

thereto annexed, marked A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, L, O. From a careful examination of the evidence contained in these papers I am of the opinion that the value of the Lord Nelson at the time of her capture may be estimated

at	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$5,000 00
And the value of her cargo at	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,943 76

" Total value of vessel and cargo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>7,943 76</u>
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" The memorial of William and James Crooks, and the papers referred with it to this department, are now returned,

" I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

" MAHLON DICKERSON.

" Hon. SPEAKER

Of the House of Reps. U. S."

Subsequently a bill was reported from the Committee of Claims of the House for the relief of the memorialists ; but, up to this time, there has been no favorable action of the Senate and of the House, at the same session of Congress in relation to the subject.

The committee, not aware of what had taken place with reference to this claim between the 5th of June, 1812, the time of the seizure of the vessel, and the 29th of May, 1824, when it was, for the first time, presented to the consideration of Congress, concluded to address a communication to the State Department, for the purpose of ascertaining what had passed between the British legation and our own Government, upon the subject of this claim ; and of ascertaining, also, under what instructions Lieutenant Woolsey seized and libelled the vessel. And they particularly requested that the Secretary of State would give to the committee all the information which his department could furnish to enable the committee to come to a correct conclusion upon the claim of the memorialists. The committee have received a copy of the general instructions under which Lieutenant Woolsey made this seizure, which is subjoined :

" NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 8, 1812.

" SIR : You will herewith receive a copy of the ' act laying an emhargo, ' &c., passed 4th instant. You will use all the means in your power to enforce this law.

" Advise and co-operate with the collector of the customs.

" The proper objects of seizure, are all vessels acting or found under such circumstances as may satisfy a strong suspicion of their intention to act, in violation of this law.

" In enforcing this law, we are not to violate the territorial jurisdiction of a foreign state.

" All vessels seized under this law are to be sent into port for adjudication ; the papers found on board of them are to be placed in the hands of the district attorney, who will thereupon proceed according to law.

" P. HAMILTON,

" M. T. WOOLSEY, Lieu't Commandant,

" Brig Oneids, Sackett's Harbor, New York."

The committee have received from the Secretary of State a communication in answer to their letter, of which the following is a copy :

" DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

" Washington, April 23, 1840.

" SIR : I have received, with accompanying documents, your letter of the 21st instant, asking to be furnished with the views, generally, of this department