

lowed, to go to rest, within the four walls of a Judicial Chamber.

One of the first maxims in English jurisprudence is, the punishment of criminals, not so much for the crimes committed, as to deter others from committing them; which is not only a sufficient justification for offering these observations to the public, but seems to inculcate the necessity of doing so.

The first that commands my attention, is, the merciless seizure of an individual, *in the city of Montreal*, by a band of desperate ruffians, and dragging him from his apartment in a stormy night; wantonly abusing, and forcibly carrying him from the country; merely for to obtain a few paltry shillings, as a reward for the violence.

The presiding judge, much to his honour, remarked, that an action, so atrocious in its nature, as this was, seldom called for the interference of that court; that a man, on setting his foot upon the soil of this country, must be protected by its laws; and in every situation, and under all circumstances, dealt with only as the laws of the country shall prescribe. If transactions, of such a description as this, were, for a moment, to be tolerated, no man, however innocent, or whatever his situation, but might be torn from his home, his family, and his friends, and placed in a situation beyond the reach of assistance. No one could possibly foresee the crimes that must inevitably proceed from transactions of such a character. Should the life of an individual be taken, by any number, however great, combined for such a purpose, in furtherance of their design, the whole would be guilty of the murder, and liable to suffer an ignominious death upon the gallows. And, on the contrary, should a man in his defence, kill