

mere baggage-guard of the English force. The captives were surrendered, and Theodore blew out his own brains when he saw his army dispersed and his stronghold stormed (April, 1868).

Far more important than this trifling war were the domestic troubles of the United Kingdom in 1866-68. Ireland, which had remained in the quiet of exhaustion since the famine of 1845 and Smith O'Brien's fiasco in 1848, was now in one of her periodical fits of effervescence. It was mainly due to encouragement from America: when the Federal armies were disbanded in 1865, thousands of Irishmen, who had gone through the civil war, were thrown upon the world with a good military training and an ingrained hatred for England. Many of them engaged in a scheme for raising rebellion in Ireland, while others undertook to invade Canada in order to distract the attention of the British Government. They had hopes of being able to drag the United States into the turmoil, for the ravages of the *Alabama* and her consorts were bitterly remembered across the Atlantic. Emissaries, who crossed to Ireland, enrolled many thousands of enthusiastic young men in the "Fenian Brotherhood"—an association which took its strange title from the ancient name of the tribal militia of the Celtic kingdoms of the Dark Ages. Attempts, which fortunately failed, were made to tamper with the Irish regiments garrisoned across St. George's Channel. But the inevitable mismanagement, shirking, and treachery, which have distinguished all Irish risings, showed as clearly in 1867 as in 1848 or 1798. The widespread plans of the Fenians ended everywhere in ludicrous failure. Some thousands of them crossed into Canada, only to be easily dispersed by the loyal militia. The United States Government, though it did not take adequate pains to prevent their raids, refused to be drawn into collusion with them. The insurrection in Ireland only burst out at one or two isolated points, instead of spreading over the whole country. It resulted in no more than some ill-planned attacks

The Fenian outbreaks.