

CHAP.

I.

1808.

dant upon it, affected to suspect a conspiracy on foot, and that secret funds were furnished from abroad for the purpose of alienating the minds of the people from their allegiance, and to revolutionize the Province. Some ancient and respectable citizens known to have contributed towards the purchase of the press, were dismissed from their rank in the sedentary militia; among them Mr. Panet, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, a gentleman of the most unimpeachable integrity. This measure although of little importance in itself, created from its harshness, an interest in the public, which strengthened the party already formed in opposition to the measures of the administration.

In June, the elections for the ensuing Parliament took place, and were conducted in most counties with unanimity. The late Speaker presented himself for the Upper Town of Quebec, but the resident Military, and dependants on the several Military Departments in Quebec, entitled to vote, influenced by the example of their chiefs, turned the scale against him. He was however elected in the mean time for another County.

Material improvements to the fortifications of Quebec were commenced this summer; and the foundations of four towers extending across the commanding ground in front of the walls, west of the city were laid. The extraordinary state of affairs in Europe, combined with the American Embargo, turned an unusual tide of commerce into the Canadas, and their resources and utility to the mother country were exemplified, far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine and intelligent speculator.

1809.

On the 10th of April the House of Assembly met pursuant to the Governor's Proclamation, and the people were on the tiptoe of anxiety, a report having gone abroad that His Excellency would not concur with the House, should their choice be in favor of the Speaker of the late House of Assembly, whom he had some time before dismissed from the Militia. This gentleman was however almost unanimously chosen Speaker, and the Governor approved of his election.

In his speech at the opening of Parliament, the Governor descanted upon the unfavorable posture of affairs with America; the revolution in Spain; and the generous assistance