

nizing all the authorities, civil and military, both of the General and State Governments, of the hostile expedition on foot, within our jurisdiction, against Her Majesty's neighbouring Province.

From the measures taken, and really to be applied, I am happy to repeat what I orally communicated through Captains Maitland and Glasgow—that I entertain a well-grounded hope that we shall be able to prevent the embarkation of any considerable portion of the men and arms of that expedition, on this side of Cleaveland; and Brigadier General Brady, United States Army, under my command at Detroit, has taken measures, in conjunction with His Excellency the Governor of Michigan, to maintain the obligations of neutrality in that quarter.

At this place, I think we shall certainly be able to prevent any hostile embarkation; and the Steamer Barcelona has already been out, and will proceed again, the moment the wind shall permit, with a detachment of United States troops and the proper civil Officers, as high up the lake as Dunkirk, looking into Catarague and Silver Creeks on the way. Another, and a better steamer, *The Robert Fulton*, will follow to-night, or early on the morning, with a larger detachment. The latter may go as far as Detroit, and certainly, the weather permitting, as high as Cleaveland. The object of both boats and detachments is the same—to prevent the embarkation of the hostile expedition.

As was explained to Captains Maitland and Glasgow, my powers to effect that object have been much enlarged since I had the honor to address to you my former note, and we, (the civil authorities and myself) are daily in the expectation of receiving a new Act of Congress, giving us yet more ample authority.

The steamer *New England*, lying in this port, and understood to be engaged to take off portions of the hostile expedition from points above, we hope to find the means of detaining. I have, in the act of writing this sentence, the further hope of hiring and taking her into the service of the United States.

I give these details in the spirit of national amity, and in the sincere hope that the neutral relations of the two countries may long be maintained.

It is with reluctance that I advert, and I shall merely advert, to certain points in the three communications acknowledged above.

I cannot stipulate, as you have proposed, as the price of your respecting the sovereignty of the United States, "to stop the *Barcelona*, or any other vessel which may be employed in the same cause, and have her examined, to ascertain whether or not they may have any of the rebels on board lately in arms upon Navy Island, or any of their arms or other munitions of war," and so I said orally, through Captain Maitland, and added, that whilst I should be happy to do all that our laws would permit to maintain our neutral relations with Great Britain, I had another high duty to perform—that of preventing, by all the means I could command, the violation of the sovereignty of the United States. I said, in my note of the 15th instant to the Commanding Officer of the armed British vessels in the Niagara, that it gave me pain to perceive the armed vessels anchored in our waters, with the probable intention to fire upon the expedition moving within the same waters, and that I should "be obliged to consider a discharge of shots or shells from or into our waters, from the armed schooners of Her Majesty, as an act seriously compromising the neutrality of the two nations."

Captain Drew, in the reply which I am thus acknowledging, has been pleased to mistake my point, and to raise another, which certainly, in time of peace, no functionary of the United States will ever question, viz.—the common right of both nations to navigate in all their breadth, the waters of the Niagara.

Colonel MacNab, who will pardon me for not addressing myself directly to him,—indeed have not the time, without neglecting some urgent duty of neutrality,—has opened upon me a wide field of complaint and controversy. What may be his peculiar views of international law, as applicable to recent and present circumstances on this frontier, I have, in the way of discussion, nothing to do. That code is also open to me, and I shall not fail, regarding his admonitions, to apply it to current events.

I will, however, state to you, in the spirit of amity, that I knew where the steamer *The Barcelona*, was on the 15th, 16th and 17th instant, passing up from Grand Island to this port, and had no part of the *personnel* or *materiel* of the hostile expedition on board.