

must know will be the inevitable consequence of the prisoners, discharge. Remember, if you set them at liberty, you justify, so far as you have it in your power, the atrocious crimes committed at St. Albans; and again open the door to a repetition of similar offences. Discharge those prisoners, and others will be found wicked enough to imitate their example. And what will be the result? Can you suppose for a moment that the United States will tamely submit to see their citizens on the frontier, robbed and murdered by Southern desperadoes, issuing from, and protected under the laws of Canada, without striking a blow. Would we quietly submit to such outrage under like circumstances? Suppose, for example, that Ireland was in a state of rebellion against England, that twenty Irishmen during its continuance had crossed the Atlantic, had found their way to St. Albans, and from there had secretly introduced themselves into the city of Montreal, had robbed our banks, shot down our citizens, and then fled with their plunder to St. Albans. What, I ask, would the law abiding people of Canada say, if, to a demand for their extradition as robbers and murderers, the United States replied: That the perpetrators of these crimes committed them without criminal intent—that the state of war existing at the time between England and Ireland, sanctified their proceedings, and that as the accused claimed to be belligerents and asserted that they murdered and robbed the good people of Montreal, in the name of rebellious Ireland, all further enquiry must cease, the Treaty never having contemplated the prevention of such gallant and patriotic achievements. Would we, I ask, rest content with such answer to our demand. Or would we not, on the contrary, regard with abhorrence, nay, with the most profound contempt, the people and the judiciary of the country who entertained such perverted views of national obligations—who sanctioned such infamous outrages? I would also beg to remind your Honor that although you have supreme control over this application for extradition, and may dispose of it in any manner you please, nevertheless, the expressed will of the Government ought not, in a matter of this great national and