

STATE OF NEW-YORK.

No. 4.

IN SENATE,

January 2, 1838.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

TO THE LEGISLATURE.

I received last evening, after my annual message was prepared, information of an occurrence which I hasten to communicate to you.

The territory of this State has been invaded, and some of our citizens murdered, by an armed force from the Province of Upper Canada.

By the documents accompanying this communication, it will be perceived that the steam-boat *Caroline*, owned by one of our citizens, while lying at Schlosser on the Niagara river, within the limits of this State, on the night of the 29th of December last, was forcibly seized by a party of seventy or eighty armed men in boats, which came from, and returned to, the Canadian shore. The crew and other persons in this steam-boat, amounting to thirty-three, were suddenly attacked at midnight, after they had retired to repose, and probably more than one-third of them wantonly massacred. The boat was detached from the wharf to which it had been secured, set on fire, taken into the middle of the river, and by the force of the current carried over the Niagara Falls. Twelve of the persons who were on board of it are missing, and there is ground to fear that they were killed by the invaders in their attack upon it, or perished in its descent over the cataract. Of those who escaped from the boat, one was killed on the wharf, and several others were wounded.

I am warranted in assuring you, that the authorities not only of this State, but of the United States, have felt an anxious solicitude to maintain the relations of peace and strict neutrality with the British provinces of Upper and Lower Canada at all times since the commencement

[Senate No. 4.]

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