

States, on British territory repeatedly, and for weeks together.

It is true, the American government disavow the acts, but can they prevent them? If not, does not the law of nations authorise self-defence and protection of its own subjects by Great Britain, when the United States is unable to afford it? At any rate, as the United States government is sincere in wishing to avoid useless irritation on this question, they will not make a serious cause of complaint on a point which turns upon the question, whether a small—avowedly piratical—steamer had a rope fastened to the United States shore or not!

Could the American authorities have seized the steam-boat *Caroline*,⁸ punished the perpetrators of the breach of neutrality and their abettors, there would have been no justification for the act of self-defence of the Canadians. But it would be too much to expect that from a punctilious observance of a national law, not enforced (however involuntarily) by the American government, the Canadians should be so far the dupes of their attention to decorum, as not to prevent their assailants from cutting their throats.

Whenever the United States government comes in immediate contact with foreign powers, it will be found extremely difficult, under the present form of government, to separate the individual character of masses of their people from that