

of New Orleans, and this His Excellency was well aware of; and I also told him, that if he wished to acquit himself of the charge which I could bring against him, of giving to the Patriots the State cannon and arms, that he could do so. All he would have to do was, to enroll the militia, disperse the Patriots, and take back the State cannon and arms, which he (Governor Mason) had previously given up to them for their use, in order to enable them to invade the Canadas. If not, that I would certainly, without further loss of time, lay the whole matter before Sir Francis B. Head, the Governor of Upper Canada.

To this determined statement of mine, Governor Mason replied that he would issue a proclamation that afternoon, to the effect that I had recommended that the troops should be enrolled on the following day, all of which Governor Mason faithfully carried out. Your Memorialist was reduced to this stratagem, having been informed by a person of the name of _____ whom your Memorialist engaged for that purpose, that there was no time to be lost, that the Patriots had 2,000 men, and that they expected to take Amherstberg in a few days, with every prospect of success, and that we had not a man enrolled at the time to defend the place. I therefore made my immediate arrangements, which were very simple, viz.—To remonstrate with the State authorities, to induce them to disperse the Patriots; to take back the State cannon, &c.; and to place the citizens of Detroit on the defensive, which I did by causing a report to be circulated that the British subjects on the Canada side were determined to set fire to the town of Detroit. This caused them to enroll several companies to guard the town day and night for some time, and to teach them the sense of danger. Your Memorialist begs leave to say that he had no authority from the Canadian Government to act as he had done—he merely hit on such an expedient in order to gain time, as he considered it necessary, knowing well as he did that, if the American people got possession of Amherstberg, they would have been supported by the whole of the United States; whereas, by keeping possession of it, we had it in our power to hold Upper Canada until reinforcements arrived from England; and should the American Patriots advance from Detroit into Upper Canada, we had it in our power to drop on their rear, cut off their communication from the United States, and place them between two fires. Governor Mason was punctual to his word: he ordered the militia to be conveyed in two steamboats to Brown's Town, where the Patriots had their head-quarters; but before the militia troops arrived, the Patriots dispersed, taking their cannon with them. This caused General Theller to put back his plan of attack from the morning of the 8th to the morning of the 10th of January, 1838; giving us two clear days to collect about 200 volunteers to defend the place.