

This conspiracy included many wealthy citizens and officers of the general and state governments; possessed of great resources in money and military stores. It extended from Maine to Michigan, and was conducted by associations resembling masonic lodges.

Lowest estimate of confederates 40,000.

National bank established on intended seizure of public and private property in the province. Officers of "New Republic" citizens of United States.

Superior lodges at Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit and Cincinnati.

Nine steam-boats on Lake Erie in use of pirates.

His Excellency assumed the responsibility of immediately embodying the militia.

This promptness of the Lieutenant-governor, under Providence, saved the province from much bloodshed and misery.

Mr. Fox instantly called upon the United States government to vindicate its honour;

which conduct of Mr. Fox places Her Majesty's subjects under the deepest obligations;

though his admonitions have been disregarded.

Discovery of the conspirators greatly disconcerted them.

An armed force enters Lower Canada early in November;

but defeated in every conflict with the loyalists and British soldiers.

Insurrections at Beauharnois and other places promptly suppressed by Sir J. Colborne.

Conspirators determine on an attack on this province.

"United States" steam-boat and two schooners employed by the pirates on Lake Ontario. 600 men, with artillery, muskets, &c. embarked at Oswego and other American ports, in open day, in sight of their public officers.

Descent upon Prescott on 12th November.

Not more than half the invaders landed, the rest returned to Ogdensburg.

The arrival of a force from Kingston, commanded by Col. Dundas.

The American troops, and a naval force under Capt. Sandom, prevented the return of the pirates.

The pirates made a stand, resisted the militia and regulars, and killed and wounded a number of them;

but had to surrender: 200 of them taken prisoners to Kingston.

This descent on Prescott, in concert with the movement of brigands in Lower Canada and in the west.

It was clearly ascertained that a secret combination or conspiracy, of vast extent, including many of the most wealthy citizens of the Republic, as well as officers of the general and state governments, and possessed of great resources in money and military stores, was then in active progress, and had been for some months on foot within the jurisdiction of the United States, for the purpose of waging war upon both provinces of Canada. This combination extended from Maine to Michigan, and was carried on by means of local associations resembling masonic lodges, formed in every town and village along the frontier. The lowest estimate of the numbers of the confederates was 40,000; and the depositions of some of the informants, who had been admitted into the secret of the conspirators, carried the number very much higher. A pretended national bank was organized, to be established and maintained by the seizure of public and private property in the provinces; and the chief officers who were to compose the "New Republic" were chosen and determined upon, all of them being citizens of the United States.

The superior lodges of the conspirators were established at Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit and Cincinnati; arms and warlike stores were purchased to a very large amount, and secreted in different places; and the services of at least nine steam-boats on Lake Erie, as well as of several on Lake Ontario, were secured by the leaders in this felonious association.

With a promptness and resolution for which the loyal people of this province will ever feel grateful, his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor lost not a moment in assuming the responsibility of calling upon and embodying a militia force, sufficient to repel any invasion, no matter in what numbers, that might be attempted by the enemy. And to this noble and patriotic conduct, promptly sanctioned as it was by the Commander of the Forces, the loyal people of this province at least, and probably those of Lower Canada also, are, under Providence, indebted for their preservation from scenes of bloodshed and misery which humanity shudders to contemplate.

Communications were at the same time transmitted to Mr. Fox, Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, informing him of the dangers with which the provinces were threatened. This distinguished gentleman instantly called upon the American government to vindicate its national honour, and effectually to interpose the authority of its laws to put down the atrocious combination, and punish the guilty conspirators, whose names and places of residence they were fully apprized of. Your committee are merely giving expression to the feeling universally entertained by Her Majesty's subjects, that Mr. Fox has placed these provinces under the deepest obligations for the vigour, straightforward manliness and statesman-like ability, with which, on the occasion referred to, as well as in many preceding instances, he has vindicated their claims to the interference of the United States government to protect them from outrage on the part of its citizens. That his admonitions have been disregarded, and that his exertions have proved unsuccessful, in no respect diminishes his claim to our gratitude and thanks.

The timely discovery of the designs of the conspirators, and the preparations made in consequence for their reception, no doubt greatly disconcerted their schemes; and it was at one time believed that they would altogether abandon them. The reverse, however, proved to be the fact. Acting in concert with that portion of the Lower Canadians who were resolved on making another effort at revolution, an armed force entered Lower Canada early in November, composed of American citizens and a few Canadian refugees. In every instance in which they came in conflict with the Loyalists and British soldiers, they were defeated and dispersed; and the feeble insurrection which occurred about the same time at Beauharnois and a few other places, was promptly suppressed by the vigorous measures adopted by his Excellency Sir John Colborne.

Unsubdued, and apparently still confident in their strength and resources, the conspirators determined on an attack upon this province; and having obtained the assistance of the largest American steam-boat on Lake Ontario, called the "United States," and two large schooners, they embarked at Oswego and other ports and places along the American frontier, to the number, as it is asserted, of about 600, well provided with artillery, muskets, ammunition and provisions, all which must have been obtained at great expense, and which were put on board the different vessels publicly, and in open day, without interruption by any magistrate or other public officer.

With this force, headed by an American citizen of the name of Birge, and the same bandit who had led the pirates that destroyed the "Sir Robert Peel," a descent was made on the Canadian shores near Prescott on the 12th of November. It appears that from some cause not clearly explained, not more than half the number of invaders who had been collected for this expedition landed at Prescott, the rest crossed over to Ogdensburg, a considerable town immediately opposite; and before any second attempt was made by them to reach our shores, a force arrived from Kingston, commanded by Colonel Dundas of the 83d Regiment, and a detachment of American troops under Colonel Worth, from Sackett's Harbour, came down, which, with the small naval force under Captain Sandom, prevented their joining their ill-fated associates. These latter, finding no hope of escape, resisted the gallant militia, soldiers, sailors and marines who had hurried to attack them; and having gained an advantageous post, killed and wounded a considerable number of them. At last, however, the piratical invaders surrendered at discretion, and such as remained alive, nearly 200 in number, were brought to Kingston and lodged in the Fort there.

There is no doubt that this descent upon Prescott was intended to be in concert, not only with the movements of the conspirators and brigands in Lower Canada, but also with those which had been planned in the west. In this there was some disappointment; but regardless