

attacked and took her, after a desperate resistance, and having carefully ascertained that no living thing was left on board, they committed her to the two great elements of destruction, an awful and a blazing warning to those turbulent spirits who had at last aroused the indignation, and called forth the energies of an injured and insulted, but avenging people. Such are the circumstances attending the destruction of the "Caroline"; and such the "casus belli" of the sovereign citizens of the "Empire State," against the Queen of England, and Her Majesty's liege Canadian subjects, after causing the evil by their own indulgence in liberty, uncontrolled by executive power, and crime, unpunished by the action of wise laws, justly and righteously enforced! Well might the enlightened Dr. Channing exclaim: "Men, who in public talk of the stability of our institutions, whisper their doubts (perhaps their scorn) in private"! What unhappy misconception of the natural law, or what mischievous and tortuous policy of our republican neighbours, could have induced them to take up the cause of these infamous miscreants, and thus "renounce and defy God's moral and eternal law," without which "a nation cannot be good, cannot be great"? What subtle reasoning can enable them to satisfy the world that the brigand who has cast himself out of the pale of civilization, when he may be followed and destroyed as the common enemy and scourge of mankind, is one single degree worse than the pirate ally, who aids and assists him in his unnatural course of atrocity and crime? The brigands of Navy Island, and the pirates of the Caroline, were alike, to use the words of Lord Bacon, "common enemies, and grievances of mankind, and disgraces and reproaches to human nature;" and a State harbouring and encouraging such individuals, becomes tainted with their crimes, and involved in the wickedness of their evil deeds. "Such people," continues Lord Bacon, "all nations are interested, and ought to be resenting to suppress, considering that the particular states themselves can give no redress. And this is not to be measured so much by the principle of the jurists as by 'lex charitatis, lex proximi, lex filiorum adæ di massa una'; upon which original law this opinion is founded; which to deny, if a man speak truly, were almost to be a schismatic in nature." We believe it has been asserted that the Caroline was a vessel owned

by citizens of the United States, and engaged in the peaceable occupations of trade, in strict accordance with the established commercial regulations which exist between that country and Great Britain; but we possess irrefragable proof to the contrary, established by the testimony of numerous individuals, as well as by the evidence of our own sight and senses.—Her capture and destruction therefore became necessary, and was done in strict accordance, not only with the laws of nations, but with the law of nature, upon which the laws of nations are founded. The conflict of innumerable laws is a necessary consequence of the action of two great opposing principles, the intellectual faculties of man, and his moral weakness and fallibility. But the great law of nature is immutable, unchanging. It extends through every ramification of society, through every portion of the animal kingdom, from man, the image of his maker, to the creeping thing that lives, and breathes, and perishes in a day.—The first principle of the great natural law is self preservation, and on this we take our stand, in justification of the destruction of the pirate steamer. But what shall we say to the arrest and imprisonment of a party engaged, or supposed to have been engaged, in that affair, by the civil authorities of a particular State, after it had become matter for consideration between the high authorities of the two great powers? And what, when we are told that the great power, the President's government, possesses no controlling right over its own sectional portions, even for the prevention of evils involving the national honour, good faith, and stability? Alas! we fear there is "something rotten in the state of Denmark," why else is Mr. McLeod permitted to linger in a gaol, on this mockery of a charge, and why are the gallant captors of a branded pirate, denounced as murderers and felons? Is it seemly or creditable in a powerful nation to descend from its high estate to the miserable persecution of a humble individual, after it has demanded redress for the offence he is supposed to have committed, from those who are alone responsible for the same, and while the national bill of complaint is still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government? Is it decent to brand as murderers and common felons, a gallant party of British subjects, whose only crime has been that they served their sovereign faithfully, and did their duty to their