rency at the table: but fortunately the effects of this are not permanent, like some other habits. The waste is the most disgusting part of the thing; everything that is left, including articles never touched, and others scarcely so, is tumbled into a huge basket, kept at the door for the purpose, and which presents a most horrid appearance. Formerly there was much more the appearance of a genteel mess—the numbers were fewer, and wine was put upon the table; but the men used to get drunk, and as the Fellows were present, it seemed like countenancing the vice.

The forms of religion are much attended to, and church attendance rigidly enforced. Behold the consequence:—

"At Oxford, where the morning chapel is compulsory, it is the common practice to come in a nightgown, and run to bed again the moment the service is over. It is not quite so bad at Cambridge, but the greater part of the auditory are always half asleep, and they gape sufficiently to satisfy the most orthodox preacher. The appearance of this, however irreverent, is nothing to the scene in the evening. After hall, the usual practice is to retire to some party, large or small, and there use the Englishman's indulgence of lounging over his cake and wine. The last circulates pretty freely—jests and stories, not remarkable for their moral tendency, fly about on all sides—conviviality is at its height—when all at once the clock strikes—up jump the men in the most violent hurry, throw on their gowns, and dart into the chapel. There the fumes of wine positively taint the air. One man in his haste has brought his cigar in his mouth, and another put his gown on the wrong way; some, rather drunk, by way of showing that they are quite sober and at their ease, put themselves in a straddling position to their full extent of their legs; others, more drunk, get themselves in the form of the letter S, with their shoulders against the upper forms, by way of keeping their balance. And though the majority may be sober enough, yet the indifferent, drowsy, or perhaps sneering look which plays upon their countenance—the assumed listlessness with which they stand—the eternal yawn, in which, by the way, the dons themselves are in the habit of joining,—all this must create a very edifying impression on the mind of a stranger, who wishes to see how the youth of this country are taught to worship the creator.

Here is a Sunday breakfast party—a thing forbidden, and therefore in great fashion:—

"The guests begin to drop in by slow degrees, each with a complaint of the length of the morning service, some natural expressions of devotion which an hour and a half spent upon one's knees before breakfast on a frosty morning is calculated to produce; else with some tale of the preceding evening, for Saturday night is notorious for its escapades. This occupies the time till the cooking is over, and the party assembled. Then follows an attack upon the eatables worthy a city festival, and, for conversation, imagine twenty youths talking in a language of which half the nouns substantive are slang, and availing themselves of every resource to appear smart—blasphemy, grossness, and indecency included; their topics of every kind and description, dispatched in a few sentences to make room for the next. Imagine this, with manners of that free and easy kind which takes everything in good part, and allows of personalities to the fullest extent, and you have a breakfast party at Cambridge. We question whether the uninitiated would understand the half of the sentences employed without a glossary, especially if the theme be a college one. Presently the warmth of the party begins to cool, the wits think they have done enough, the intellect begins to be oppressed with the weight of perigard pie, and the men begin to recline on their chairs. Then a fresh supply of an odious mixture they call *cup*, compounded of spice and cider, is handed round to every one's lips, and the greater part light their cigars that they may not be obliged to talk.

Supposing ourselves present, now that every one is quiet, let us take a survey of the company, and notice some of its most prominent characters. Observe that man, corpulent and fresh coloured, who is lolling at full length in the best place in the room. He is an expectant Fellow. He stays out all night after a boisterous party, rather than be known to enter college after eleven o'clock. He drinks ale in hall. He gets drunk on port on Sunday evenings because there are no lectures the next morning. He attends his tutor's Sunday religious parties. He asks questions thereat about the efficacy of divine things. He picks up knowledge as pigeons do peas. Not troubled with any tasks or preferences of his own, he reads just what will be the best for him at the next examination. He wears his white neckcloth with extreme precision. He is never ruffled except at dinner time. He reads six hours a day to a second. His rival's only chance of beating him in the "crump" papers, is by feeding him over night. He will make an excellent clergyman of the church of England.

"Beside him sits a man of a pale and amiable countenance. He is now in the height of misery from the effects of his cigar. He has no taste for 'scapes and pranks, and yet he is always talking of them. He has been making observations all the time, when he would much rather have been silent, because he thinks it his duty to make himself heard. He suffers his neighbour to fan him on the face. He never says a grave thing but when he means to be facetious. He plays at whist for nothing. He is a reading man. He dreams to himself of great things at examination, and wonders how he comes to miss them. He hopes that he may, perhaps, be a Fellow. He counts the cost before he gives a party. He is blameless in character if he could be contented to be so. He has a Cambridge calendar on his table.

"Observe next a guest of a firm deportment. He alternates a sentiment with a jest, because he thinks at first that he has been too serious, and then that he has been too light. He speaks a sentiment as if it were a jest, and a jest as if it were a sentiment. He is a classical scholar. He is very careful in his reading. He shuts his outer door in the morning, and lets no one in. He quotes Aristotle on metaphysics. He is extremely impatient of defeat and contradiction. He is a respectable character. He keeps six chapels a-week.

"Another sits beside him, tall, handsome, and ready of tongue. He tells anecdotes of the women. He claims acquaintance with the porter of each of the colleges. He has come overnight from Newmarket in a drag. When he has a beefsteak, he knows how to compound his own horse-radish sauce. He insults the company. He talks folly for fear he should be thought a fool. He pulls six in the college boat. He writes a letter in the midst of the party. The only way to please him is to call him a 'rowing' man.

"Another 'rowing' character, like himself, not genuine, sits near him. He has a greasy face, as if he washed every morning in train oil. He speaks as if he were half asleep. He wears a very ragged gown and a cap with the tassel off. He gets drunk upon beer. He writes learned epistles to his father. He is always uneasy at his own behaviour. He drinks because he is too lazy to read, and reads because he is too lazy to drink. He is always fearful that you intend to cut him. He keeps eight chapels a-week."

## THE McLEOD AFFAIR.

*Governor Seward's Letter to Mr. Forsyth.*

THE GOVERNOR TO MR. FORSYTH.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

*Executive Department,*
Albany, February 27, 1841.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, with which was transmitted a copy of a recent correspondence between the Department of State and Her Britannic Majesty's Minister to the United States, relating to the case of Alexander McLeod, a British subject, who was arrested at Lewiston in November last, and is now detained at Lockport, on a charge of having been engaged in the capture and destruction of the steamboat Caroline in the year 1837.

You will please make known to the President, that at a recent term of the general sessions of the peace held in and for the county of Niagara, Alexander McLeod, who is the subject of the correspondence, was indicted for the crime of arson committed in the transaction to which you have referred. The Executive authority of this state is not informed of the nature of the testimony which was submitted to the grand jury, but no doubt is entertained that it was sufficient to justify the finding of a true bill. Notwithstanding the legal presumption against the prisoner, it is understood that he asserts confidently his innocence of any agency in the capture and destruction of the Caroline. A just regard for the honor of the state, as well as a due consideration of the importance of the case to the prisoner and the possible influence of the result of the proceeding upon the relations existing between this country and Great Britain, has seemed to me to require that the accused should have a fair and impartial trial; that if he participated in the incendiary and murderous transaction with which his name has thus been connected, he should suffer the penalty which our laws prescribe; and that on the other hand, if he be in truth innocent, the justice of our country ought to manifest itself in his acquittal notwithstanding the public indignation which the crime laid to his charge has so justly called forth.

Influenced by these views, I had, previous to the receipt of your communication, deemed it my duty to require the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature of this state to preside at the trial of the cause, and had directed the Attorney General to conduct the prosecution. The trial will be brought on at the next court of oyer and terminer to be held in the county of Niagara on the fourth Monday of March next, unless the prisoner shall interpose reasons for delay, or avail himself of his right to demand the removal of the cause out of the court of oyer and terminer, with a view to obtain a change of venue to some other county than that in which the indictment was found. He pledged to assure the President, that so far as shall depend upon me nothing shall occur in regard to the case, inconsistent with the views I have expressed.

The views of the President as exhibited in the correspondence before me are fully concurred in, and his action in accordance with those views will be duly supported by the public authorities of this state. Those authorities desire that all the amicable relations of the country may be continued, and they are especially solicitous for the preservation of the harmony which happily for both parties has prevailed between this state and a neighbouring nation one of whose provinces is upon our northern borders. Nevertheless the public authorities of the state, as well as the whole people, are obliged by a proper sense of the national honor, and every consideration affecting the general security, to regard the transaction in which the prisoner is alleged to have participated, "as an unjustifiable invasion in time of peace, of a portion of the territory of the United States, by a band of armed men, resulting in the destruction of American property, and the murder of one or more citizens of this state." The crimes committed in the aggression, as you have well observed, fall within the jurisdiction of the authorities of this state, and those authorities, under the provisions of the constitution, act in regard to those crimes, independently of the Federal Government. If the parties engaged in them could have been seized at the time of the aggression they would have been amenable to the laws they had violated.

Alexander McLeod, having voluntarily come within the jurisdiction of this state, and while here being under the protection of its laws, it is not perceived how it can be made a subject of complaint by his government that he was arrested upon the same probable cause, has been detained by the same process, is required to answer in the same form and before the same tribunals for an alleged offence, in the same manner that citizens of this state are charged, detained and brought to justice for crimes of the same description with that of which he is accused. Neither the laws of the United States, nor those of this state, would permit the Federal Government to comply with the demand of Her Britannic Majesty's Minister for the release of the prisoner, and the President is certainly very right in supposing that such an interposition on his part, if it were otherwise possible, could not constitutionally be acquiesced in by the authorities of this state. On the contrary those authorities not only deem the subject as falling within their appropriate province, but they have also unhesitatingly approved of the application made by the President, upon the government of Her Majesty, for explanation in regard to the original aggression, and they respectfully assure the President of their satisfaction with his renewed demand contained in the correspondence under consideration.

I beg leave to state that I am not informed concerning any grounds for the representation of Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, that the prisoner's preliminary examination was taken in secresy. An examination before commitment is a proceeding which we have derived from the laws of Great Britain, and is enjoined upon magistrates here as well as there, and in all modern countries where liberty is known, out of tenderness to the accused, and not with a view to oppress or harrass him. Such was the object of the examination in the present case, and so far from its having been conducted so as to be unnecessarily tedious or vexatious, I am assured that the prisoner's counsel were influenced throughout by a hope that it would appear on the examination that the prisoner was not concerned in the destruction of the Caroline.

Her Britannic Majesty's Minister [illegible] Mr. McLeod [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]