

To the alleged breach of neutrality by the American Government it is not necessary, nor would it be proper, that the Undersigned should at this time do more than briefly advert. Although attempts have been made by the perpetrators of this outrage, and others of Her Majesty's Provincial Government, to involve the United States and its officers in the odium of countenancing, if not participating in the breach of neutrality, the Undersigned is happy in knowing that they have signally failed. They were made without the slightest evidence of their truth, and under circumstances which entitle them to no credit. Her Majesty's Government have not been insensible to the efforts which were made both by the general and State Governments to enforce and preserve their obligations of neutrality. Faithful to the principles which it has always professed, and on which it has ever acted, the American Government determined from the first moment of the contest to maintain the strictest neutrality. Everything was done which Her Majesty's Government had a right to expect, and to the prompt and vigorous measures adopted by the United States are in a great measure to be attributed, the cessation of hostilities within the Canadian Provinces. The sincerity of the American Government in preserving its relations of neutrality and peace will therefore be best seen in the early manifestation of its views, and the steps taken to restrain its misguided citizens from interfering in the disturbances of Her Majesty's colonies.

These efforts moreover were spontaneous and uncalled for. So far from being influenced or stimulated by any requisition on the part of Her Majesty's Government, they were prompted solely by its own views of duty and interest and its love of peace. If, however, the United States had failed to preserve its neutral relations, it would still have afforded no ground of defence or justification for this proceeding. That would have been a matter for adjustment between the two Governments, and not left to the rashness or caprice of subordinate officers, such as those concerned in the perpetration of this outrage, and upon whose discretion and judgment such little reliance is to be placed. If there had indeed been any breach of neutrality on the part of the United States, it was for Her Majesty's Government alone to have vindicated its rights upon the principles of international law. The case, then, is one of open, undisguised, and unwarrantable hostility.

The Undersigned has, therefore, been instructed to invite the early attention of Her Majesty's Government to this subject, and in appealing to its sense of honour, justice, and magnanimity, to express the confident expectation of the President of the United States that this whole proceeding will not only be disavowed and disapproved, but that such redress as the nature of the case obviously requires, will be promptly made.

The Undersigned, &c.,

23, Portland Place,  
May 22nd, 1838.

(Signed) A. STEVENSON

[List of documents transmitted herewith.]

A. The first communication from the district attorney of the United States to the President, transmitting affidavits in relation to the destruction of the steam-boat "Caroline."

B. Copy of a letter from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington of the 6th of February, to the Secretary of State, transmitting the copy of a communication from the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, with divers reports and depositions annexed in relation to the same.

C. The whole body of evidence of American citizens in relation to the same, taken by officers of the United States, under the direction of the Executive, the originals being on file in this Legation.