

glory it now holds. Great Britain took a decided and determined stand on the latter course; British troops, and military stores of all kinds were forwarded to Canada; and on the first day of December, a Queen's Messenger was sent with a despatch to Lord Lyons (then British Ambassador at Washington), requiring him to demand the restitution to the protection of the British flag of those who were violently and illegally torn from that sacred asylum, and also an apology from the United States Government.

War seemed imminent, and it behoved the Canadians, colonists though they were, to prepare for eventualities. Preparations for defence were everywhere made throughout the Province. Volunteer companies were being formed rapidly from as hardy a population as the world can show, that only required drill, discipline, and arms, to create a force on which we could confidently rely, and proudly point to in the hour of danger as guardians of cherished principles, protectors of unexampled liberties, and the defenders of as fine a country as earth can show. But on the last day of the year, by instructions from the British Government, the steamship *Rinaldo* called off Boston harbor, and on the morning of the 1st of January the United States authorities despatched one of their own steamers from Fort Warren with Messrs. Mason, Slidell, and their Secretaries, on board. Having delivered them into the charge of the Commander of the *Rinaldo*, that steamer sailed for Bermuda, and on her arrival in that port transferred them to the West Indian mail