

which had been inflicted by an American force on the seat of government in Upper Canada," known to admiral Cochrane, as well as to sir George Prevost, who called upon the admiral (it is alledged) to carry into effect, measures of retaliation, against the inhabitants of the United States?—And yet, both the call and compliance, are founded (not upon the destruction of the public edifices at York, but) upon the wanton destruction committed by the American army in Upper Canada, upon the inhabitants of the province, for whom alone reparation was demanded.

An obscurity, then, dwells upon the fact alleged by sir George Prevost, which has not been dissipated by enquiry. Whether any public edifice was improperly destroyed at York, or at what period the injury was done, if done at all, and by what hand it was inflicted, are points that ought to have been stated, when the charge was made; surely it is enough, on the part of the American government to repeat, that the fact alledged was never before brought to its knowledge, for investigation, disavowal, or reparation. The silence of the military and civil officers of the provincial government of Canada, indicates, too, a sense of shame, or conviction of the injustice of the present reproach. It is known, that there could have been no other public edifice for civil uses destroyed in Upper Canada, than the house of the provincial legislature, a building of so little cost and ornament, as hardly to merit consideration; and certainly affording neither parallel nor apology, for the conflagration of the splendid structures, which adorned the metropolis of the United States.

If, however, that house was indeed destroyed, may it not have been an accidental consequence of the confusion, in which the explosion of the magazine involved the town? Or, perhaps it was hastily perpetrated by some of the enraged troops in the moment of anguish, for the loss of a beloved commander, and their companions, who had been killed by that explosion, kindled as it was by a defeated enemy, for the sanguinary and unavailing purpose: Or, in fine, some suffering individual, remembering the slaughter of his brethren at the river Raisin, and exasperated by the specta-