

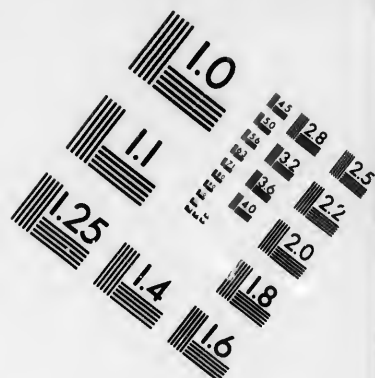
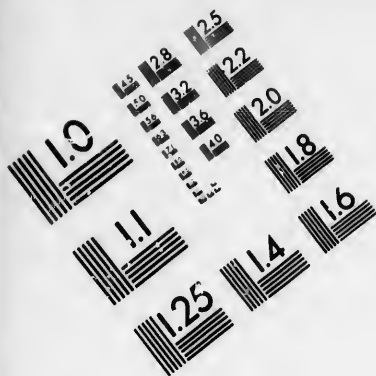
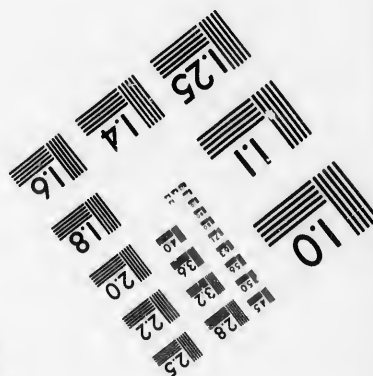
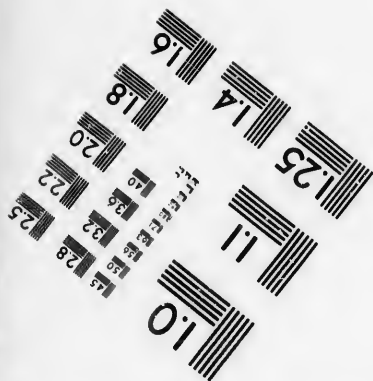
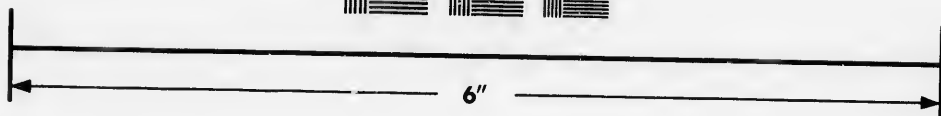
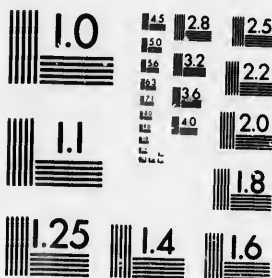


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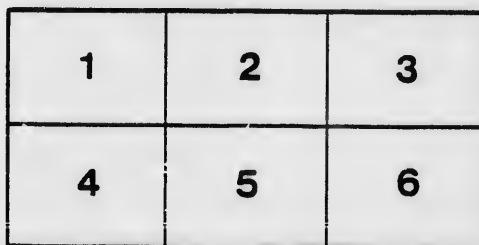
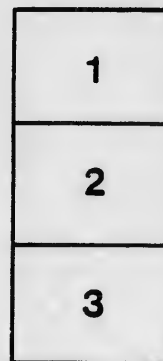
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Sir—You are respectfully requested to give such full and complete replies as may be within your power, to the following questions, at as early a day as possible, in order that the same may be submitted to the secret committee appointed by the Canadian Convention held on the 21st and 22nd inst., at this place, and to the secret special executive committee appointed by a convention of the Friends of Canadian Liberty, held at Auburn in January last, acting separately or together in joint committee, as circumstances may permit.

This letter is a confidential communication, and is by you and the members of the society to whom you are to submit it, to be so received. It has been considered in the convention here, and has the direct sanction of that body, as a fit and proper form of application.

Herewith you will receive a printed copy of so much of the organization, constitution, and special rules of the Canadian Association as it is at present deemed safe and prudent by the Executive Council to lay before the public.

QUESTION FIRST.

What quantity of arms and ammunition, or articles of use and service in war, or naval or military stores, are at the control of your society, or can be obtained by them, or situated in your neighborhood? Describe as accurately as possible the condition of the society, and the neighborhood, in this respect, and give the committee all the information in your power concerning arms, military stores, and munitions of war, offering every useful suggestion in your power, for their benefit.

QUESTION SECOND.

It is believed that expeditions have been planned, and partially carried into effect, near Detroit, near Cleveland, at or near Buffalo, Sackett's Harbor, French Creek, Lewiston, Oswego, Lockport, Watertown, and other places, and that arms and ammunition, and other implements or materiel of war, are in the hands of individuals, societies, or in some way or other deposited and set aside for use at a future period. Acquaint this committee with all particulars known to you, respecting such arms, ammunition, &c., in order that the fullest knowledge may be obtained, arranged and recorded, of the whole materiel of war that might be available in case of need.

The belligerent state of the negotiations in Maine, the deplorable condition of Canada, the warlike preparations in England, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the unpromising state of the Caroline question, as to redress, the claims set up of perpetual serfdom to England against the bodies of all naturalized citizens of these states, who were born in the British dominions, the ill usage, by the naval forces of Britain, of the New England fishermen, and the murders and cruel imprisonments of noble republicans, both Canadian and American, by the military despotisms on our northern frontier, indicate the near approach of danger for which Canadian freemen and their true friends ought silently to prepare. Congress have shown their sense of approaching danger by a vote of ten millions of money and fifty thousand volunteers—and although that danger may be more or less remote, there can be no doubt of its reality.

QUESTION THIRD.

Arms, ammunition, and munitions of war have been seized and detained on various occasions, such as at Ogdensburgh, Oswego, Buffalo, Schlosser, Detroit, French Creek, and Lewiston, by United States' Marshals, or their deputies, or by military or civil officers, on various pretexts and on a variety of occasions. Will you give us all the information possible as to where those arms and munitions of war are deposited, in whose charge they are, and the quantity and quality of the same? Spare no pains in your details, so that the committee may have the whole facts before them.

QUESTION FOURTH.

It is greatly important that the committee should be in possession of the names

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means, but, raised from the associations they can be burdensome to none, and the money that may be transmitted to our Treasurer, at the order of the secret committee, will be strictly accounted for.

Our finance committee will take an early opportunity to submit to your executive body of five a plan believed to be efficient to secure for the future the funds raised by the associations, in these States, to their legitimate and proper uses, with strict accountability and no violations of secrecy.

The sum of \$2,000 will REQUIRE from those of your societies who can spare it, \$30 down to \$20—from smaller societies \$10 or \$5, according to their numbers and ability. The certificate of our Treasurer and confidential Secretary, duly numbered, dated, and entered on our books of record, will be the only proper voucher to your Treasurers for the payment of the sums you may respectively vote to our use, and transmit to Rochester, which sums we beg you to send without delay, as there is URGENT NECESSITY for the immediate expenditure of a part of the proceeds. Without money, small as may be the amount required, the most important affairs of this association cannot progress to advantage. To enable us to serve our country effectually, there must be confidence reposed by you in those who have sacrificed home and property, and risked life for the love of that freedom you already possess.

SUGGESTION.

We are of opinion that the time hastens in which a large sum will require to be raised by the societies, and we therefore entreat you, on behalf of Canada, to exert yourselves in collecting and husbanding well the necessary means for conducting future and more extended operations, of which the outline can only be surmised by the preparations indicated in this circular.

SECRECY.

If the whole of the plans of the executive committee of your associations, and the secret committee of ours, were to be developed to your members, common sense and the experience of the last eighteen months might show that they would at once find their way into the cabinets of our enemies. So numerous, plausible, accomplished, and hypocritically disguised are the SPIES employed by the British Minister at Washington, the British Consuls, and Sirs George Arthur and John Osborne, that in many matters it will be absolutely necessary that you should repose confidence in the prudence and judgment of the committee of our and your choice, without asking all to be developed, or, in other words, baffled.

MODE OF ANSWERING OUR QUESTIONS.

Where one or two members of your society cannot undertake the task of answering all the questions in this letter, perhaps we may suggest the ready expedient of referring particular parts of it to efficient committees of the members, as in legislative proceedings, whose reports might be sent to this office as speedily as they could be obtained and approved.

And the convention, and this committee acting under it, do hereby recommend to every member of the societies who can communicate with the confidential Secretary, to make known, *under the seal of good faith and secrecy*, every political fact of an important nature, which he may think likely to prove advantageous to the cause of Canada, or as shewing the policy of the United States, the French, the Russian, or any other government, or of the several rulers on the opposite shores of the great lakes.

SPIES AND INFORMERS.

It appears to us that the dreadful crimes which this class of persons have aided the British government in perpetrating in Ireland, England, Scotland, and Canada, should induce each society to set apart a special committee to convey to this central office, from time to time, every FACT within their knowledge, relative to spies and informers, in every part of this Union; together with all

and munitions of war are deposited, in whose charge they are, and the quantity and quality of the same? Spare no pains in your details, so that the committee may have the whole facts before them.

QUESTION FOURTH.

It is vastly important that the committee should be in possession of the names age and qualifications of any military men in your neighborhood, who have seen service; you stating what description of service, and in what capacity the individual served, and whether he is friendly to the patriot cause in Canada? Or, if members of the society are aware of some gallant Von Schultz, either in your or any other neighborhood, of whose services, prowess, and experience the Canadians might hereafter avail themselves, let them hasten to convey to us the very desirable information.

QUESTION FIFTH.

In case the people of Canada shall give indications that they are determined to struggle, as the fathers of this republic struggled, against British oppression, by planting the standard of freedom on their own soil, and rallying round it, what help are they to expect from your society or neighborhood, in MEN and ARMS? Be pleased at the earliest possible day to send us a table with the following particulars:

Names of volunteers in the township of _____ who would be ready, in case 5,000 men joined them on this side, to go into Canada, armed, as the soldiers of freedom, as soon as the Canadians should have planted the standard on their own soil, rallied round it, and sought their assistance.

In the table state what arms each man has; what means he has of transporting himself to a place of rendezvous; and mark with a star the names of any who have served in the armies of this Union, England, or any other power, stating the rank held in the same.

In all cases where the society is located more than 30 miles from the Canada frontier, inform this committee as to the pecuniary means of transportation which the volunteers you may name have to carry themselves to the said frontier.

FUNDS ON LOAN.

Where any member can suggest a way in which ample funds could be raised for the future, he should do so by letter, addressed to the confidential Secretary, at Rochester.

SOCIETIES OF FRIENDS OF CANADA.

We are but imperfectly informed as to the location and office-bearers of many of these societies in the United States. Convey to us such local information to be depended on as may be within your power.

REQUEST.

The Canadian refugees are poor. The object of your societies is to aid Canada. Your convention at Auburn has requested the refugees to organize themselves, that thereby you might render more efficient aid to their country. *They have done so.* They form the connecting link betwixt you and the reformers of Canada. To carry into effect the immediate objects agreed upon, or entrusted to the discretion of their secret committee, a sum of at least \$2,000 would require to be immediately raised by your societies—for expenses of agents in Canada and these States, and other outlays of that committee, which cannot be disclosed here, but will be submitted to your executive committee of five, whose headquarters, or ordinary place of meeting, should (we think) be at Rochester—for travelling expenses, agents to Canada, printing of reports, postages, stationery, books of record and account, office rent, the hire of one or more clerks from time to time, and other expenses not proper to be here stated. These and other incidental charges cannot be borne by a few individuals, out of their private

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LABOR FOR REFUGEES.

As there are thousands of refugees out of employment, banished, liable to be sent to a dungeon if they return to their homes and families, and despoiled of all their possessions, it would be grateful to the convention and to the Canadian refugees, if friends of Canada, in or out of the societies, *not more than eighty miles from the frontier*, would communicate to this office the places where employment of an agricultural or mechanical nature is to be obtained within the aforesaid distance. It is desirable that, in case of a movement in Canada, the refugees should be as conveniently located as possible, in case they should feel inclined to take part in it.

ADVICE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS.

"In the multitude of counsellors there is safety." Those members of the societies who feel qualified to offer us advice on any point of future military or other operations, or who have any suggestions to make, or any society who will be pleased to do so, collectively, their communications will be gratefully and respectfully received, and duly considered in all their bearings.

Every letter, statement, or other communication in answer to this confidential circular, or to any part of it, or on any business of the society whatever, should be addressed to "*William L. Mackenzie, Rochester, N. Y.*," he being the confidential Secretary of the society. But letters, enclosing MONEY for the society's use, should in all cases be directed (not to Mr. Mackenzie, but) to "*Samuel Moulson, Rochester, N. Y.*," who is the Treasurer of the society.

Letters should be properly sealed; and when a very sure and speedy private opportunity does not present itself, the United States' Mails offer a safe and desirable mode of conveyance. Letters may be post-paid, if the sender is in funds.

You will have seen that this circular has reference to preliminary matters, and that its chief object is to obtain that accurate information without which active operations would be mere guess work. The great probability of a general war, and the vote of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, to raise 50,000 volunteers, *if required*, indicate the expedience and propriety of collecting information, to be used only with a constant and scrupulous regard to the laws and institutions of this nation and the several States.

I have the honor to be

Your faithful servant,

WM. L. MACKENZIE,
Secretary.

Approved in Convention on
the 22nd of March 1839.

JOHN MONTGOMERY, *President.*

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

As the above circular refers to a brief account of the convention accompanying it, I append this note of proceedings for your information. Time will show that some of our proceedings, which I am not permitted to disclose, must be advantageous to Canada. Great care and delicacy are necessary at this moment, for we are surrounded with hired spies of the British government.

At the appointed time and place, March 21st, at the Hall of the Friends of

Canadian Liberty, sixty delegates assembled, and after appointing Christopher Read of Lower Canada, Chairman for the day, and S. P. Hart, Editor of the Lewiston Telegraph, and Jas. Mackenzie, Editor of the Lockport Freeman's Advocate, Secretaries, agreed to receive communications, when letters from several friends in Canada, and elsewhere, and from delegates who found themselves unable to attend, were read. Also a letter from Mr. Charnier, Secretary of the Lower Canada Convention and Association, and some reports which it would not be prudent to refer to in a communication about to be printed and circulated. One of the delegates to the convention of Friends of Canada at Auburn, held in January last, informed the members that it was the unanimous request of the delegates to that convention that the Canadians should themselves meet and form an association, with a special committee of whom their officers might act in friendly concert for the benefit of Canada.

A special committee consisting of John Stewart Jr. of Esquesing, Ira Smith of Niagara, S. P. Hart of Belleville, Reuben Hudson of Whitby, John Montgomery of York, John Snyles, David McKay, C. H. Graham, and others also then present, whose names it would be imprudent to mention here, were appointed to draft a Constitution for the Canadian Association, and from their report I extract the following resolution, which, with many others, was unanimously adopted.

"Resolved, That a society be now constituted from among inhabitants of Canada, who have left that country within the last two years, or who are refugees from thence, or emigrants from political causes, or who having been born British subjects are desirous of aiding the Canadians in the achievement of independence of British political power; and that said society be called the 'Canadian Association.'

And we declare that objects for which this Association are established, are—

1. To aid in obtaining for the people of the North American Colonies the unrestricted power to choose their form of government, by means of conventions of delegates of their appointment, whose acts should afterwards obtain their concurrence; and to assist by all lawful means in removing from this northern continent the cruel yoke of the British government.

2. To prevent as far as possible hasty and ill-planned expeditions or attacks upon parts of the Canadas, designed or begun by, or in the name of Canadian refugees, or of persons in Canada.

3. To discountenance publicly and privately all burnings of private property in Canada, and all attempts on the life of any person untried and unconvicted of crime, however deserving of condemnation and death by the Canadians.

4. To discountenance all attempts to invade the Canadas from these States, so long as the government and legislature of the Union shall consider this nation bound by treaties to abstain from such invasions.

5. To act in concert with any benevolent and patriotic society or societies within this State or any of the United States, formed or to be formed to aid the Canadian people by all lawful means in obtaining relief from the British yoke, or who may be associated for the purpose of relieving those who have been forced in the hour of distress to seek refuge in this free country from the heavy hand of British tyranny.

6. To convey among the refugees information for their own benefit.

7. *

8. And lastly power in Canada to the whole individuals to prevent the like course is to see Canada in others a revelation after their power bring into operation to do unto us, w

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6. To convey to some central place, for the benefit of the laboring classes among the refugees, all the information that can be obtained as to the best situation for their obtaining temporary employment.

7. * * * * *

8. And lastly, to profit by the example of those who have recently exercised power in Canada, to imprison, murder, hang, rob, and banish worthy and estimable reformers, and kind and generous friends and neighbors, by exerting our whole individual and united influence, when Canada shall become free, to prevent the like cruel treatment of the Orangemen and loyalists. Our earnest desire is to see Canada free and happy, not to indulge in ourselves or encourage in others a revengeful and bitter spirit against our known or supposed enemies, after their power to oppress our country shall have been taken away, but to bring into operation the christian rule, to do unto others as we would wish them to do unto us, were they in our situation or circumstances, and we in theirs."

John Montgomery was elected the President, and William Lyon Mackenzie the confidential Secretary of the association, and an executive council of twenty members were appointed, all but three being present and consenting to serve.

The society also appointed four Vice Presidents and a Treasurer, (Mr. Samuel Moulson of Rochester,) and five special committees—one to obtain employment for refugees, consisting of Messrs. McKay, Montgomery and Falls—one to enquire into the characters of proposed members—one of Finance—one to assist in forming auxiliary societies, and a secret committee of correspondence. The members of the committee last named are Dr. Rolph, Mr. Graham, Mr. Stewart of Esquimaux, myself and another. Of the first four the Doctor has not yet said he would undertake the arduous duties imposed on the members. The others are willing. To that committee I also am Secretary.

Messrs. Asa Wixson, Smith, Davison, Doolittle, and Shell, were appointed a committee to consider and report to the council the practicability of embodying and offering one or more regiments of Upper Canadians, from both sides of the lines, to aid the patriotic Governor of Maine in the republican stand he is taking on behalf of American freedom.

One of the resolutions adopts a plan for obtaining information of the condition of Upper Canada, civil and military, and on this subject you are also requested to give all the intelligence in your power.

The above circular has been ordered to be sent to the societies and to intimate and tried friends, although not members. The corresponding committee are also directed to communicate with Michigan, Maine, and Vermont, on a most important subject.

And it was resolved that a committee do draw up a declaration of grievances, and state the object the reformers of Canada had in view, and the measures they took to obtain justice from England, before they had recourse to arms. Five thousand copies will be printed and circulated as soon as funds are placed in Mr. Moulson's hands to defray the expense.

Canadian refugees, who have been engaged in the late struggle, and are now resident in this Union, should report themselves to the society here, by letter (post-paid if they are able) to my address.

Rochester, N. Y., March 20.

W. L. M'K.

