

A number of ladies on board.
The ruffians armed and disguised.
The passengers treated with brutal violence, and robbed of very valuable property.
The boat consumed by fire.

A great sensation throughout the British colonies.

It was supposed that corresponding feelings would be manifested on the opposite shores.

A slight expression of disapprobation exhibited itself.

A proclamation issued by the government of the state of New York.

One or two leaders arrested, but acquitted by the jury.

No event shocked the people of this province like this.

Thousands who trusted in the good faith of the people and government of the United States lost all confidence.

Since the above wanton attack it has been unsafe to enter their harbours or have intercourse with them.

No indemnity offered for this great injury, nor for the insult to the British flag; but a demand must be made.

Short Hills affair.

150 brigands attack a small detachment of provincial dragoons.

After defending themselves with great courage were subdued, not by the arms of the pirates, but by fire. Dragoons robbed and stripped.

Farmers plundered.

Brigands attempt to retreat; 27 captured. Reasons assigned for this invasion.

The loyalty of the people of the province tried and established.

The result of this last attempt produced a cessation of further aggression.

The greater part of the militia disbanded.

The above policy questioned.

Attack on Sarnia.

50 brigands crossed over from Palmer, in Michigan, robbed and imprisoned several settlers.

Mr. Carey, a militia officer, shot.

An attempt to destroy the house of the sheriff of the Niagara district. Assassination of Captain Usher in the dead of the night.

The above outrages committed by American citizens living near Buffalo, who openly boast of the bloody deed.

of ladies) had retired to rest, she was boarded by a band of about 30 pirates, headed by a well-known freebooter. These ruffians, armed and disguised, rushed into the cabins, hurried the passengers from their beds, and with brutal violence drove them on shore. The crew, not expecting the attack, and wholly unprepared for it, were unable to make resistance; the entire possession of the vessel was therefore easily gained by the assailants, who, after pillaging her of every thing valuable, including the money, watches, clothing, and other property of the passengers, towed her into the stream, where they set fire to her, and watched her until she was entirely consumed, and then returned to the American shore.

As might reasonably be expected, an outrage so unusual in any country, and wholly without a parallel in this, produced a powerful sensation throughout the British colonies, and it was believed that corresponding feelings of indignation would have been manifested on the opposite shores, and that every effort would be made to bring the perpetrators of this cowardly and atrocious felony to punishment. But although some expression of dissatisfaction did exhibit itself, it was slight in comparison with what was looked for, and what the enormity of the crime led every one to expect. A proclamation was issued by the government of the state of New York, offering a paltry sum for the apprehension of certain of the pirates, but although the majority of them, including the leaders, were well known, only one or two of them were arrested; who, being placed on their trial, notwithstanding the plainest evidence of their guilt, were, almost without hesitation, acquitted by the jury empannelled to try them. Up to this period, no event had occurred, connected with our border difficulties, that so shocked the feelings of the people of this province as this last. It caused thousands who had previously indulged the belief, that the government and people of the United States were averse to the unprovoked and lawless aggressions which had been previously made upon us, to doubt the correctness of their opinions. They began to consider it unsafe to enter their harbours; and from that period to the present, it has been with reluctance that any well-affected subject of Her Majesty in this province has approached the shores of the United States, or engaged in intercourse of any kind with the citizens of that republic. The feeling of cordial good-will that once existed between the people of the two countries was greatly weakened, and subsequent events have almost entirely destroyed it. No proffer of indemnity has yet been made by the nation responsible for this great injury to our fellow-subjects, and insult to the British flag; nor does it appear to be considered necessary by the American government, for the maintenance of its national honour, to do this plain act of justice without waiting a demand, which, we cannot doubt, is certain to be made and enforced.

The next instance of foreign aggression was the affair of Short Hills, where a bandit of the name of Morreau headed a party of brigands, supposed to number about 150, who made a sudden and unexpected attack in the night time on a small detachment of provincial dragoons, stationed in a wooden building in the township of Pelham, who, although assailed by more than ten times their number, defended themselves with the greatest courage and fortitude, and were at last subdued, not by the arms of the pirates, but by the building which they occupied being set on fire. The moment the ruffians got these gallant men into their hands they robbed them of their property and stripped them of their clothing, and having plundered the dwellings of some of the farmers and yeomanry in the neighbourhood, they attempted a retreat, but being pursued, 27 of them, including their leader, were captured. There is reason to believe that this invasion was undertaken and directed against the district of Niagara, under the expectation that so soon as a footing was gained by the brigands in that district, they would be joined by large numbers of disaffected people from different parts of the province. In this, however, they were wholly disappointed; and as the loyalty of the great mass of Her Majesty's subjects had been so clearly and undeniably established by the constant and entire rejection of every attempt that had been made to seduce them from their allegiance; and as, after the result of this last attack was known in the neighbouring states, there appeared to be a sudden and complete cessation of all further attempts at invasion, the Commander of the Forces considered it no longer necessary to keep up the militia which had been embodied for a limited time of service, and they were accordingly disbanded, and the defence of the country was left to the troops of the line.

The policy adopted in thus lessening the defensive force of the province was much questioned at the time it occurred, and the apprehensions which many entertained that all danger of foreign invasion was not past were considerably increased by intelligence which was soon after received, that an attack had been made on the remote settlements at Sarnia and Bear Creek. In the month of July a party, supposed to consist of about 50 brigands, crossed over from a place called Palmer, in the United States, to the British settlements on the St. Clair river, where they robbed and imprisoned several of the settlers, and then returned. About the same time a loyal subject of the name of Carey, who was also an officer of militia, was shot in the night by a set of murderers, who it was well known were from the opposite shore, although they were never clearly identified.

But the most fearful and appalling proof of the existence of a conspiracy among a band of desperate assassins, living in the neighbouring states, against the lives and property of particular individuals among Her Majesty's subjects, was given in the attempt to destroy the dwelling-house of the late Sheriff Hamilton, at Queenston, and the treacherous and cowardly assassination, in the dead of the night, of the gallant Captain Usher. Both these outrages occurred within a few days of each other, in the month of November last, and were committed by American citizens, living in the neighbourhood of Buffalo, where they are well known, and where it is affirmed (your committee believe with perfect truth) that the murderers of Captain Usher have openly boasted of their having perpetrated the bloody deed,