

PREFACE.



THE arrest and imprisonment by the Earl of Selkirk, of several partners and people in the service of the North-West Company, at Fort William, in August, 1816, upon charges of "high treason, murder, robbery, and conspiracy," is well known to the public; and the proceedings by indictment and otherwise, against them, and numerous others, their adherents, which have subsequently taken place, have equally been frequently detailed in the public prints of Canada.

The trials at York in Upper Canada, of which this volume contains a faithful report, now demonstratively exhibit the utter futility of those charges; and the long period that has elapsed between the time they were brought, and that when the trials upon them have taken place, is an additional proof, if any were wanting, of the oppressions under colour of law, to which