

that there is neither honour nor reputation attends the Men from whose Rebellion their Country receives no benefit ; who look up to no Common Good ; who fight not under the pretence even of Liberty ; and whom, if they thus obtain a vile and precarious subsistence, no immediate advantage to America, no want of their assistance can keep on shore.

But those People “ of mistaken Virtue,” for whom your feelings are so much interested, have experienced all the generosity of this Country, and been exchanged as prisoners of war ; an act of favour which they had no right to expect from the English. But should even Mr. Washington himself, deserting his present honourable occupation, infest the sea for his own private emolument, and be taken in the offence, it will not be a matter of much consequence to his reputation, whether he suffers for his past or present transgressions ; whether he is hanged as a Pirate, or executed as a Rebel : for with all the fashionable allowance for Rebellion, in my opinion, the title of Rebel is neither honourable nor meritorious—nor is the distinction worth contending for.

The second professed purpose of the Act, as you are pleased to say, is to detain for trial in England, those who shall commit High Treason in America. If you allow that the Americans are guilty of Treason, of which no one has any doubt, in what place are they to be tried—in England or America?

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