

speeches, breaking open magazines and prisons, or, more glorious than all, killing a stray policeman. To treat such men with leniency would be to set the law at defiance and turn courts of justice into a travesty of "Judge and Jury" games familiar to the tap-room.

The most notorious instance of the folly pardoning these reprobates is given in the course of action pursued by Father McMahon since his arrival in the States. At the time of his release we, honestly believing in his innocence of any active participation in the O'Neill fiasco, endorsed the action of the Minister of Justice; but that we were mistaken, in common with many others in Canada, is now placed beyond a doubt, and although we regret his escape from a well merited punishment, we are not sorry for the proof his subsequent conduct has given of the utter folly of showing any leniency to those of his fellows still in our hands or who may hereafter render themselves obnoxious to us. New York, which shows such a brilliant example of Irish rule, is a fitting sphere for McMahon to air his oratory on the everlasting theme of Irish wrongs and "Canadian Brutality" of which he is a well favoured example. The Cooper Institute is a safe place for the display, but should the reverend gentleman again cross our border as chaplain of Fenian forces, he will learn what Canadian justice is like or we are sadly mistaken with regard to the temper of our Volunteers.

It is not through any unworthy feeling of revenge that we make these remarks, but to impress more forcibly upon our government the necessity of dealing with those people with the most unflinching justice. Let those already in prison pay the full penalty of their crime, and should another invasion be attempted let every one of them taken have short shrift, and, depend upon it, we will have but little trouble with them afterwards. Let them once understand how cordial will be the reception they will receive in Canada and the followers of O'Neill will become "gradually small and beautifully less" as they obtain opportunity for the study of the geography of our country. Every individual released so far has demonstrated the mistaken policy of clemency and we must be exceedingly stupid to allow further experiments to be made on that score when those already tried have so completely demonstrated failure almost to foolishness.

When many are striving with equal earnestness for the furtherance of an object of paramount importance, it is but just that every allowance should be made for diversity of opinion. The fighting element of Canada, which consists almost exclusively of its Volunteers, has many noble representatives who, for the good of the country and the service, we wish were also representatives in Parliament. But even were they there we doubt if they would find themselves equal

to the task of obtaining proper consideration for these very people who are now the solitary bulwark to protect that assembly from being like many of its acts, simple humbug. In the admirable letter by "G. W." in our last issue several notes are struck which give the key to the old Canadian Militia tune played with such varying effect by—well we may as well acknowledge the fact—some very poor performers. The points to which we refer will be apparent to those who have perused the letter by the light of their own experience. It is however to another aspect of this Militia question that we wish to devote a small share of attention. Many amusing stories are told of the difficulty of providing suitable professions for younger sons—ineligibles and detriments—whose empty pockets are generally balanced by their equally empty heads. For this class of worthies two professions only are considered open—the church and the army—or, as a promising son expressed it when gazetted to the cavalry about the same time that his brother took possession of a good living, "Gus goes to the Lord and I go to the D—!" In Canada we have something of an analogy to this, only of an infinitely meaner description. There is not a fond youth of less than sixty summers in the broad Dominion who has by repeated experiment proved his utter incapacity for any useful occupation but thinks he is especially cut out for the public service, and, if anything, more particularly for the Militia branch. An invidious critic who may peruse these remarks might here draw his own deductions. One excellent example we possess, however, as an offset to the stupidity and inexperience of these amongst Volunteers who pretend to a knowledge of military matters, and Sir G. E. Cartier has reason to feel gratified at possessing an adviser who is both a lawyer and a soldier, equally capable of acting at the council board or in the field. To him, we believe, the Volunteers are indebted for many of the favours that have been showered upon them of late, and we hope they will appreciate them in a proper spirit. Of course we have much to learn, and, if the oracle speaks correctly, a great deal more to unlearn. Amongst other things that length of service unrequited entitles a man to personal consideration, and that some experience is requisite in one who presumes to give an opinion on professional matters.

The truth is we Canadians are committing a very grave error in imitating in our own way the worst fault of the British military system in having our "army" managed by two heads which from their very nature are far from likely to work with that harmony which should characterise all good government. In England we find the difficulty had become so great in carrying on the management of the land forces that it was found absolutely necessary to establish the "Control system." In Canada the same diffi-

culties must increase until we learn to simplify matters, and we hope application of the lesson will not be delayed till after the sharp punishment of misfortune has left us no alternative.

Our able contemporary *The Broad Arrow* seriously comments upon the utterances of another martial sheet—*The Army and Navy Journal* of New York—concerning the naval power of the United States. Our English brother is evidently unaccustomed to Yankee swagger or he would have passed over the "hundred Alabamas" flourish with a smile. We are aware that our cousins have lately been making prodigious efforts to create a navy, but, despite the imposing figures quoted by the *Journal*, we are content to let them enjoy the pleasing hallucination. Like the man who remarked when his wife beat him that "it pleased her and did not hurt him," we can allow our neighbors to glorify themselves. The "frigates, monitors and good vessels" pleases them and don't hurt us, and we may safely predict they never will.

The policy of Great Britain pursued for the last generation, and alluded to by the *Broad Arrow*, is utterly incomprehensible to, or designedly ignored by, the writers for the United States press. The whole tone of society, public morals and journalism, is infinitely below that of England, and this fact should be taken into consideration when treating of the remarks of their newspapers. *The Army and Navy Journal* is certainly greatly superior to many of its confederates, but it has not escaped the prevailing influence so that nearly all it utters needs to be taken *cum grano salis*.

A GENTLEMAN in Quebec, for whom we entertain a very high regard, has called our attention to a circumstance which occurred at the departure of the 53rd Regiment from that garrison. The account of the affair, as it appeared in the papers at that time, was as follows:—

"It appears that after the regiment had embarked on the *Himalaya*, which was prepared to sail in the evening, Mr. J. B. Parkin, the able legal defender of young Chaloner, had occasion to go on board to see the captain of the troop-ship in his professional capacity, for a client who had had some unsatisfactory business transactions with the captain. His client and notary accompanied him to the vessel which was lying out in the stream. As Mr. Parkin stepped on deck, he was greeted with hisses, derisive epithets and offensive remarks from various knots of officers of the 53rd collected around; and on leaving after accomplishing his business, the same course of insulting conduct was continued—the gallant sons of Mars leaning over the sides and hissing in concert after the shore boat containing the distinguished barrister."

Such conduct as this is, we believe, without a parallel in the annals of the British Army, and no language would be too strong to express condemnation of such conduct. The career of the 53rd in Canada was, to speak