

The object I have in view is to prevent the rebels who have lately been in arms against Her Britannic Majesty upon Navy Island, and who have now taken shelter upon Grand Island, a territory of the United States, from effecting a landing in any part of the Province of Upper Canada; and for this purpose I have made such a disposition of the force under my command as will most effectually perform that service.

With reference to the vessels of Her Majesty being anchored in your waters, I have always understood, that so long as Great Britain and the United States were at peace and amity, that the right of the full navigation of the River Niagara belonged to each power; and if I have suffered an infringement upon any international law, I beg you will do me the favor to refer me to it.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

ANDREW DREW,

Commander in the Royal Navy,
Commanding Naval Brigade.

(Signed)

To GENERAL SCOTT, &c. &c. &c.

Commanding the Forces of the United States, &c. &c. &c.

HEAD QUARTERS, CHIPPEWA,

18th January, 1838.

(Copy.)

SIR,

The correspondence which has taken place between you and Captain Drew of the Royal Navy, during my short absence from this frontier, where I have the honor of commanding Her Majesty's Naval and Militia Forces, having been laid before me by that Officer, I beg to offer a few observations upon it.

You state that you, with His Excellency the Governor of New York, are near Black Rock, with troops at hand, to enforce the neutrality of the United States, and to protect your own soil and waters from violation—that the proper civil authorities are also present to arrest, "if practicable," the leaders of "the expedition" on foot against Upper Canada—that under these circumstances it gives you "pain" to perceive the armed vessels of Her Britannic Majesty anchored in your waters, with the probable intention to fire upon that "expedition" moving within the same waters—that unless that expedition shall first attack, in which case you will interfere, you will be obliged to consider a discharge of shot or shells "from or into" your waters, from the armed schooners of Her Majesty, as an act seriously compromising the neutrality of the two Nations—that you hope, therefore, that no such unpleasant incident may occur.

With regard to your views of the right of the expedition referred to, to pass up the Niagara River, near your shores, unmolested by the Forces under my command, I beg to enter my most decided protest. The waters of the Niagara River, for the purposes of Navigation, are, as Captain Drew has very properly said, common to the inhabitants of Great Britain and the United States, so long as these powers are at peace with each other; and that being the case, I cannot understand why the schooners under my command, and anchored in the river, have not the right to capture and destroy any expedition on foot against Upper Canada, and moving upon the waters of that river, whether on the one side or the other, or exactly in the centre of the stream. My own opinion is that they have that right, and had it not been for an unfortunate misapprehension of the orders given by Captain Drew, to the Officer in command of the schooners, that right would most assuredly have been exercised.

The second paragraph of your letter appears to me so much at variance with that neutrality which, in my humble opinion, should be observed upon the present occasion by Officers of the United States, that I cannot refrain from making a remark or two upon it.

I cannot understand why it should give an Officer of a neutral power "pain" to observe an intention on our part to punish the actors in an "expedition on foot" against this Province. It appears to me, that such an intention should rather give pleasure than pain to an Officer

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