

CORRESPONDENCE,

Between Colonel the Honorable ALLAN N. MACNAB, and Major General SCOTT, of the United States Army; together with the Deposition of SETH CONKLIN, a Citizen of the United States, in relation to the manner in which the American Authorities have observed the neutrality of their Government upon the Niagara Frontier.

SIR,

HEAD QUARTERS CHIPPEWA,

20th January, 1839.

I have the honor to enclose, for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the copy of the letter which I addressed to General Scott, remarking upon a correspondence between that Officer and Captain Drew, of the Royal Navy, together with the verbal reply of General Scott, as detailed in the enclosed report of Lieutenant Colonel Bethune to me. This Officer having been charged with my Despatch to General Scott, I take the opportunity of acknowledging his services, since he volunteered to accompany me while on this command.

I beg also to enclose the deposition made by a person of the name of Conklin, who was a prisoner among the rebels at Navy Island, showing the manner in which the Officer in command of the United States Forces upon Grand Island, has preserved the neutrality of his Government in relation to the late disturbances upon this frontier.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obed't. Humble Servant,

(Signed)

ALLAN N. MACNAB,

Colonel Commanding Militia, and Naval Brigade.

Lieut. Colonel STRACHAN,
Military Secretary.

(Copy.)

To the Commanding Officer of the armed British Vessels in the Niagara.

HEAD QUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,

Eastern Division,

Two miles below Black Rock,

January 15th, 1838.

SIR,

With His Excellency the Governor of New York, who has troops at hand, we are here to enforce the neutrality of the United States, and to protect our own soil and waters from violation.

The proper Civil Officers are also present, to arrest, if practicable, the leaders of the expedition on foot against Upper Canada.

Under these circumstances it gives me pain to see the armed vessels mentioned anchored in our waters, with the probable intention to fire upon that expedition moving within the same waters. Unless that expedition shall first attack, in which case we shall interfere, we shall be obliged to consider a discharge of shot or shells from or into our waters, from the armed Schooners of Her Majesty, as an act seriously compromising the neutrality of the two Nations. I hope therefore that no such unpleasant incident may occur.

I remain Sir, respectfully,

Your most obedient,

(Signed)

WINFIELD SCOTT.

SIR,

HEAD QUARTERS, CHIPPEWA,

16th January, 1838.

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 15th instant, in which you state "it gives you pain to perceive the armed vessels of Her Majesty anchored in your waters, with the probable intention to fire upon that expedition moving within the same waters."