

ardly plotters and abettors of the murder of the Hon. Mr. McGee is such as has been seldom so universally exhibited by all classes of our people. We observe that it is mooted by several influential journals that a Special Commission should be formed to try the prisoners, and thus get rid of the delay consequent on awaiting the Fall Assizes. Those who have the management of the matter are doubtless the best qualified to judge of the expediency of such a measure; all we desire to see is speedy and determined justice administered to all concerned. In this there is no room for the play of sentimentality with which we were treated two years ago; these are a different order of offenders, and nothing but the most vigorous measures can, or will, effectually destroy Fenianism in this, its most hideous and dangerous phase.

IMPERTINENT LEGISLATION.

That distinguished member of the United States Congress Mr. Banks, has met with but ill success in the passing of that prodigious attempt at legislation of his, known as a Bill for the protection of the rights of American citizens in foreign countries. This piece of legislative absurdity and impertinence made a very loud pop at its introduction, but fizzled down in a remarkable short time. The absurdity and impertinence of this Bill is shown by Mr. Banks' own words, he says: "It is legislation for the purpose of affecting the action of foreign Governments. Ordinary legislation is for the purpose of changing our own Government. Here we propose to effect the action of the Governments of all the European States." This is decidedly rich. Mr. Banks, not content with ruling the Continent of America, as he fondly believes, must needs legislate for all the European States, and dictate to them the way they should manage their domestic relations, when such are brought into contact with that curious individual, the American citizen. The means by which he proposes to make his measure effective are not quite as original as they are impracticable; and are a fair imitation of the diplomacy of the renowned Theodorus, and, should they be enforced, are very likely to produce the same results. This Bill authorizes the President to seize foreign subjects who happen to be in the United States, of any power which should violate any of its provisions, and retain them as hostages. This is certainly going back a long way in the machiavelian science, and shows what very brilliant Legislative ideas Mr. Banks must possess. We have grown accustomed to the lofty flights taken by that extraordinary bird, the American eagle, but we must give this gentleman the credit of attempting to reduce those metaphorical soarings to a practical illustration. Does Mr. Banks believe that Great Britain, which he loves to designate as a "foreign despotism," would be

less prompt to protect her citizens in the United States than she was in Abyssinia? If he does we would only request him to remember the Trent affair. Theodoro at best was but little above the savages of his country, and his actions were in keeping with his character, but we hardly expected to see his mode of reprisal, which lately ended so disastrously for him, gravely proposed in the Legislative Hall of a great and enlightened nation. But should the provisions of this Bill ever come into force, and British subjects be imprisoned by the President of the United States for matters of which they are entirely innocent, how is Congress prepared to meet the war which would inevitably follow? By having destroyed the best portion of their navy, and reduced their army to the lowest point of efficiency. Such is the fact, and the action of Congress only serves to bring Mr. Banks and his Bill into contempt.

RETRIBUTION.

Our Radical neighbors in the United States are beginning to realize something of the nature of the monster they have been cherishing under the name of Fenian, in the doings of that grimly mysterious society, the Ku Klux Klan. The programme adopted by the latter in the Southern States is identical with that which the former are attempting to perform in different parts of the British Empire. The following is the most authentic account we can find of the origin and objects of the K. K. K.:

"American society has been startled by the rise, suddenly as a storm cloud at sea, of a mysterious secret society known as the Ku Klux Klan. This oddly-named organization is said to have originated in East Tennessee. From its birth place it swept like wildfire through Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Virginia, Maryland and the Carolinas, until now it has extended its affiliations everywhere throughout the South. It has sprung up and shown its gigantic size, like Jonah's gourd, in a night; its doings and objects are as yet shrouded in mystery; but it is understood to be hostile to negro suffrage and congressional reconstruction. The first manifestation of the Ku Klux Klan consisted of mystical placards with images of death, the skull and bones, gibbets, coffins and pictures of horrible sufferers. The members meet in obscure apartments at midnight, swear solemn oaths of secrecy and obedience, and recognize each other by grips and passwords. The superstitious negroes of the South are much alarmed, and few of them venture out after dark. Lately, however, the comparatively harmless origins of the Ku Klux Klan have given place to acts of violence, and many negroes and whites suspected of not being "true men" have been assassinated in cold blood at the instance of the society.

The other day Governor Brownlow, of Tennessee, denounced the Ku Klux Klan in what the *World* calls "hell fire rhetoric," and General Mead in the district of Georgia, and General Shepherd of Alabama, have issued orders for the suppression of the organization. The movement is fraught with mischief, and will not readily be suppressed."

To make a parallel between the Fenians and the Ku Klux Klan complete, and bring home to the people of the United States a realization of the effects of extending their sympathies to such political reprobates, it is only required that the Southerners in the Dominion should organize themselves to render assistance by money and otherwise, to their brethren in the South, applaud when they commit a murder, eulogise the assassin, and openly meet for the purpose of devising means to overthrow the American Republic; while the Canadian Government and people would give them countenance, encouragement, and wish them God speed to the accomplishment of their purpose. We wonder what our neighbors over the border would say to all this, and how they would act in the premises. It strikes us very forcibly that a change would come over the spirit of their dream, and Fenianism and its brother, the Ku Klux Klan, would soon share a common grave, and that too within the borders of their beloved Union.

RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The present season has opened with great activity in rifle competition all over the country, especially in the Province of Ontario, where a great many well contested matches have already taken place. The city of Quebec, however, takes the first place so far, in number of competitions and highest scores. This is owing in a great measure to the high position the 8th Stadacona Rifles have attained as a shooting corps. The reports which we have published of the matches which have taken place at that city this Spring, shows that the gallant 8th have come off victorious in each encounter. The score which we publish in this issue, of the last match on Beauport Flats, is exceedingly good, and our friends of the Ottawa Provisional Brigade Garrison Artillery, had better look to their laurels, as such shooting is not very often beaten. The formation of the Dominion Rifle Association has also given a great impetus to the local bodies in reestablishing theirs that they may participate in the benefits which will naturally accrue from a connection with the national association. Our friends in Toronto, with that vigor for which they have long been famous, have inneciated the movement by forming a like institution for the Province of Ontario. The meeting held in that city last Thursday was called for the above purpose, and a large number of Volunteers and gentlemen interested, took advantage of the liberal arrangements made by the Railway Companies to be present on the occasion. A report of the meeting will be found in another column.

As a means of promoting a military spirit among the young men of the country, there is nothing superior to rifle competition. This is a fact well known to the officers of every Battalion; and we would advise the mem-