

derstand one language as well as another," and abruptly took his leave.

BRANT'S VIEWS ON IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Extracts from the following letter to the late Thos. Eddy on the subject of "imprisonment for debt" will exhibit his views as a philanthropist. Mr. Eddy was directing his attention to the subject of prison discipline, and, it appears, the views of the Mohawk Chieftain coincided with his own.

* * * * "You ask me whether in my opinion civilization is favorable to human happiness? * * * You will allow me in some respects to have had the advantage of you in forming my sentiments. I was, Sir, born of Melian parents, and lived while a child among those whom you are pleased to call *savages*. I was afterwards sent to live among the white people, and educated at one of your schools; since which period I have been honored, much beyond my deserts, by an acquaintance with a number of principal characters both in Europe and America.

"After all this experience, and after every exertion to divest myself of prejudice, I am obliged to give my opinion in favor of my own people. I will now, as much as I am able, collect together and set before you some of the reasons that have influenced my judgment on the subject now before us.

"In the government you call civilized, the happiness of the people is constantly sacrificed to the splendor of empire. Hence your codes of criminal and civil laws have had their origin; hence your dungeons and prisons. I will not enlarge on an idea so singular in civilized life, and perhaps disagreeable to you, and will only observe that amongst us we have no prisons; we have no pompous parade of courts; we have no written laws; and yet judges are as highly revered amongst us as amongst you, and their decisions as much regarded. Property, to say the least, is as well guarded, and crimes are as impartially punished. We have among us no splendid villains above the control of our laws. Daring wickedness is here never

suffered to triumph over helpless innocence.

"The estates of widows and orphans are never devoured by enterprising sharpers. In a word we have no robbery under the color of law.

"No person among us desires any other reward for performing a brave action but the consciousness of having served his nation. Our wise men are called Fathers; they are always accessible—I will not say to the meanest of our people, for we have none mean but such as render themselves so by their vices.

"The palaces and prisons among you form a most dreadful contrast. Go to the former places, and you will see perhaps a *deformed piece of earth* assuming airs that become none but the Great Spirit above. Go to one of your prisons; here description utterly fails! Kill them, if you please; kill them, too, by tortures; but let the torture last no longer than a day. Those you call savages relent; the most furious of our tormentors exhausts his rage in a few hours, dispatches his unhappy victim by a sudden stroke.

"But for what are many of your prisoners confined? For debt!—astonishing!—and will you ever again call the Indian nations cruel? Liberty, to a rational creature, as much exceeds property, as the light of the sun does that of the most twinkling star. I solemnly declare, I had rather die by the most severe tortures ever inflicted on this continent than languish in one of your prisons for a single year. Great Spirit of the Universe!—and do you call yourselves Christians? Does, then, the religion of Him whom you call your Saviour inspire this spirit, and lead to these practices? Surely no. It is recorded of Him, that a bruised reed he never broke. Cease then to call yourselves Christians, lest you publish to the world your hypocrisy. Cease, too, to call other nations savage, when you are ten-fold more the children of cruelty than they."

In short the great and fundamental principle of his policy was, that every man is naturally free and independent; that no one on earth has any right to deprive him of his freedom and that nothing could be a compensation for the loss of it.