

TORONTO, 26th December, 1839.

SIR:

I am commanded by the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and to inform you in reply that His Excellency has communicated with Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, relative to your claim to indemnity on account of the seizure of the "Lord Nelson," in 1812. His Excellency will apprise you of any information on the subject which he may receive from Mr. Fox in answer to his enquiry.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient humb'e Servant,

T. W. C. MURDOCH.

The Hon. JAMES CROOKS, &c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON CITY, 16th April, 1840.

SIR:

Having procured a copy of the Bill which passed the Honorable the House of Representatives, December 14th, 1837, for the relief of myself and my late brother, I beg leave to hand it to you enclosed.

You will perceive that by it no provision was contemplated to indemnify the owners of the Lord Nelson for the heavy expense they have been put to in endeavoring to procure relief, and which, one way or another, amounts to 12 a \$1500. This is the second time I have myself come here on this and no other business, and my late brother came here as often, and my son once. In the first instance, gentlemen of the highest standing at the Bar were employed by us, as the late Mr. Emmett of New York, Mr. Gould of Cooperstown, and others, and I was, immediately after the seizure, obliged to charter a vessel, in conjunction with Judge Porter of Niagara Falls, Manchester, (who had also some vessels seized, but which were restored to him,) to proceed to Sacket's Harbour, but Captain Woolsey refused to give up mine, although I tendered security to abide the issue of any charge that might be produced against her.

I will only further most respectfully remark, that the property having been taken from under our control, and from out of our use without our consent, and that we are placed in our present position by no act of our own, I humbly trust that the liberality of Congress will be evinced by making that reparation to us at this late period, which is so justly our due, in the only way in which it can now be done.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

J. CROOKS.

The Hon. HENRY HUBBARD,

Ch'm. of Com. Claims U. S. Senate, Washington.

COPY.

25TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION.

H. R. 76.

December 14, 1837.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the whole House to morrow. M. E. Whitney, from the Committee of Claims, reported the following:

A BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF WILLIAM CROOKS AND JAMES CROOKS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, assembled, that the Secretary of the Treasury pay to William Crooks and James Crooks, citizens of Canada, or the survivor of them, five thousand dollars, out of any money not otherwise appropriated, the value of a vessel called the Lord Nelson, illegally seized by Lieutenant Woolsey, of the Navy of