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# AN ACCOUNT OF THE ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH FENIANISM IN MONTREAL.

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## I.

The Government of Canada, for reasons which they deemed sufficient, have avoided bringing before the ordinary tribunals those persons amongst us who were well known for their complicity in the Fenian conspiracy against the peace and well being of this country. The arrest of Michael Murphy, of Toronto—the Canadian head-centre—and his companions, when actually *en route* to join the Fenian invaders of New Brunswick, in April, 1866, and their preliminary examination before the Cornwall magistracy, was likely to prove an exception to this rule; but the principal prisoners having effected their escape before the term of Queen's Bench arrived, the extent of the ramification of the conspiracy in Canada—or rather the evil industry with which it was attempted to establish it here—has never been clearly exhibited to the public. The same persons engaged in that conspiracy in Montreal having now emerged from their covers—having shown themselves in public as an organization—having decided in secret council who shall and who shall not have freedom of speech in this city; these emissaries, agents and correspondents of the New York Fenians, having attempted to take the destinies of the city under their control by force and violence, Mr. D'Arcy McGee, in defence of the liberties of the city, and in self-defence, has recourse by the present means, to the columns of the public press in order to make known the story of the conspiracy through a medium where, fortunately, free discussion cannot yet be stifled.

## II.

The facts stated in this memoir have reached the writer during the last few years from many sources, but chiefly from old friends in New York, Boston, Chicago, and elsewhere in the United States, opposed on principle to Fenianism. Also from Canadians resident in the United States; also use is made of the reports, circulars and plans of the New York Fenian leaders, copies of which could always be had for a trifling consideration; also of the Irish Fenian trials of 1865-66 and the present year, reports of which are before the writer,