

more unwieldy would they be, because of their deficiency in skill and experience, and because they would have to carry on their operations in a country now comparatively clear, where the contest must be decided in fair open-field fight, and where the movements of the battalion, the column, and the line, would have to be practised, and that too under the sweeping fire of cannon and musquetry. Without full confidence in the skill and valour of the officer and the sergeant, how can the inexperienced soldier stand firm in the midst of falling comrades, still less rush forward to close conflict with men whose discipline and experience, and consequent courage, he knows full well must be far superior to his own.

We may be assured of one thing, that the desperate men before adverted to would form a large portion of any invading army, and if the provinces were over-run, no power of any officer, civil or military, belonging to the United States could protect our people, being helpless, from the rapacity and violence of some of the worst men the world has ever seen. Whig and tory, radical, and all others having property, would be stripped of every thing they possessed. It would be for plunder those men would come, and not as in an honourable quarrel to defend or avenge their country.

We have made these remarks in order to show those who seem to delight in spreading abroad "rumours of war," that we are not unprepared for it should it come. For ourselves, however, we reject all such rumours, as the veriest nonsense in the world. What has probably given them birth is the arrest and imprisonment of Mr. A. McLeod at Lockport, under a charge of arson and murder, in having been concerned in the destruction of the steamer *Caroline*, and the preceding observations are preliminary to the following statement of his case, which has, as a matter of course, caused much excitement in Canada, and become the subject of remonstrance from our Government to that of the United States :—

*McLeod's Imprisonment, and the Caroline affair considered, with reflections on the aggressive power of America.*

The history of the world presents not a case parallel to that of ALEXANDER McLEOD, at this moment incarcerated in a foreign gaol, on the alleged charge of "arson and murder,"

committed upon the property and persons of an armed band of ruthless pirates, whose cause has been voluntarily espoused by a powerful nation, claiming a prominent position amongst the great civilized powers of the earth.—"Arson and murder"! for the capture and destruction of a piratical vessel, and the punishment of her crew, when, according to the universal acceptance of the law of nations, they were without the pale of every law, human and divine! The charge is a grave one, and appears to us unnatural, contradictory, and unsustainable; let us therefore examine into the facts of the case, and see how far they carry out our impressions of the nature of this unprecedented charge. It appears that Mr. McLeod was arrested at Lewiston on the 12th of November last,—that he was committed to Lockport gaol, on the testimony of certain *known perjurers, traitors, and felons*, and ordered to take his trial for the two capital offences, according to the laws and customs of the sovereign State of New York. That these capital offences were the capture and destruction of the *Caroline*, and the murder of some or one of her crew. It would also appear, touching that affair, that in December, 1837, an armed band of brigands was collected on Navy Island, for the purpose of levying and carrying on war against the people and government of Great Britain. That repeatedly during the latter part of that month cannon shots were fired from this encampment into the dwelling-houses, and amongst the people of Her Majesty's realm. That on the 29th of December, 1837, a certain vessel was seen from the Canadian shore, moving to and fro between the American port of Schlosser and such encampment. That persons from the United States, of the highest respectability and worth, made oath to the effect that such vessel was called the "*Caroline*", and that she was employed in conveying munitions of war to the brigands, and additional forces to assist in carrying on such war. That the principal officer of the British marine force, then acting under the command of Colonel Allan N. McNab, having general orders to watch the movements of the brigands, and particularly their piratical ally, the *Caroline*, conceived the bold project of cutting her out in the night, and thus destroying the pestilent channel through which they received their supplies. That he and his gallant party crossed the river in four small boats,