

to be hanged. Their wives and children went before Congress, then in session and, on their knees supplicated in vain for mercy. In carrying out the sentence, the two men with halters round their necks, were marched to the gallows behind a cart attended with all the apparatus, which makes such scenes truly horrible. A guard of militia surrounded them on the march to death. At the gallows, the behavior of these martyrs to their loyalty did honor to human nature and both showed fortitude and composure. Roberts told the spectators, that his conscience acquitted him of guilt, that he suffered for doing his duty to his sovereign, and that his blood would one day be required at their hands. Turning to his children, he bade them farewell and charged them to remember his principles for which he died and to adhere to them while they had breath. A witness of his execution wrote,—“He suffered with the resolution of a Roman.” After the execution, the bodies of the two men were carried away by friends, and their burial was attended, by over 4,000 of their brother Loyalists. Some of the heartless leaders of the Resolution defended this severity and thought that hanging the friends of King George would have a good effect, and give stability to the new government. Another suggested, that the Loyalists seemed designed for this purpose by Providence, as his head the King, is in England, his body the loyalists in America, and the neck ought to be stretched. All legal rights were denied a Loyalist. He might be assaulted, black-mailed, insulted, or slandered. Yet he had no recourse in law. They could neither buy nor sell. In New York alone over \$3,000,000 worth of property was acquired by the State. The result was, large manors and estates were cut up into small lots and divided among the common people, thus closing out any hope to the Loyalists ever claiming their property again. Washington himself approved heartily of the confiscation and justified this act of wholesale robbery. It was in vain that the Loyalists protested and pled for justice. Such appeals fell on deaf ears. If continued protest was made, the Loyalists were adjudged offenders, and thrown into the common prisons, which in that day were places of horror. One of the most terrible of these prisons was the famous Simsbury