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April 7, 1864.

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ed as a rebel by this tyrannical government that I would like to strike a blow against. I would like to remind your Honors that my native land has always been true to America. During the war of the Revolution, in America's sorest hour of trial, when most she needed a friend, when King George the Third sent to the Irish Parliament—for then, your Honors, Ireland had a Parliament of her own—and demanded men and money to put down the insurrection in America, that Irish Parliament, I am proud to say, voted that not a single man nor a single dollar should be given by Ireland to fight against Washington and his compatriots. Later still, after Ireland had been robbed of her Parliament, and during the late war, when Mason and Slidell were captured by an American seaman, England feeling that America was weak, and that the opportunity had come to strike her a deadly blow, threatened war against this country at a time when the North was poorly prepared to meet her, then it was that the people of Dublin, by the only means at their command, made known to England and to the world, that if she declared war against the land that had offered a home and an asylum to so many thousands of Irishmen, that the Irish people would be found battling upon the side of the struggling North. I contend, your Honors, that my native land has been always true to America. I contend that the men who stand before you to-day, charged with being violators of the law, every one of them was found in the ranks of the American army when it was necessary to defend the flag against those who would tear it down. On this account, while I cannot deny, and do not wish to deny that I have violated the law, I would ask you to be as lenient as possible, if not towards myself, at least towards those who have been brought into this trouble through my agency and instrumentality, and I here assume a responsibility which does not properly belong to me. I was not the originator of the scheme of freeing Ireland by an invasion of Canada, though I have been one of its warmest supporters, and have advocated it from almost every platform from Maine to Minnesota. I am sorry to have to confess that the men who originated it, and who urged myself and others to take part in the endeavor, *basely and deliberately* deserted us at the critical moment, and left us to our fate. For this I would like to see those men punished. I believe they deserve it, and if it were in my power, they should be punished. I shall caution my countrymen against them, and not only against them, but against any further efforts in this direction; and here I wish it to be distinctly understood, that my love for Ireland remains the same, and my hatred of that flag which to the Irish people is the symbol of tyranny and oppression, can never be changed. That flag I desire to tear down.

It has been said we had no right to go to Canada for the purpose of tearing it down, and that by attacking Canada we were injuring a people who had never injured us. Against those people we have no hostility; we have no hostility against the English people: it is the English government that we hate—it is the English government that we desire to fight. It is the flag that represents that government that we detest, and wherever it floats the Irish people, come weal or woe, claim the right to pull it down and trample it beneath their feet. It was prompted by this feeling that I attempted to invade Canada.

As the matter now stands, the invasion appears to have been a ridiculous farce. Had the attempt succeeded, it would have been otherwise.

I desire to say in conclusion, that whatever may have been my opinions here—