

" therefore, that none of our subjects may
 " neglect or violate their duty through igno-
 " rance thereof, or through *any doubt of the*
 " *protection which the LAW will afford to their*
 " *loyalty and zeal*, We have thought fit, by
 " the advice of our Privy Council, to issue
 " this proclamation, hereby declaring, that
 " not only all our Officers, civil and military,
 " are obliged to exert their *utmost endeavours*
 " to suppress the rebellion, but that *all the*
 " *subjects* of our realm, and the *dominions*
 " thereunto belonging, are bound by law to
 " be aiding and assisting in the suppression of
 " the rebellion, and to disclose and make known
 " all traiterous conspiracies and attempts
 " against our Crown and dignity. And we
 " do accordingly *strictly charge and command*
 " all our Officers, civil and military, and *all*
 " *other our obedient and loyal subjects*, to use
 " their *utmost* endeavours to withstand and
 " suppress such rebellion," &c.

In the same year General Gage, Com-
 mander in Chief of the British forces in
 America, issued his proclamation, declaring,
 " that all those who should protect, assist,
 " supply, conceal, or correspond with the
 " insurgents, should be treated as rebels and
 " traitors."

The

The usurped legislatures of the several colo-
 nies, in their turn, passed laws, declaring,
 " That all persons who should aid, assist, or
 " correspond with the subjects of Great Bri-
 " tain, should be adjudged guilty of high
 " treason against their authorities." And
 under these laws they attainted the persons,
 and confiscated the property, of all who ad-
 hered to their allegiance, or gave the least aid
 or assistance towards supporting " the au-
 " thority of the Crown, or rights of Parlia-
 " ment."

The critical and dangerous predicament in
 which these transactions placed the Loyalists,
 is not easily described. General Burgoyne,
 who was on the spot, has attempted to give
 some idea of the dreadful scene, which he
 declares to consist of " *arbitrary imprisonment,*
 " *confiscation of property, persecution and tor-*
 " *ture, unprecedented in the INQUISITION*
 " *OF ROME.* These are inflicted," continues
 the General, " by Assemblies and Commit-
 " tees, who dare to style themselves friends
 " to liberty, upon the *most faithful subjects,*
 " without distinction of age or sex, for the
 " *sole crime*, often for *the sole suspicion*, of hav-
 " ing adhered in principle to the government
 " under which they were born, and to which,
 " by