

your best endeavours with the U. S. Government to cause immediate and ample justice being done.

I have the Honor to be Your Excellency's

Most obedient and most humble servant,

J. CROOKS.

His Excellency HENRY S. FOX, Her Majesty's Minister Washington.

COPY.

TORONTO, 17th December, 1839.

SIR :

Towards the close of the last Session of the Provincial Parliament, His Excellency the Lieut. Governor did me the favor to address Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, in regard to a claim I have upon the American Government, for the value of a vessel called the Lord Nelson, owned by myself and a brother now deceased, and seized by an armed vessel of the United States, a few days before the declaration of War in 1812, upon Lake Ontario, but it appears by a conversation with Mr. Fox by my son, who repaired to Washington late in the past month, on his way to England, that he (Mr. Fox,) had never received His Excellency's communication, or had forgotten it.

Since the Peace of 1815, I have never ceased to prosecute my claim, and at last obtained the judgment of the United States Court, having jurisdiction of such cases, in my favor, but it was then discovered that the Clerk of the said Court had absconded with this and other monies, so that the amount remains to this day unpaid.

At the Session of Congress before the last a Bill passed the House of Representatives providing for the payment of my claim—also the committee on claims of the Senate, but at the close of the Session it was lost in the Senate by a majority of five.

It is unnecessary to trouble his Excellency the Governor General with the details of this matter, knowing as I do the multiplicity of public business which engages his attention, nor would I have obtruded myself upon his Excellency's attention at this time were it not that my Agent at Washington is again pressing this claim before Congress, and were His Excellency to bring it under the notice of Mr. Fox, who is in possession of all the documents, I do hope that justice will at last be done me : The loss now amounts to 4 or £5000. I do not mean that the ambassador should at present be requested to interfere officially, hoping as I do that his influence with the Executive Government of the United States, who have always thought favorably of the claim, will accomplish the desired result. If, however, I am disappointed in this, the time will have come to claim the interference of Her Majesty's Government in protecting its subjects against Foreign aggression in their lawful dealings ; for it must be evident that no individual, however strong his case, (and that this is one than which none can be stronger) can compel a Foreign Government to do him justice, is too evident to require any argument in support of it.

I beg further to state, that at the last Session of the Legislature of this Province, this matter formed part of an address to Her Majesty from the Legislative Council, passed 25th April last.

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

(Signed)

J. CROOKS.

T. W. CLINTON MURDOCH, Esq.,

Chief Secretary to His Excellency the Governor General.