and excited imagination which characterized the enthusiast. Hence
he was not liable to catch at partial representations, to view facts
through fallacious opinions and to fall into those mistakes
which are so frequent in the man of fancy and warm-fueling.
Some who knew him only by his extraordinary deeds were ready
enough to believe upon him that sense of contempt, which cold and
unfeeling hearts are wont to apply to whatever has the show of high
sensibility. Others of slight acquaintance and disposed in him
occasional hardships were disposed to question his feeling alto-
gether and attribute his virtues merely to habit or a strange
and wayward humor. Unprotected, ever blinded men! in recollec-
tion of unparalleled generosity, to reckon for ought the sincerest
service of man's noblest feeling. He felt as a man should feel.
He was not misled either in the estimate which he formed of objects
of ability or in his reasoning concerning the means by which they
were to be accomplished. The reformation of abuses and the relief of
misery were the great purposes which quickened his every thought,
and strained every nerve; and the tone of sensibility started in his
eyes in recalling the distressed scenes to which he had been exposed,
and the spirit of indignation flashed from them at the recollection
of cruelties and oppressions. Though his whole course of action
was an exhibition of intrepidity and fortitude, his constancy and
self-collection never deserted him. He was never a chivalrous man
off his guard. His mind was firm and bearing. God's incom-
destible shield he was fearless of consequences. For was it on great
occasions alone that the strength of mind was shown? it rained
thus above all false shame and that airs which makes a coward