

to adopt the English laws from choice, and not from force ; and he did not think the division of the province the most likely means to bring about this desirable end. He trusted that the house would also seriously consider the particular situation of Canada. It was not to be compared to the West Indies ; it was a country of a different nature ; it did not consist of a few white inhabitants, and a number of slaves ; but it was a country of great growing population, which had increased very much, and which, he hoped, would increase much more.

Mr. Pitt lamented, that these objections had not occurred to Mr. Fox in an earlier stage of the bill ; but he readily consented to its recommitment, from a desire of availing himself of any opportunity of hearing observations, and receiving information, in the difficult and important business of settling a new system for the government of a distant colony. He thought, however, that at present the proposed assemblies would be sufficiently numerous, and they might be increased when the population of the provinces* became greater, as the bill fixed the minimum. He totally differed from Mr. Fox, respecting the expediency of making the councils elective, and excluding all hereditary honours ; he thought, that none of those republican principles, which Mr. Fox had applauded, and described as resulting from a greater extension of learning, in those more enlightened times, would improve the Constitution of Britain, or of its colonies ; and that in the Canadas, there ought to be hereditary aristocratical councils, answering to the British House of Lords. He contended, that the only method of reconciling the jarring interests, and opposite views of the inhabitants, was, by giving them two legislatures, in one of which the ancient Canadians might have the ascendancy, and in the other the new settlers ; as animosity and confusion must arise, from uniting the same legislature, persons so dissimilar in religion, language, manners, and character ; the conquerors and conquered ; some attached to the English and others to the French laws. He trusted, however, that the French would hereafter voluntarily adopt the English jurisprudence, from a conviction of its being preferable to their own, which would be far better than using any compulsion upon the subject. With respect to the protestant clergy, he was desirous of making an adequate provision for them, sufficient to enable them to support their situation with respectability ; and a seventh of the land was not equal in value to a tenth of its produce, which was the provision for the Parochial Clergy in England.

As it was these debates relative to a new constitution for Canada, which led to the celebrated quarrel between Mr. Fox and Mr. Burke, it may not be altogether improper to give a short detail of it. On the recommitment of the bill, Mr. Burke rose, as he said, to speak to its general principle. He enlarged upon "the importance of the act which they were now about to perform. The first consideration was the competency of the House to such an act. A body of rights commonly called the *Rights of Man*, had been lately imported from a neighbouring kingdom. The principle of this new code was, that all men were

* The population of Upper Canada was supposed at this time, to be 10,000, including men, women, and children.