

whole of British America—if they could steal every horse in the country—the release of Ireland, from British rule, would be just as far from being accomplished as ever. If the people of Ireland had ten thousand times the cause of complaint which they have, the raid upon Canada would not help them in the least. Indeed, if the British Government deserved the character which General Sweeney gives it, his outrages in Canada would only have the effect of making British rule in Ireland more oppressive. As it is, the Fenian organization in the States has, by exciting foolish men in Ireland to break the law, procured the transportation of some Irishmen, the imprisonment of others, and the expatriation of others. Possibly this wicked attack upon Canada will, in the same way, do further mischief to those Irishmen whom there is a professed desire to serve.

Gen. Sweeney has no issue with the people of this Province, he says, and wishes to have none but the most friendly relations. It must be a process of reasoning peculiarly Fenian by which a man can reach the conclusion from such premises, that he is justified in invading and plundering our country. It is as if a rowdy said to a peaceful citizen: "I have no quarrel with you, and wish to be on the best of terms with you—therefore I shall knock you down and rob you." We do not believe any other scoundrel ever avowed the wantonness of his outrages quite so clearly before. Gen. Sweeney says: "Our weapons are for the oppressors of Ireland." Yet his proclamation is based on the avowal that he has turned them upon the Canadian people and the supposition that he would succeed in securing a foot-hold in our country. He says: "Our blows shall be directed only at the power of England," and yet he directs them at the people of Canada. He disavows any disposition to divest us of a "solitary right" we now enjoy, and yet sends men to occupy our country and steal our property. He declares that he and his do not come as marauders and robbers, but yet they commit robberies. They are the Irish army of liberation in Sweeney's proclamation, but in practice they are a vulgar band of thieves. There is a great deal in Gen. Sweeney's manifesto about liberty and despotism, democracy and aristocracy, the ballot and the privileges of class, which would be very inappropriate even in reference to a Fenian uprising in Ireland, but which has no more to do with the raid into Canada, than with the last burglary or the last case of sheep stealing. These same Fenians have disgraced democracy, and the ballot enough by the part they have so long played in American politics, but it is too bad for Sweeney to insult his American patrons, by publicly associating their institutions with horse-sterling expeditions. We have encountered a good many hard thrusts at American democracy in the course of our reading, but never a harder one than that made by General Sweeney.

Having declared several times over, that he comes or imagined he would come here, not to fight the Canadian people, but the English Government, Gen. Sweeney threatens us with the direst vengeance if we stir hand or foot while he is overrunning and plundering our country. His war is against England, and "all who raise a hand to defend her," or "to frustrate or defeat" the Fenians, will be regarded as enemies and so treated. As Sweeney knows how to recognize the services of his friends, so he tells us he knows how to punish the depredations of his foes. A pretty sequel that is to the declaration that he wants only friendly relations with us. It is very like the kind assurance of the highwayman,