

OUR compassion has lately been called into painful exercise, by the sufferings of many innocent people, whose houses have been burnt, by what I fear will be found, a wanton exercise of military power on one side, and by retaliating vengeance on the other.

By quoting from a proclamation of the commander of the British forces in North America, I shall not be understood as acceding in the smallest degree to his reasoning; for I condemn the practice of retaliating injuries altogether, as immoral, and contrary to the command of Christ. I therefore quote the words of Lieut. General Provost, merely as reasons which he offers for a painful act of retaliation.

"The complete success which has attended his majesty's arms on the Niagara frontier having placed in our possession the whole of the enemy's posts on that line, it became a matter of imperious duty to retaliate on America the miseries, which the unfortunate inhabitants of Newark had been made to suffer upon the evacuation of Fort George.

"The villages of Lewistown, Black Rock, and Buffalo have accordingly been burned.

"At the same time that his excellency the commander of the forces sincerely deprecates this mode of warfare, he trusts that it will be sufficient to call the attention of every candid and impartial person, both amongst ourselves and the enemy, to the circumstances from which it has arisen, to satisfy them, that this departure from the established usages of war has originated with America herself, and to her alone are justly chargeable all the awful and unhappy consequences, which have hitherto flowed, and are likely to result from it."

From sources of the best information, the author of the preceding discourse is able to lay before the publick the following account of the proceedings of the American and the British governments on the system of retaliation which has lately been adopted. It appears, that

23 American prisoners were arrested, as British subjects, by the English government in Canada. That

23 British prisoners, in retaliation, were confined by the American government. That

46 Americans, in retaliation, were confined by the English government. That

46 British subjects, in retaliation, were confined by the American government. That, after this, orders were issued for the confinement of

92 American prisoners. "Seventy were actually confined at Halifax, on board the prison ship *Success*: that as soon as