

through some means the criminals should escape a trial under the laws of our State, and the blood of our citizens, and the insult offered to our territory and flag, go unrevenge.

Though we cannot conceive how the assembling of the handful of men on Navy island can by possibility be used, either in justification or palliation of the attack on the Caroline, still, as the Canadian authorities have made that a pretext to justify their conduct, and for that purpose have procured and published a number of false affidavits and false letters from "honorable officers of the royal navy," and as some members of Congress (no doubt through misinformation) seem to view the matter in a somewhat similar light, we think it proper to give a short statement of facts in relation to that assemblage; and, in doing so, the committee who draft this resolution will confine themselves to what is well known in this vicinity to be true.

After the unsuccessful attempt of McKenzie upon Toronto, he and many other Canadians fled to this country, to avoid prosecutions for political offences. Not having as yet given up all hopes of success, they sought and obtained aid from the citizens of Buffalo; and, assembling what men they could, with a few arms, a small quantity of provisions, and little or no ammunition, they, on the 15th of December last, located themselves on Navy island, which was unoccupied except by one farmer; hoping to make that a rallying point for the disaffected Canadians, and, at the same time, to create a diversion of the royalist forces in favor of Dr. Duncombe, who was then in force in the London district. Their numbers the first night were only 16 or 18 men, most of whom were Canadians, and even up to the time of the burning of the Caroline, they had only about 300. When McKenzie first occupied the island, the royalists had several hundred men under arms along the Niagara river, and in less than two weeks were able to and did concentrate a force at Chippewa, opposite the island, of 2,000 or 3000 men, together with a large number of boats. When you consider that the island is nearly level, with the highest banks only about ten feet, and was three or four miles in circumference, you may well suppose that the commander, R. Van Rensselaer, had but few men to spare from duty to erect defences. In fact, up to the burning of the Caroline, they had erected none: and they relied for their safety, (and it was no vain reliance,) entirely upon the fears of the loyalists, and not upon the assistance of the citizens of the United States.

We have given this statement to show that the many exaggerated accounts of recruiting in this State are without foundation; and to show that even if the Caroline had offended against the laws of nations, there was no necessity of resorting to the desperate remedy of invading our territory, much less of murdering our sleeping and unarmed citizens.

We would not pretend to deny that there was a strong feeling manifested in this part of the State, in favor of the Canadian "rebels," who seemed to be placed in a position similar to our brave forefathers when the same epithet was applied to them. Nor is it strange that some of our citizens—recollecting the aid rendered by Lafayette, De Kalb, and Steuben, in our struggle for national independence; of Lords Byron and Cochran, to the Greeks; and by a gallant officer of our own navy, to the Mexican Republic; and recollecting, too, that these men lost neither standing or rank in their own country in consequence of such foreign service—should have gone to Navy island, and there enlisted under the patriot banner. Nor is it strange that with such examples they were slow to believe that they were acting against law. And we respectfully insist, there was in such conduct nothing against any

law of nations; nor can Britain, who permitted vessels of war to be fitted out in her ports and men to be enlisted to aid Don Pedro in his invasion of Portugal, consistently complain.

On the 29th day of December last, the steamboat Caroline, belonging to a citizen of Buffalo, came from that place, and, touching at the island, went to Schlosser. During that day she passed several times between the island and Schlosser, carrying passengers and freight either way, as a matter of private speculation. She sailed under the American flag, and was regularly cleared, as we understand, by the owner, Mr. Wells, at the custom-house in Buffalo. In this she was not, as we conceive, acting contrary to the laws of nations. She did, without doubt, carry some articles contraband of war. For this she was liable to be seized by the British authorities at any time before she came to our shores, and this we conceive was the extent of her liabilities. On the night of the 29th of December, 1837, while relying upon the protection of neutral territory and our nation's flag, and without arms, she was captured and burned, and a large proportion of those on board of her basely assassinated. Long before this the circumstances immediately connected with the outrage have been fully made known to you, and Canadian falsehood sufficiently refuted. We would only say that Schlosser is in plain sight of Chippewa; that the ferry immediately below was open, and persons constantly passing between Schlosser and the British army at Chippewa; and that it is next to impossible that the British officers could have been ignorant of the situation of the boat, of her being unarmed, and of her wearing American colors.

But what makes the outrage appear base beyond expression, is, that while in Canada, the throne, the parliament, and the army, were teeming with abuse of America, her citizens and institutions; while our people who had occasion to cross into that province were insulted and imprisoned; while our boats in Canadian ports were detained, and some actually pressed into the service of the Queen; while the Canadian guard from Fort George to Chippewa were firing at citizens on this side of the river; our General and State Governments were doing all they could to preserve our friendly relations with Great Britain, and orders were actually issued at Washington which have since resulted in disbanding the forces on Navy island. So far from our Government being lacking in her duty to Britain, our public officers have, we believe, in some instances, overstepped the bounds of law and usurped authority, in order to interfere in favor of the loyalists against the patriots.

Since the burning of the Caroline, the grand jury of our county have been in session, and, as they were bound to do by their oaths, they inquired into the transaction, and found bills of indictment against all they could then ascertain where engaged in the murderous affair. We have no doubt but that before this, the Governor of this State has made requisition upon the Governor of Canada, for the surrender of the murderers. But we can hardly believe that since the Canadian Governor has avowed and approved of the assassinations, he will comply with the requisition.

What, in such an event, is to be done? Must we submit to the wrong and insult? or what is nearly the same thing, go through a long course of negotiation, which shall end like the impressment and northern boundary questions, in being questions still lost in the intricacy of diplomacy? If so, let our Government no longer use the proud motto of asking nothing but what is right, and submitting to nothing that is wrong. Or will the