

daylight; 22 pieces of United States artillery were also transported to our island: and yet, while this infamous transaction was going forward, the governor of the state of New York addressed his legislature in his opening speech without in the slightest degree even alluding to the subject.

Our danger was imminent; our expenses enormous. I knew that Sir John Colborne could not conveniently render me much assistance; as the winter had set in, I had nothing whatever to expect from the mother country. From the interior of the United States, people in large bodies were marching from various directions to join in the attack. Our predicament became to the Americans a subject of amusement and ridicule, and parties even of ladies were seen crowding over to Navy Island to admire the preparations for the victory which they had determined to gain.

In the midst of this dark moral scene, and while the citizens of the United States scarcely dreamt that we should dare to offer to their attack even resistance, their steam-boat, the *Caroline*, was suddenly seen drifting in flames towards the falls of the *Niagara*!

The magic effect of this bold measure of Colonel M'Nab's, which was immediately ratified by my unqualified approbation, was beyond description.

The inhabitants instantly fled from the American frontier villages, the citizens of Buffalo threw themselves into the greatest alarm, immense expenses for defence were immediately incurred, our invaders approaching from the interior halted as if the bugle had ordered them to do so. The attention of the federal as well as of the state government were forced to an instantaneous consideration of their duties, and both clearly saw that, although they might attack us openly if they chose, we would not stand with "folded arms" to allow ourselves to be surrounded and hustled out of Upper Canada by a mob.

*Answer 4.* The invasion of Upper Canada by American citizens, and the consequent destruction of the *Caroline*, having been thus brought before the consideration of the Congress at Washington, of the state government, and of the whole American people, it became of vital importance that, as no man living in a republic can ever dare to argue against the passions of the people, I should avail myself of the few legitimate opportunities I had in opening and proroguing the Provincial Legislature, and in my despatches to Mr. Fox, to appeal to the judgment of the American people, and, without fear or flattery, first show them the position in which they stood, and then, by comparing their conduct with the noble principles of the old governments of Europe, make them ashamed of themselves.

The arguments I used were never intended to please the American people, but by truth and reason to endeavour to stop their unjust invasion of Her Majesty's dominion; they were also intended to excite the people of Upper Canada to fight in its defence.

Considering the invasion with which we were still threatened, I conceived it to be absolutely my duty, by any means in my power, to lay before the American people the incontrovertible fact, that by the removal of Her Majesty's troops, as also by the surrender of 6,000 stand of arms to the civil authorities, the people of Upper Canada had virtually been granted a free opportunity of revolting, and consequently that, as the British constitution had been protected solely by "the sovereign will of the people," it became, even by the greatest of all republican axioms, "the only law of the land."

The result of this pacific course of policy now speaks for itself.

The destruction of the *Caroline*, and the arguments in my official documents have not infuriated the American people, but, on the contrary, those who were exciting and assisting them, first deserted, and then disavowed their cause; perfect tranquillity has been restored to Upper Canada without a single American having put his foot on any portion of its free soil, except its islands; and above all, the honour of the British name still shines in the Canadas, unsullied.

My despatches to Mr. Fox having been connected with the destruction of the *Caroline*, were, excepting one, submitted by request to the Provincial Legislature, by whose order they were published; and with respect to their lengthiness, whenever the expense of the invasion of the Canadian territory comes under the consideration of this country, it will, I expect, be acknowledged that I was merely performing a dry, but most necessary duty, in furnishing Her Majesty's Minister at Washington with all possible evidence and facts on the subject.