spread-eagle,' and then turned to his little joke again; but this time tinged with regret. 'And yet the American eagle, chained in the smoking room of General Grant, is not allowed to soar into the Democratic clouds [query, fogs,] of freedom.' He admired the spirit of the British Government in the Trent affair, and the sweating Democrats admired it, too, if one might judge by the cheers which rung out for this expression of their Brother-Cop's head."

After the various resolutions were duly reported we are introduced to Richard O'Gorman, a hero of '48, in the following style:—

"The house now shook with applause, and a tall, well-kit man, with cold, dark eyes, slightly hooked nose, and dark hair and mustache, answered the call with something of alacrity. For an instant he seemed to lack his wonderful self command, but the cheering reassured him, and, fixing his glittering eyes on vacancy, he commenced, in a finely modulated and elegantly gestured manner."

His speech was remarkably calm and only referred to England in the terms of compliment. After the infliction of readings speeches by Mr. Leon Abbott of N. J., and Colonel Warren, we are treated to the following graphic stretch.

"Hon. William E. Robinson now stepped out and declared himself the first man in Congress who had introduced a motion to free Cuba. He said he might declare himself about to assassinate Queen Victoria, and that he could not be tried for it in England, nor punished, if America had the spirit of a monkey."

As to Sumner, and his Alabama claims, he was an "immeasurable humbug." There were not a dozen men in New York cared a "fiddler's damn" about them—the claims. He proposed that Warren and Costello should get a million dollars a minute for the term of their imprisonment. (Cheers.)

After considerably more of a like nature, during which he spoke of taking "the bells of eternity and hanging them to the fixed stars," the Chairman gave him a hint, and he subsided."

After the report of this great meeting we are treated to several columns of solid abuse of the O'Donoghue. What this gentleman may have done or omitted to do we know not, but, we take it, he must be respectable or he would not come in for Fenian vituperation.

Altogether this paper has given us a very accurate idea of the condition and sentiments of the Irish classes in the United States. As they have been in Ireland for centuries so are they now in America—divided into factions and ready at any moment to renew those scenes of discord for which they have become famous. One fact stands out prominently from amidst all this trash and humbug. Irishmen in the States are lending themselves alternately as tools to a pack of worthless and unprincipled dema-