

burn my house by incendiaries. The facts as stated in the first and second paragraphs of your paper of the 13th are perfectly correct.

With respect to the paragraph in your paper of the 20th I have to say that you have been misinformed, in confirmation of which I enclose you the letters received, by which you will perceive that my brother John's house in distinctly named in both letters, but not a syllable respecting mine, the tendency of which was to throw me completely off my guard. For being told of rumours abroad that my house was to be destroyed I replied it is a mistake, "it is not my house, it is my brother John's," and I immediately placed Col. Kingsmill's letter in my brother's hands and consulted with him as to the necessary arrangements for securing his house and with certainty destroying or taking the perpetrators. Every arrangement being completed, I lay down in my clothes at half past eleven in order to be in perfect readiness to repair to my brother's on the concerted signal being made. In half an hour afterwards I was aroused by Mr. Gilkinson with the intelligence that my own house was on fire.

I would not notice the circumstances but that I find much blame has been attached to me for neglecting any possible means of destroying the perpetrators of such nefarious schemes not aimed at me personally, but at the public peace of the two countries; which the foregoing statement will show does not rest in this instance with me.

As you have given publicity to the former statement, I trust you will do so with this in any manner you think best. The letters themselves cannot be published, as it might be injurious to the public service to do so, but I have no objections to their being shown to your informant. The letters you will please return at your earliest convenience.

I am, Sir,

Your obt. servant,

A. H.,

Sheriff.

My dear Sir.—I enclose you a letter from Mrs. Rolph when at Lewis ton on Monday I promised to send any letter to or from Mrs. Rolph with which he pleased to make me the medium. I mention the circumstance that you may freely pass any letter to or from him on which my name in my own handwriting appears.

Yours,

(Signed) W. HAMILTON MERRITT.

Alexander Hamilton, Esq.  
15th Dec., 1838.