

Public meetings attended by above persons, who harangued the people, inciting them to action, and subscribing money. A meeting as above described, held at New York, attended by two principal officers of customs, one was vice-president, and the other secretary of the meeting. No notice taken of the above.

A public meeting at Oswego, after Prescott affair, dissuading from further attempts at invasion.

Mr. David Brewster, first judge of the county court, acknowledged having been engaged in the patriot cause.

Mr. S. Hawley, likewise, the postmaster.

A paper promulgated in Jefferson county, containing an appeal to the "patriots of the county," to desist from further aggression.

Extract from a paper published in Jefferson county.

Committee close this part of their report with statement of Jeremiah Winnegar, one of the Prescott prisoners, at his trial.

Statement, &c.

From Winnegar's address to the court at his trial.

were called in many places, and attended by persons of the description mentioned, who haranged the populace, calling upon them to aid in overthrowing British authority in the colonies, and subscribing money to accomplish that object. Not long before the attack on Prescott, a meeting of this description occurred in the city of New York, at which two of the principal officers of the customs, persons who held their appointments from the president and government of the United States, took an open and active part, one of them acting as vice-president, the other as secretary of the meeting, yet no notice appears to have been taken by their superiors, of conduct which, in England at least, would have led to their immediate dismissal and punishment.

After the termination of the affair at Prescott, so disastrous to the hopes of those who planned it, a public meeting was called at Oswego, (from whence a large portion of the brigands took their departure, publicly embarking, as has been already stated, in the largest steam-boat belonging to the Americans on Lake Ontario,) for the avowed purpose of recommending the public to abstain from further participation in Canadian warfare. At that meeting, a Mr. David Brewster, first judge of the county court, a court of extensive local jurisdiction, openly declared, that he had been engaged in "the patriot cause," but that he had become convinced of his error, and therefore had determined to abandon it, and advised his "fellow-patriots" to do the same; one of these was stated to be a Mr. Seth Hawley, postmaster and member of Assembly elect, who, however, did not think proper to avow his recantation, although he had declared his intention to do so, and he still, it is to be supposed, remains "a patriot."

About the same period, a paper was promulgated in the county of Jefferson, in the state of New York, containing an earnest and well-written appeal to the "patriots of the county," to desist from further hostile aggressions upon the Canadas, and pointing out the destruction and misery which had befallen those who had been concerned in the attack on Prescott, and other places. This paper, evidently written for a good purpose, and by persons well-informed of the combinations which had been entered into, contains the following statements and admissions:—

"It was ascertained that a complete civil and military organization had been effected through the medium of certain secret societies extending along the whole line of territory bordering on the British dominions; that an army had been created; troops enrolled; munitions of war provided; and money raised; and that a blow was about to be struck, for the subjugation of the British Government there (in Canada), by citizens of the United States, with the expected aid of disaffected British subjects in these provinces. It was known that meetings of these societies were frequently held, and numerous attended, receiving constant accessions of strength. Labourers left their employ; apprentices their masters; mechanics abandoned their shops; merchants their counters; magistrates their official duties; husbands their families; children their parents; Christians their churches; ministers of the gospel their charge, to attend these meetings." "To which the public officer, the magistrate, the conservator of the peace, was only admitted by breaking the official oath he had previously taken to support the constitution and laws of his country."

To these avowals, might be added hundreds of others of similar import; but your committee deem it unnecessary to notice them, and they will close this part of their report by giving the statement made by Jeremiah Winnegar, one of the prisoners taken at Prescott, which was read upon his trial before the court-martial at Kingston; and the evidence of a Mr. Brown, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas in the state of New York, and a brother of the late General Brown, commander-in-chief of the United States army. The former was condemned to be executed, but was afterwards reprieved and pardoned by his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, and is now at liberty in his own country. This old man's story is well known to be true, and although told with more ingenuousness and appearance of candour than marked the account given of themselves by the other prisoners, does not materially vary from most of theirs.

"Jeremiah Winnegar is a native of the state of New York, labourer; resided at Dexter, and became a 'hunter' in October last; was sworn in by Sterling. His son was engaged to come with the expedition to Canada; prisoner volunteered to come in his stead, his son being lame; came to Millen's Bay on Saturday the 10th November last; embarked the following day in one of the schooners lying in the bay, in Captain Kemble's company; the schooner ran aground on Monday morning, the 12th November, and prisoner was taken off by the 'Paul Pry' and put on board the other schooner, and landed at Wind-mill Point, below Prescott. On Tuesday morning, prisoner was called out of a house where he stayed for the night, and went into a field to fight; discharged his musket twice and retreated to a house, where he remained until Friday evening the 16th November 1838, when he was taken prisoner; did not expect to fight when he left home; came for the sole purpose of giving liberty to the people of Canada; thought when he was coming that he was doing God service; is of the persuasion; has a wife and 11 children; heard ministers of the gospel encouraging the people to support the patriot hunters; is in his 59th year."

To this account of himself, he added the following in his address to the court at the time of his trial:—

"I have nothing more to say than is contained in my statement. I can establish by witnesses who have known me upwards of 30 years, what my general character is, but have nothing to prove connected with this affair; I presume many of the court have families; I have a family as near and dear to me as them; I have left a wife, seven sons and four daughters; I have brought them up by honest industry, and have been blessed with health to maintain them. Though a poor man, I have the same feelings as others, and my family are