

The Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State of the United States, in his letter to the British Minister at Washington, in relation to the destruction of the *Caroline*, says, "And when an individual comes into the United States, from Canada, and to the very place in which this drama was performed, and there chooses to make public and vain-glorious boast of the part he acted in, it is hardly wonderful that great excitement should be created, and some degree of commotion arise."

Now if there had been one scintilla of truth in the paragraph I have quoted, I should have been an egregious fool, and deserving of the punishment I suffered. But although the paragraph was entirely untrue, and well did Mr. Webster know that it was untrue at the time he put his signature to it, for he had all the evidence in the case before him, yet it went round the world as a demonstrated fact! No one supposed that the Hon. Secretary of State of the United States would vouch such a tale to be true, and stamp it with the National Seal, unless it had been authenticated beyond a doubt. Now let me lay before you the real facts. I was indicted on the 2d day of January, 1838, on the oath of Gillman Appleby and another, that I was really at the destruction of the *Caroline*. Not a word was said of any boast that I had made at the very place where the drama was performed. Moreover, I will prove by the certificates of Messrs. Bradnor and Bell, the Magistrates before whom I was brought for examination when first arrested within the United States, on the 24th September and on the 12th November, 1840, that no such allegation as that of boasting &c. was brought against me by any person at the time I was examined before them. These fabrications were of a later date. It was found that it would be necessary to ensure my conviction and execution for murder and arson, to bring a large amount of perjury and prejudice to bear against me. It was well known that hundreds of vagabonds could be procured to swear to admissions made by me, though they had never seen me in their lives, and were hundreds of miles distant from the scene when the drama was performed, in which I was accused of having been a participator. The conspiracy against me assumed so many shapes as it progressed, that it was difficult to follow it through its various evolutions. The first set of witnesses against me swore to facts that took place before them on the steamboat; the second set swore that they saw me embark among those that went to destroy the Boat; the third set swore they saw me disembark from the boats on their return; after the destruction of the *Caroline*; the fourth set swore to admissions made by me, that I had been with the party that destroyed the Boat—that I had killed a d—d Yankee, and that I had been frequently seen exhibiting a pistol covered with blood, and drawing and flourishing a sword with many inches of clotted blood on it, which I asserted was the blood of a d—d Yankee.

But I beg to observe that not one of those perjured wretches alleged that such boasts had been made "at the very place where the drama was performed," or in any part of the United States. They laid the scene in Canada. It was in the very midst of my companions in iniquity that I exhibited these insignia of my guilt, and boasted of my exploits. John Clarke Davis, Innkeeper of Chippawa, was sworn four times against me; he deposed that he heard me telling to the officers in their mess-room at an early hour in the morning after my return from Schlosser, of the deeds I had done. His pot-boy, Charles Parke, of Wainfleet, swore that he had watched me embark in the boats that went to destroy the *Caroline*, and that a few days afterwards he heard me informing the officers in their mess-room when he was serving