

moment in active progress, within the confines and jurisdiction of the United States, for the purpose of waging war upon Her Majesty's Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. The combination extends along the whole line of the Canadian Frontier, from Maine and Vermont to the state of Michigan, it extends also far into the interior of the States of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio; and likewise into the neighboring state of Kentucky. It is affirmed, and believed, that 40,000 American citizens are already enrolled in this criminal association. The above is the lowest estimate: the depositions of some of the informants carry the numbers to a much greater extent. To these are joined a few vagrant Canadian refugees, the number of the American conspirators is daily and hourly increasing. The plot is carried on by means of masonic lodges, secretly established in almost every town along the Frontier, the members of which communicate with each other by private signs, and are divided into several grades of initiation. A complete system of these secret signs, as well as the cypher or secret alphabet, by means of which the associates correspond in writing, is in the hands of Her Majesty's Authorities. The regular organization has been completed of a pretended provisional Government for Upper Canada, with assumed official rank and commissions, both civil and military. The names description and residences of the chief individuals composing this pretended Government who are American Citizens, are also in the possession of the British Authorities.

A pretended national Bank of Canada has also been organized, to be established and maintained by the seizure and plunder of the public property. The superior Lodges of the Association are believed to be situated in the Towns of Rochester, Buffalo, and Detroit: a grand central Lodge; or convention of Delegates is held in Cleveland; another considerable Lodge is situated at Cincinnati. Arms and Warlike Stores are secreted at various points; and the conspirators also reckon, that with their present force and number, and complete organization, they will have no difficulty in again forcing and plundering the United States and State Armies, whenever the time for showing themselves in Arms shall have arrived. No less than nine Steam Boats, of those that ply regularly upon Lake Erie, the names of which are in the possession of the British Authorities, have been engaged for the service of the conspirators. I am afraid there is no doubt that a number of Magistrates, Justices of the Peace, and State officers of the above mentioned States are involved in the present flagitious enterprise.

The direct objects of this vast combination are, to invade and conquer Upper and Lower Canada, to subvert and revolutionize the established Government of those Provinces, and to wrest them from the rightful dominion of the British Crown. These are the designs of the chief directors of the plot; but it is probable that a large majority of their followers have enlisted in the scheme, for the sole purpose of rapine and plunder. The particular mode and time of operation do not appear to have been yet determined upon by the conspirators, but will be made to depend upon circumstances, and the accidental course of events.

The above particulars, a large portion of which is already known to the United States Government, are derived from private information, received through various channels by Her Majesty's Authorities in Canada. The evidence which has been already submitted to Her Majesty's Authorities, and also to myself, is of such a nature that we can entertain no doubt whatever of its truth. There may possibly be error and exaggeration in some of the details, which must usually happen when secret machinations are to be detected and dealt with, but the general truth of the information admits of no doubt whatever.

In this critical state of things the immediate interference of the supreme authority of the Republic, can alone avert the most terrible and afflicting consequences: and I do solemnly appeal to the President and Government of the United States effectually to suppress this lawless association, which is plotting the destruction of Her Majesty's Provinces and fearfully hazarding the peace of both countries. Vast hordes of banditti and assassins are maturing their plans for the desolation and ruin of a British Territory: they are engaged in this work within the jurisdiction of the United States where no British authority can reach them,—but where Her Majesty's authorities rely confidently upon the friendship and honor of the United States themselves, to exert the necessary power. It would not be fit for me to suggest modes of proceeding: but surely there must reside somewhere in every well constituted state, the power to prevent those who live under its laws, from persisting in the perpetration of violent and atrocious wrong against a friendly foreign people.

I must observe that the present crisis in no way resembles an ordinary case of Neutrality between contending foes; between parties contending in open and legitimate war. Neither is this a case of Neutrality as between a Government and its rebellious subjects. No rebellion or civil war is now raging in Canada; nor has been for nearly a twelve-month past. The insurrection of last winter, in Lower Canada, was suppressed in a few weeks; the insurrection in Upper Canada was suppressed in a few days. Yet from that time to this, Her Majesty's Provinces have been kept in an almost constant state of warlike alarm, by attempts and projects of invasion from abroad; the invaders being the citizens of a friendly Republic, of a country with whose Government Great Britain is at peace. Her Majesty's subjects are exposed to the inconvenience and expense, the hazard and suffering of a state of war, while they are precluded from retaliating or making just reprisal upon their enemy. That enemy is enabled, again and again, to mature his plans of aggression within the confines of a friendly power, whose laws, from some incompressible reason he still continues to evade or over-rule. I have here presented no exaggerated picture of the extraordinary state of things, which we have witnessed during the last twelve months upon the Canadian frontier. It is true that whenever actual invasion has been attempted, the attempt has been quickly repelled by the firmness of Her Majesty's troops and by the high courage and heroic loyalty of the British population of Canada. But it is not just that all these hazards should again be encountered; and the burthen again forced upon Her Majesty's subjects, of defending themselves in arms against the hostile citizens of a friendly State.

If the invasion which is now meditated, be allowed to take place, disastrous consequences will ensue. If the American invaders, proceeding from within the jurisdiction of the Republic, should obtain a transient success, and overrun a portion of British territory, the United States would necessarily become answer-

able to Great Britain for the invasion of the territory of the invading army, and for the unheard of enormities committed from within which we believe that a horde in the territory of the shelter themselves from things for the purpose of reparation: there would arise no to those who desire England and American preine Government,

SIR,

The President of the State of the 3rd inst. and jurisdiction of the and Lower Canada,

The Government of these States, and has to prevent by neighbours. That referred to, you are well, the reports which in the American Territory interest by the circumstances detailed in full prudence can suggest to be taken, to

If an organized c to that described in y duty of the United States to suppress it. United States cannot which you have allude prematurely, question have not happened, ar

From the evidence questionably is, there winter, to excite disturbance can well be entering to believe it possible and Great Britain, will attempt to do, will be that our efforts to be ties. It will require Governments, to counter incursions, and act ed to, to effect this crisis thousand miles, in a evident. Regular military the American side of it also be diverted, as far disposal of this Government no pretext whatever, v tory of the United States at present so happy, lead to their entire enter the Territory of any American citizen have crossed our frontier