

Your Excellency will have learnt from various channels, the occurrences which have taken place on our western frontier, opposite to the State of Michigan. There a large force, stated in the newspapers of Detroit not to be less than 1,000, or 1,200 in number, with arms and artillery taken from one or more public arsenals, attempted to invade this Province—and did, indeed, actually possess themselves of the Island of Bois Blanc, in the River Detroit. With an armed schooner they commenced battering the town of Amherstburgh, and intended on the next day to have made a descent on the main land, but their further progress was arrested by the gallant conduct of some militia volunteers, who attacked and boarded the schooner, and took several prisoners, together with the guns, arms and military stores on board of her. A considerable military force is now stationed on our western frontier.

I send you the Proclamations issued by Mr. Sutherland, an American Citizen, who styled himself General of the 2nd Division of the Patriot Army, VanRensselaer's band of ruffians, I suppose, forming the first. These will shew you the nature and object of the expeditions to whose attacks the people of Upper Canada have been exposed.

Among the prisoners taken on this last occasion, were several American Citizens.

I need scarcely state to you, that the necessity of being armed at all points along our extensive frontier, has occasioned an enormous expenditure to the British Government. The American, I perceive, has called on Congress to provide \$600,000 for the pay and outfit of a force necessary to keep down the excitement on the Niagara frontier alone. You will readily understand, therefore, how much greater must be the expense which this Government is put to by the preparations necessary to meet attacks at various points. The hostile spirit manifested in Michigan, appeared likely to be attended with more serious consequences than the movements along the Niagara frontier.

I send your Excellency a copy of some correspondence which has taken place since Major General Scott's arrival at Buffalo. Fortunately the pirates have dispersed without any thing farther occurring that can give rise to controversy, and I have no doubt their removal was hastened by the active measures at length taken by the American Government for preventing their receiving supplies of arms and provisions. It would give me pleasure if I could add, that in the conduct of the American Militia stationed on Grand Island, or in the construction which the Officers of the American Government seemed disposed to put upon the relative rights of the two Countries, under the extraordinary circumstances in which they were placed I have discovered satisfactory proof of a spirit calculated to contribute to the restoration of permanent tranquillity.

When a people has been insulted and aggrieved, as the people of Upper Canada have been, it is not to be supposed that they can feel it necessary to perplex themselves with researches into books upon the law of Nations—they will follow a more unerring guide in obeying the irresistible natural instinct of self-preservation. By the cannonading from Niagara three inhabitants of this Province have been killed—there is no extenuating circumstance which can make the offence less than murder; and if it can be claimed as a right on this, or upon other occasions, that the perpetrators shall be allowed to escape with impunity into the country from whence they came in an armed body, to commit these flagitious outrages—if it be maintained that to cross the line of division through the waters of the Niagara to destroy them, or to cut off their resources, is a violation of American neutrality then it can only follow, that when the American people are suffered to commit such gross outrages upon the Province of Upper Canada, they must bring upon themselves the consequences of a public war, for unquestionably the right of self-defence will be exercised—it is not in the nature of things that it should be forborne.

I am upon the point of being succeeded in the Government of Upper Canada by Colonel Sir George Arthur; and I cannot depart from the Province without offering to Your Excellency, on the part of its inhabitants, my most grateful thanks for your prompt and able interposition to protect them from foreign aggression. I have been extremely gratified by the earnest solicitude shewn by Your Excellency to discharge your delicate and important duties.

His Excellency

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Head Quarters
Blanc, U. C.

W. B. Smith, C. C. Smith