

from an opinion of his abilities, would give hope to his troops, and confidence to his country. The captive soldiery exposed to every enticement from the service which an unprincipled and insidious foe could practise upon disappointed and distressed men, would necessarily require the highest influence to fortify them in their duty. The zealous attachment of troops to their commander is known to increase, when they have been exposed to one common danger. They look up to him as their unfortunate friend; and, instead of that envy which is apt to attend the prosperous, there prevails a mutual sympathy, a kind condolence, respect founded on esteem, affection heightened by distress. Such would have been the disposition of your army towards you. Your presence would have kept them united; in your absence they have been dispersed. The enemy by a flagitious violation of the treaty detained them in captivity; they struggled long with hardship and distress; but at length their constancy was shaken; their fortitude overcome: some dispersed over the country; some entered into the enemy's service,