

BRITISH STEAMBOAT SIR ROBERT PEEL AND AMERICAN
STEAMBOAT TELEGRAPH.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

UPON

The subject of Outrages committed upon the British steamboat Sir Robert Peel, and the American steamboat Telegraph, on the waters of the Northern frontier of the United States.

JUNE 20, 1838.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

To the House of Representatives of the United States :

I transmit, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 11th instant, reports from the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and War, with the documents referred to by them respectively. It will be seen that the outrages committed on the steamboat Sir Robert Peel, under the British flag, within the waters of the United States, and on the steamboat Telegraph, under the American flag, at Brockville, in Upper Canada, have not been followed by any demand, by either Government on the other, for redress. These acts have been, so far, treated on each side as criminal offences committed within the jurisdiction of tribunals competent to inquire into the facts, and to punish the persons concerned in them. Investigations have been made, some of the individuals inculpated have been arrested, and prosecutions are in progress, the result of which cannot be doubted.

The excited state of public feeling on the borders of Canada, on both sides of the line, has occasioned the most painful anxiety to this Government. Every effort has been and will be made to prevent the success of the design apparently formed, and in the course of execution, by Canadians who have found a refuge within our territory, aided by a few reckless persons of our own country, to involve the nation in a war with a neighboring and friendly Power. Such design cannot succeed while the two Governments appreciate and confidently rely upon the good faith of each other in the performance of their respective duties. With a fixed determination to use all the means in my power to put a speedy and satisfactory termination to these border troubles, I have the most confident

Thomas Allen, print.