

able to Great Britain for the whole amount of the damage sustained both public and private, for the recovery of the territory, and the reparation of individual loss. If on the other hand, which is more probable, the invading armament be repulsed, is it possible to suppose, that the victorious party, exposed to such unheard of enormous provocation, will always have the forbearance to respect the American boundary, from within which a lawless and unprincipled enemy will have been enabled to advance? Is it possible to believe that a horde of Ruffians and Brigands shall be permitted, again and again, to issue forth from within the territory of the United States, for the ruin of Her Majesty's subjects, and still, when repulsed, to shelter themselves at pleasure beneath the same extorted and abused protection? I allude not to these things for the purpose of arguing, prematurely, the question either of the right of self defence, or of national reparation: I speak only of the probability of events; and out of either of the cases above supposed there would arise national discussions and disputes, of which it is painful to contemplate the issue, painful to those who desire as cordially as I do, to behold a long continuance of peace and friendship between England and America. It is by timely and instant measures of prevention, under the authority of the Supreme Government, that the mutual calamities, now imminent, may be averted.

I have the honor to be,
&c. &c.

(Signed) H. S. FOX.

(Mr. FORSYTH to Mr. FOX)

Washington, Nov. 15th 1838.

SIR,

The President, to whom has been submitted the note addressed by you to the acting Secretary of State of the 3rd instant, conveying information of a secret conspiracy supposed to exist within the confines and jurisdiction of the United States, for the purpose of waging war upon the British Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada,—has instructed me to make the following reply to it.

The Government of the United States has regarded with the deepest anxiety, the unfortunate disturbances which have recently taken place in Her Majesty's possessions adjoining the Northern Frontier of these States, and has spared no exertions whilst enjoining upon their citizens, a proper sense of their obligations to prevent by all legitimate means, any interference on their part in the affairs of their Canadian neighbours. That measures of this nature were promptly adopted by the President, upon the occasion referred to, you are well aware, as also how far they have proved successful. Prompted by the same feeling, the reports which have reached this city of apprehended hostile movements against Canada from within the American Territory, whether received through official or other channels, have been scanned with lively interest by the executive; and although the examination has resulted in a conviction that the circumstances detailed in them are of a highly exaggerated character, every precaution that the most watchful prudence can suggest; and perfect good faith towards a friendly nation dictate, has been, and will continue to be taken, to avert the threatened mischief.

If an organized combination against any foreign Government entertaining the lawless designs attributed to that described in your note of the 3rd instant, exists within the jurisdiction of this Government, it is the duty of the United States, as well to themselves as to that foreign Government, to use their best endeavours to suppress it. In the determination to fulfil this acknowledged obligation the Government of the United States cannot with propriety, take into consideration the contingent consequences on discussions to which you have alluded; and the President is pleased to find, that you have properly omitted to argue, so prematurely, questions of the right of self defence, or national reparation, in reference to circumstances that have not happened, and which it is hoped will never occur.

From the evidence in the possession of this department, highly coloured in its details as much of it unquestionably is, there is certainly room to fear that some attempts may be made during the approaching winter, to excite disturbances in Her Majesty's Canadian Provinces. No serious uneasiness as to their result can well be entertained. Such attempts must necessarily prove abortive. And the President is unwilling to believe it possible that any difficulties in the friendly relations subsisting between the United States and Great Britain, will be permitted to spring from such a source. Every thing in the power of this Government to do, will be done, to prevent a result so much to be deprecated; and the President is quite sure, that our efforts to that end will meet with the cordial and efficient co-operation of Her Majesty's Authorities. It will require the exercise of great discretion, as well as the utmost vigilance of the officers of both Governments, to counteract the design apparently existing to involve the two countries in a war. Predatory incursions, and acts of violence on each side of the boundary, will probably be the principal means resorted to, to effect this criminal purpose. The utter impracticability of placing a Frontier, extending nearly one thousand miles, in a military attitude sufficiently imposing and effective, to prevent such enterprises is evident. Regular military armaments, and the movement of armed bands to any considerable extent from the American side of the line, will I think be successfully repressed; and all other hostile preparations will also be diverted, as far as that object can be accomplished by the active employment of the means at the disposal of this Government. Whilst thus performing all its duties in this regard, it will expect that under no pretext whatever, will the officers in command of Her Majesty's forces permit a violation of the Territory of the United States. Such a step could not fail to have a most injurious effect on the friendly relations at present so happily subsisting between the two countries; and might to the deep regret of both parties, lead to their entire disruption. If any armed bodies of men should take refuge within or otherwise enter the Territory of the United States, they will be immediately disarmed, or expelled by force; and if any American citizen shall have so far forgotten his duty, as to enrol himself among armed bands that shall have crossed our frontier, after being disarmed, he will be arrested, and delivered over to the civil Author-