

was, that the act was committed "by a portion of the British forces stationed at Chippewa, and that it was planned and executed with the knowledge and approbation of the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, and that it was the invasion of the territory and sovereignty of an independent nation by the armed forces of a friendly Power;" and the specific demand Mr. Stevenson made was, that "the whole proceeding should be disavowed and disapproved, and that such redress, as the nature of the case obviously required, should be promptly made by the British Government." The Undersigned, therefore, maintains that the very contents of Mr. Stevenson's Note of 1838 preclude the United States' Government from attempting to make Mr. McLeod, or any other British subject, personally answerable for any share they may be supposed to have had in the destruction of the "Caroline;" and that Mr. Forsyth was mistaken in saying, as he did in his Note to Mr. Fox of the 26th of December, 1840, that up to that time the United States' Government had no authentic announcement that the destruction of the "Caroline" was a public act of persons in Her Majesty's service obeying the order of their superior authorities. For Mr. Forsyth would have found that authentic announcement in the Note of his own Plenipotentiary, presented in pursuance of instructions from himself, so long ago as May, 1838. But while, on the one hand, the Undersigned contends that the United States' Government knew, in the early part of 1838, that Her Majesty's Government thought the destruction of the "Caroline" a justifiable act; on the other hand, the Undersigned begs to state, that Her Majesty's Government, by continuing to give no reply to the demand made in Mr. Stevenson's Note of May, 1838, was, in fact, practically declining to comply with that demand; and the only legitimate inference which the United States' Government could draw from that silence was, that Her Majesty's Government adhered to the opinion which it had originally expressed.

It appears then from Mr. Stevenson's statement that for nearly three years the United States Government acquiesced in the silence of Her Majesty's Government on this subject; for though in October, 1839, Mr. Forsyth stated as a reason for not pressing Her Majesty's Government for an answer, that the President had been led by some conversation of Mr. Fox to expect the British answer without any further delay; yet that reason necessarily ceased with the further lapse of time, and could not be said to have held good, as long as till the beginning of 1840.

Mr. Stevenson, moreover, specifically states in his note of the 31st ultimo, that during the whole interval between the date of his note of May, 1838, and the time when the arrest of Mr. McLeod became known in England, in February, 1841, no communication ever took place between himself and the Undersigned, on the subject of the "Caroline." Now, as neither Mr. Stevenson, nor the late President Van Buren, have ever shown themselves deficient in watchful and active attention to all matters in which the just rights of the United States have been concerned, the Undersigned conceives that he has not much erred in supposing, as stated by him in his former communication, that this long and intentional silence of the United States' Government, and of its Minister at this Court upon the subject of the "Caroline," arose from the considerations to which the Undersigned adverted in that Note.

In hazarding that supposition, it seems to the Undersigned that he has assumed nothing but what is highly honourable to the Government of the United States; and that he has only imagined that Government to have been guided by the same feelings of conciliation, which the Undersigned begs to assure Mr. Stevenson have invariably animated the Government of Her Majesty in all its dealings and intercourse with Mr. Stevenson, and with the Government which Mr. Stevenson has so ably and so honourably represented at this Court.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.