

so quietly that it did not strike even the soldiers themselves. While both parties awaited the issue the affair was settled by a constable, who suddenly entered the settlement, knocked down the flagstaff, bundled the American flag under his arm, and took Baker into custody, effecting the capture so adroitly that he was borne off in a waggon before it was understood.

The news of this insult startled the Union from its propriety. The indignation against England could not have been greater if the territory had been American and the invaders English, instead of the reverse being the case; and the most moderate admitted that the time had come for driving England from the continent and annexing her dominions. The State of Maine would accept no other terms, and her view seemed to be adopted by the Federal Government, as it advanced a body of troops to her aid.¹ But this commotion excited no stir in New Brunswick. Every one there went about his business as usual; no arrangements seemed to be making for defence; and not only did Sir Howard persist in keeping Baker in prison in spite of the warlike demonstrations, but he gave orders for bringing him to trial.

This contumely drove the people of Maine distracted, and the militia marched up and down on the frontier, and took up a threatening position—but kept on their own side. Indeed there was nothing to be done, for Sir Howard remained as quiet as if they did not exist. Governor Lincoln determined to force him out, and sent an envoy to Fredericton with a letter demanding Baker's release. But Sir Howard

¹ Letter of the Right Hon. C. Vaughan to Sir Howard Douglas.