

lice was administered nor mercy extended, and the two prime attributes of Royalty were trampled under foot

But, my lord, to the present subject. Your lordship can not but be aware, that two men, (Schuyler and Lambert,) were a short time since at Montreal, justly found guilty by an impartial jury, and condemned to suffer death for their crimes; and, if I mistake not, both these men have often violated the laws of the country, and are old offenders. When the awful sentence of death was passing upon them, the judge seriously and impressively warned them to make good use of their time, for that he could give them no expectation but that they would most certainly suffer the sentence of the law. As it is usually, and I believe, generally, the case for condemned criminals to petition His Excellency the governor, for an extension of the Royal mercy, each alledging whatever circumstances he can in extenuation of his guilt, or for the awakening of commiseration, so it was done in this case, but no answers being received, all hopes of pardon were of course extinguished; and it became high time for the unfortunate men to consider their end as fast approaching; even their coffins were prepared and sent into the gaol; even the gallows was erected; and every thing indicated that your lordship had signed their fate. The crowd had assembled to witness their execution; and thinking men, perhaps justly anticipated, that by some proper examples of severity, the frequency of crime would be diminished, and our lives and properties rendered more secure than the experience of this winter has proved they are. It was at this juncture that, most unexpectedly, the sheriff came to the criminals ward, and gave them to understand, that he could not execute them that day, as he had not received a warrant signed by your lordship's hand but merely one signed by your lordship's secretary! which he could not consider as a document sufficient to act upon.* Could any transaction be marked with more levity,

**The judgement, as well as the humanity, of the sheriff of Montreal, in this instance can not be too highly applauded.— Well and truly did he consider that, as nothing less than the king's sign manual in England; (or, where distance requires it, that of his judges, specially commissioned) can authorise the execution of any criminal, and that even a secretary of state can not give any such order; so most certainly the secretary of a provincial governor could not legally sign any warrant of execution; and there is no doubt that the secretary who did so, is in law, guilty of a high misdemeanour, nearly verging upon treason. But, my lord Dalhousie, permit me, in my own person, to add, that, with the utmost benevolence towards mankind in your soul, the good of the people you govern at your heart, and with all the best feelings and qualities of the noble-*