

tion. The labors of this case have been unexampled. We can find no parallel to them in the history of judicial proceedings of this country. None of us have as yet, however, broke down under them, although many times the body has been weary and the heart sick and faint. Still I do not know that these labors ought to be to us a subject of regret, when we consider the great importance of the case now to be decided. It is important, inasmuch as it involves the lives of twelve men, and the interests of public justice, not only in this, but in every other civilized country.

It is of consequence, not only to our own citizens, but to "all those who go down to the sea in ships," that, when removed from the protection of their friends and neighbors, they should yet be safe—protected by the moral influence of the law, spreading over the wide expanse of ocean, and extending from one continent to the other. When then, I say, you consider the momentous nature of this trial—that it is connected with the interests of every nautical people, I think I am justified in the remark that the labors of the cause ought not to be regretted. Not only should we dismiss from our minds all thoughts of the labor we have undergone, but every, the slightest, personal feeling, calculated to bias our minds, or impede the ends of justice. We should come to the decision of this case with pure hearts, and minds freed from all feeling of anger or irritation, however much the course pursued for the defense has been calculated to produce them. We should come bearing in mind the great maxim of the law, "That every person is presumed to be innocent until he is proved to be guilty," but with a resolution also, should the guilt of the individuals before us be proved, to do our duty. The prisoners have had a fair and noble trial. If they are far from their friends; if the forms of this court are new to them, yet have they had privileges, which in their own country they could not have had. They have been furnished with copies of the charges against them, in order that they might know what those charges were. They have had individuals acquainted with their own language to