

lars and others of the vilest of the overflowings of the prisons of the British Empire ; and that thus associated, they are made to do penance in the same manner as those who have been convicted of crimes embracing moral turpitude. As they were taken in arms against Her Majesty's Government, the right of that government to detain them as prisoners, so long as Her Majesty shall please, is not to be disputed ; but I contend, my Lord, that persons taken under the circumstances that my countrymen were captured, cannot, in justice, be regarded as felons—and that the reducing of them to the condition of such—and the making them the companions of foot pads and house breakers, is not only a violation of rules adopted and pursued by the people of the most enlightened nations, but that it is an uncalled for severity and a cruelty unnecessary to the case ; and tending to defeat the very object for which punishments are declared by the laws of the British nation. Her Majesty's Government may call them *pirates and robbers*, and condemn them to the punishment of felons, but those, my unfortunate fellow citizens can never be made to regard themselves as such. They had acted only from motives of giving a generous assistance to what they believed was a struggle for liberty ; and while they are loaded with chains and incarcerated in dungeons, they will esteem themselves *martyrs to the cause of freedom*. I am, also, my Lord, from information, induced to believe that those men have been condemned upon proceedings which would in no manner bear a legal scrutiny.

We had had it presented to us from the pages of the history of our own country, that when the Canadas were wrested from the French nation, they were rather conquests to the people of the American Colonies, (now the United States,) than to the British Government ; and, therefore, when we had reflected that it was our forefathers who mainly contributed to make the Canadas—what our territories were then—British Colonies, we could not deem it wrong to give the people of those colonies assistance in an attempt to make their country what ours is now—*Free and Independent States !*

We had lately beheld the whole American people vying with each other to do honor to the persons, and to