

sat down to watch for the hostile ships. What the result would have been had those ships essayed to enter the harbors we cannot tell, as they had thus far held discretion to be a better part of valor, and prudently remained at a safe distance from the explosive engines. What Germany has done Russia can do. At the time of the last war she used torpedoes in great numbers; but it was not those but the massive fortifications which kept the English fleet from her harbors. The wooden ships then in use could not fight the Russian stone walls. These can now be met by iron walls; but whether the torpedoes may be removed or avoided cannot be shown without actual test. "Occasion serves, however, it is not likely that British sailors will suffer the experiment to fail for want of a trial.—*Spectator*.

THE FENIANS IN DETROIT.

The *Detroit Free Press* of Friday last gives the following account of the seizures of Fenian arms, ammunition and clothing made in the City of the Straits on the 15th inst.:—For some time past Uncle Sam's officials in Detroit have been suspicious that some sort of a movement was intended over the border by the Fenian organization of this city, as there was a mysterious activity about the members that could be explained by no other idea. Although the press of the country have had no Fenian movements to chronicle since the disastrous campaign last spring, yet it has frequently been asserted that the idea of taking Canada or at least making another attempt to take it, was not altogether given up. The organization in other cities has been secretly at work at some kind of plot, and care has been taken that none of their proceedings should in any way reach the general public. It was also known to the deputy United States Marshals here that the Detroit Fenians received heavy shipments of arms, ammunition and clothing from New York last spring, but no attempt was made to interfere with or capture the boxes, as this branch of the organization did not participate in the raid except as individuals who went on their own responsibility.

However, last evening Mr. Blanchard, having perfected his plans, decided to nip any new demonstration in the bud, and taking three deputies with him, made a raid on the saloon at the corner of Rivard and Franklin streets, occupied by one Halloran, secretary of the league. Going in, he informed Halloran that he had information that arms and uniforms were concealed there; and after some hesitation they were given up. Halloran had concealed on the premises 150 Springfield rifles, breech-loaders, which are in fine condition, having been altered over at a cost of eight dollars each. These were loaded on to a dray that had been engaged, and a further search brought out eight boxes of Fenian uniforms, all new, some of the boxes having never been opened. The proceeds of the raid were removed to the Marshal's office. Halloran was ordered to appear before the United States Commissioner at nine o'clock this morning and will be put on trial. The seizure was effected without creating the least excitement, and was not known generally till about eight o'clock. The news then raised a stir among the fraternity, and demonstrations and words of indignation were to be heard on every side. Some of the more excited ones declared that if five minutes more warning had been had, Uncle Sam would not have had a single gun even if his officials had to be kept back at the point of the bayonet.

COMMERCIAL NON-INTERCOURSE WITH CANADA.

(From the *New York Bulletin*.)

Senator Chandler whose principal business last session was engineering the San Domingo "job" in the Senate, has again distinguished himself by introducing a bill providing for commercial non-intercourse with Canada, whenever the President, who asked for discretionary power in the matter in his recent message, shall deem it expedient to adopt such a policy. This bill authorizes the President, whenever in his judgement the public interest may require to issue a proclamation superseding in respect to the provinces or territories therein to be designated, the operation of all laws and regulations, whereby the rights of bonded transportation is allowed to foreign transportation companies. The President is further authorized, whenever in his judgement such a measure shall be expedient, to declare the similar suspension of all laws whereby vessels of the Dominion of Canada or of any other possessions in North America are permitted to enter the waters of the United States, saving, however, for such vessels such rights as may be granted by treaty between the United States and Great Britain.

We certainly hope that Congress will not confer upon the President any such authority since he would be pretty sure to make use of it upon the first pretext, and, in so doing, commit the nation to a folly of which it would have good reason to be ashamed; and which, by cutting off a very large share of the trade of Portland, and other eastern cities, would do us a vast deal more injury than it would inflict upon our neighbours. We would lose a large and profitable import trade in bonded merchandise destined for the provinces, our railroads and carrying companies would be deprived of a large and profitable traffic in this class of merchandise, and the trade which now flows through our ports, and which furnishes business to our railroads, would be diverted to Halifax, St. John, Montreal and other provincial shipping ports never to be reclaimed. The people of British America are not without resources, nor are they to be starved into submission to unjust and unreasonable conditions. They already have a self-sustaining steamer line to Europe—which is something we have not been able to establish—and the proprietors of this line are prepared to increase the number of their vessels to any extent that may be justified by an increased traffic, while the progress of railroad construction north of the St. Lawrence will soon render the provincial importers permanently independent in the matter of transportation facilities from the seaboard to the principal distributing centres of the interior. This is all we would gain by the policy of non-intercourse which the President is so anxious to adopt, and it must be confessed that any poor satisfaction we might gain from making our neighbours suffer a temporary inconvenience, by compelling them to depend wholly on their own transportation facilities, would scarcely repay us for the loss of what little remains of the trade that had grown up under the Reciprocity Treaty.

In the matter of our relations with the Provinces, the duty of Congress is plain. Under the Reciprocity Treaty which expired in 1865—and which, though unequal in many of its provisions, was far better than none at all—a large and profitable trade was established to the mutual advantage of both countries. What we need is a new treaty of commercial reciprocity that shall re-open the former channels of trade and re-

vive the business that was once mutually advantageous. We need the natural and agricultural products of Canada and the Maritime provinces. They in return need our manufactures, and, from convenience rather than from necessity, a share of our importations. But it is of the utmost importance to both that the international routes of transportation, both rail and water, should be mutually free. The fullest competition between the railroads and canals of both countries is a commercial necessity, and by means of that competition alone can we hope to acquire a practical control of the European markets as an outlet for our surplus products. The one great obstacle to our more rapid commercial progress is the excessive cost of transportation between the West and the seaboard, and by opening the transportation routes on both sides of the St. Lawrence to the fullest and freest competition, we would remove this obstacle in part, if not wholly. We have too much non-intercourse now, and the foolish policy which Butler urges, which the President recommends, and for which Senator Chandler's bill provides, would be only making a bad matter worse. The fisheries dispute may be easily settled, but the only satisfaction we should derive from the threatened policy of non-intercourse which the President is anxious to adopt, would be the infliction of a grievous wrong upon our neighbours for which we shall ourselves suffer in the end far more than they.

The Fenians in Buffalo held a secret meeting, on Friday evening, and reorganized under the name of the Irish National Brotherhood. They are prepared to unite with any Irish organization in the country to take advantage of the pending European complications for the freedom of Ireland. A committee was appointed to take charge of a large amount of military stores secreted in this city.

In describing his travels in Syria, during the trouble between Britain and Egypt in 1841, the late Colonel Napier relates that he was accompanied by a Prussian officer of iron frame and superior ability. He mentions as an instance of his strength of mind, that his cure for any temporary illness was starvation, and he often admired the strength of will with which he carried out his favourite theory.

The circle of time revolves, and the Prussian officer, with the starvation theory of cure, becomes the able leader of the German armies, and the famous Von Moltke. Every strategist must have admired the unity, consummate skill, and iron firmness with which the military plans of Prussia have been carried out. It is admitted that no flaw has yet been discovered in the tactics of the German strategist. But we believe that sufficient attention has not been drawn to the versatility and originality, as well as the rigid unity of his plans.

LUXEMBURG—The future of this Duchy is not apparently to be so easily and so arbitrarily decided as Prussia is represented to have fondly imagined. The King of Holland bravely calls upon the Luxemburgers to unite with him in asserting the honour of his country, and evidently both King and people are not disposed to submit tamely to the rapacity of their powerful neighbour. The selfish designs accredited to Prussia are, however, denied by a Berlin journal, which states that Prussia has determined to submit her complaints respecting the alleged violation of neutrality on the part of the Luxemburgers to arbitration.