

Office,
8th, 1838.

(Official.)

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, DETROIT,
January 9th, 1838. 21 44

GENTLEMEN,

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1838.
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The controversy now pending in the Province of Upper Canada, and immediately on the frontier of this State, is beginning to assume so serious a character, that I deem it my duty officially to communicate to you my positive relatives and duties in the premises. Heretofore I have as an individual, rather than in my official capacity, expressed to you and others my desire to preserve the friendly relations existing between the Government of the United States and that of Great Britain, but in the ground now taken, I maintain the position of Governor of a sovereign and independent State of the American confederacy. I will abide by it, and give you my assurance that I will not abandon that position. You are perhaps well aware, that the General Government of the United States is composed of separate and independent States, with certain delegated powers to the Federal Head—amongst these delegated powers are all the relatives of peace and war and intercourse with foreign nations. In furtherance of the powers which have been surrendered by the States, the General Government have enacted certain laws for the preservation of neutrality, and the guarantees of the faith of treaties between itself and other Governments. The executive of these laws does not belong immediately to the State Authorities, but is vested in a District Judge, District Attorney and Marshal, of the United States; when these Officers call on me as the Executive of the State of Michigan, conveying the information that the process of the United States Courts cannot be enforced without executive aid, my official duties begin, and not till then, but on every occasion when the contingency stated arises, you will find the constituted authorities of Michigan prompt and ready to discharge every duty incumbent upon them by the laws of their country.

In obedience to the requisition made on the Executive of this State, I have ordered the Marshal of the United States for this District, to enforce the process of this Court, and have dispersed* the armed force stated by you to have been assembled within the jurisdiction of this State, in violation of the Acts of Congress of the United States. It will therefore readily occur to you, that all further communication on this unpleasant subject must be addressed to the District Attorney of the United States. In reply to the immediate enquiries of your letter, I must state that whilst all persons proceeding from this State and found in arms within the jurisdiction of the Province of Upper Canada, have lost all claim to the protection of the laws of the United States, and of this State, and whilst all intercourse between the United States and foreign powers belong to the Federal Government, I cannot permit, without resistance, any invasion upon the soil of the sovereign and independent State over which I preside as Chief Magistrate.

I am respectfully, Your Obed't. Serv't.

(Signed)

STEVENS T. MASON,

* They were dispersed for a few hours, but soon all collected together again.

(Signed) J. PRINCE.

† Meaning my request that he would allow us to attack and take the Schooner anchored on their shore.

(Signed) J. P.

(Copy.)

CHIPPEWA,

January 16th, 1838.

e Serv't.
N PRINCE.

ry 9th, 1838.

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of the same date

T. MASON.

Sir,
Captain Drew, of the Royal Navy, who commands the Naval Department here, in the service of Her Majesty, has just informed me, that he has received a letter from you, stating that Her Majesty's Schooners are anchored in the waters of the United States, and that you anticipate a breach of neutrality between the two Nations.

I have the honor to inform you, that the rebels in arms against Her Majesty's Government abandoned Navy Island on the night of the 14th instant; that their arms and munitions of war are now on board the Barcelona Steam Vessel, in the Port of Whitehaven, Grand Island, and that it is the intention of the rebels to proceed in the same vessel to effect a landing in the western part of Upper Canada;—under these circumstances, it is my duty to watch the rebels, and to endeavour, by every possible and legal means, to arrest their progress, and to prevent their carrying their designs against Her Majesty's Government into execution.