

Your committee feel that this statement of the truth of the case is not necessary to vindicate the legality of the destruction of the boat, but simply to remove the imputation that unnecessary severity was exercised towards the persons on board of her, or that in any possible case her destruction was not fully justified.

Repeated appeals have been made to the United States government for the punishment of the brigands, without effect. They have manifested a contrary disposition, and look with satisfaction on the attempts made to sever the colonies from the Crown.

England should be constantly and plainly apprized of American policy.

The feelings adverted to, mainly induced the recent movements in Maine.

It has been with feelings of the deepest concern, and, at times, of indignation, that the loyal people of the Canadas have observed the apathy of the government of the United States, notwithstanding the repeated appeals that have been made to them, in restraining and punishing the brigands who are within its reach. It is a fact not only undeniable, but almost universally admitted, that the conduct of the United States is, and from the beginning has been, such as to show that they regarded with satisfaction rather than disapprobation, the attempts made to sever these colonies from the British Crown; and although your committee do not feel authorized to advance their individual opinions as those of your honourable House, when they state their conviction, that there is a very strong desire among the American people and government to expel monarchical institutions from this continent, yet they believe that the indications of this desire are so obvious, that our gracious Sovereign and the British nation should be constantly and plainly apprized of them by those who have the best opportunities of watching them, and stating them with confidence.

Your committee believe, that the feeling to which they have adverted has mainly induced the recent extraordinary movements in Maine, and the sudden and unexpected assertion of the general government, that the exclusive jurisdiction over the disputed territory on our eastern boundary does not belong to Great Britain, but that the State of Maine was fully justified in taking possession of it by force of arms. If reference were made to the mere inconvenience that would result from the impunity with which crimes of the most atrocious character might be committed in a country over which no ascertained legal jurisdiction extends, it would be enough to decide the necessity of leaving the territory in dispute under the control of laws by which it had always been governed; but the people and government of the United States are insensible to this or any other consideration that comes in conflict with their designs on the possessions of the British Crown. They well knew, and cannot deny, that the territory in dispute has always been under the jurisdiction of Great Britain; and they are equally sensible that the settlement of the true line dividing the two countries has never been retarded or evaded by the English Government, but that the fault, if there be any, is wholly on their side. Notwithstanding which, at a moment when it is believed dissensions exist in the colonies, warlike possession is taken of a part of the country that has always been claimed by, and which has ever been in the possession of, Great Britain, and which, if ceded, will completely cut off the land communication of the British North American colonies with each other; and the moment this most unjustifiable aggression is committed, Congress, in compliance with a recommendation from the President, passes a law authorizing him to employ the army and navy and militia of the Republic to resist any attempts on the part of Great Britain to enforce by arms her claims to exclusive jurisdiction over what?—over that part of “the State of Maine!” which is in dispute between the United States and Great Britain. This enactment would settle the whole matter if submitted to, since it assumes that the territory in dispute is part of “the State of Maine,” leaving further argument or proof on the part of Great Britain wholly out of the question.

Confidence that Her Majesty will not allow the rights of her subjects to be sacrificed.

The people of New Brunswick cannot be transferred to another power without their own consent.

Continuance of this protection essential to our peace and safety. Spirit of the United States still bent on further aggressions.

Indemnity to the owners of Sir Robert Peel strongly urged.

Your committee would exceed their province, if they ventured an opinion, however remote, of the course which Her Majesty may take in reference to this unexpected interference with Her undoubted sovereignty; but they may venture to express on behalf of their brave and generous fellow-subjects of New Brunswick their firm conviction, that not the smallest portion of their rights will be sacrificed to the cupidity of an encroaching and presumptuous opponent.—And on behalf of themselves and of the loyal inhabitants of Lower Canada, they can only say, that the surrender of the territory claimed by the United States could not fail imminently to endanger the connexion of these colonies with the parent state; and most earnestly do they hope that a concession so unfounded and ruinous will never be made. Neither can it be forgotten by colonists, nor will it be overlooked by the British Government, that no compromise can take place which will have the effect of transferring any portion of Her Majesty's subjects to a foreign power. The people of New Brunswick may be released from their allegiance and cast off from the mother country, but they cannot be transferred and rendered subject to another power without their own consent. The true line, and that only, must determine to what nation they belong.

Your committee, having thus adverted to the events of most prominent importance that have occurred during the last year, feel called upon to impress upon your honourable House the necessity—a painful one it certainly is—of assuring our gracious Queen, that while Her loyal subjects in these provinces acknowledge with the deepest gratitude the efficient protection extended to them by the large military force that has been stationed in the country, they are bound to reiterate the opinion expressed in the report of your honourable House of the last session, that the continuance of this protection is essential to their future peace and safety, not, however, from the slightest apprehension of internal revolt, but “because the government of the United States either wants the inclination or the ability to compel its citizens to yield obedience to the laws of nature and of nations;” and because we believe these citizens are still ferociously bent on repeating the aggressions from which we have already so severely suffered.

Your committee further earnestly recommend that your honourable House should bring under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government the just and undoubted right of the owners of the Sir Robert Peel steamer to prompt and complete indemnity for the felonious destruction of that vessel in American waters by American citizens. It has occasioned some surprise