

Colmag Val 5/1841

## CASE OF MR. M'LEOD.

### DEGRADATION OF ENGLAND.

[Mr. Webster received a letter from Mr. Fox, dated March 12th, 1841, in which Mr. Fox declares that he is directed by the British government to make known to the government of the United States, that the British government *entirely* approve of the course pursued by Mr. M'Leod, in the affair of the Caroline, and *demand*s his *immediate* release on the ground that the transaction was of a *public* character, &c.]—*Extract from Mr. Fox's Letter to Mr. Webster.*

SUCH is the demand made by a British ambassador to a foreign nation, for the surrender of a British subject, incarcerated in a foreign dungeon, charged with the crimes of murder and arson; charges preferred against him for the part he was supposed to have taken in defending his country, by the orders of his sovereign, against foreign invasion; and the responsibility of which act has been assumed by the British government itself. Indignation almost prevents our recording, that the demand made for the immediate and instantaneous release of this gallant individual was made two months since, and that he is *still* in prison, and *still* to be tried. Is this England? Are we dreaming, or are we awake? Is this the country of which Oliver Cromwell said, "He would make the hair of an Englishman's head feared and respected in the most distant part of the world."

What has come of our pride, our spirit, our dignity, our glory, our national obligation? We hesitate not to avow our solemn conviction, that a more degrading, humiliating, disgraceful exhibition than that of

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