

themselves of their duties to others. And in announcing this sentiment, I do but affirm a principle which no nation on earth would be more ready to vindicate at all hazards than the people and government of Great Britain. If, upon a full investigation of all the facts, it shall appear, that the owner of the *Caroline* was governed by a hostile intent, or had made common cause with those who were in the occupancy of Navy Island, then so far as he is concerned, there can be no claim to indemnity for the destruction of his boat, which the government would feel itself bound to prosecute, since he would have acted not only in derogation of the rights of Great Britain, but in clear violation of the laws of the United States. But that is a question, which, however settled, in no manner involves the higher consideration of the violation of the laws of territorial sovereignty and jurisdiction. To recognise it as an admissible practice, that each government in its turn, upon any sudden and unauthorised outbreak on a frontier, the extent of which renders it impossible for either to have an efficient force on every mile of it, and which outbreak, therefore, neither may be able to suppress in a day, may take vengeance into its own hands, and without even a commission, and in the absence of any pressing or overruling necessity, may lead them to violate the territory of another, would inevitably lead to results equally to be deplored by both.

“ When border collisions come to receive the sanction, or to be made on the authority of either government, general war must be the inevitable result. While it is the ardent desire of the United States to cultivate the relations of peace with all nations, and to fulfil all the