

TO THE HONORABLE
SIR ALLAN NAPIER MACNAB, KNIGHT,
SPEAKER OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF CANADA.

SIR,

I have transmitted memorials to be presented to the Legislature of Canada now assembled, in relation to my arrest, imprisonment, and trial for Murder and Arson in the United States, on the charge that I was one of the party who by your command destroyed the Steamboat *Caroline*, on the night of the 29th December, 1837; and requesting that the Legislature, as the legitimate Guardian of my rights and the Redresser of my wrongs, may devise such means as its wisdom may direct to compensate me for the losses I have sustained, and the injuries I have suffered, without any fault of mine, in a purely national matter.

I need not detail to you the whole narrative of my arrest, imprisonment and trial. The case was notorious, and I know you took a deep interest in it and watched its progress carefully. Your name stood first, and mine second, in the indictment found by an American Grand Jury at Lockport, on the 2nd day of January, 1838; and although you are aware that I had nothing to do with the burning of the *Caroline*, yet, strange as it may appear, I am the only one distinctly sworn to as being well known and clearly recognized at the attack. The minutes of the evidence taken before the Grand Jury at Lockport on the 2nd January 1838, are before me. It is distinctly sworn to by Gillman Appleby, the Captain of the Boat, that I struck at him with a sword—that he recognized me at once, and knew me well, having seen me a few days before in the city of Buffalo; he designates me, "Sheriff McLeod." Another witness swears that a man jumped from a small Boat on to the Quarter Deck of the *Caroline*, drew his sword, and called loudly to give no quarter to the "d—d Yankees," and he believed that man to be Sheriff McLeod of Canada, whom he had seen before. The evidence against the others named in the same indictment is very vague and indefinite; the witnesses swear that they heard such persons were at the attack on the *Caroline*, and therefore they were indicted. I may mention the case of Rolland McDonald, Esq., M. P. P., for Cornwall. He was a Barrister in extensive practice at St. Catharines; when the Americans commenced hostilities against us on our frontier, he raised a troop of Dragoons, and thereby incurred the wrath of the soi-disant patriots, one of whom went before the Grand Jury at Lockport, and swore that he heard Rolland McDonald say in Wynn's Tavern at Queenston, that he had been at the destruction of the *Caroline*, and had killed a d—d yankee. You need not be told that this tale was an entire fabrication; you know that Mr. McDonald was not at the burning of the *Caroline*, and you also know that it is no part of his character to assert such an untruth as was sworn to against him. Yet upon such evidence he was indicted; and had either Mr. McDonald or yourself, Sir, been caught in the United States, you might have suffered as I have done. This leads me to the refutation of the charges against myself that were current at the time I was in imprisonment.