

in them. This return included all persons committed for high treason since the affair at Lexington.

This motion was assented to by ministry, the friends of which observed, that an inquiry of this kind would fully evince how little administration was inclined to treat any individuals with unnecessary severity, and how ready to give all reasonable satisfaction to such as required proofs of the propriety of their conduct, and the uprightness of their intentions.

The reasons alledged by opposition for a discontinuance of the Bill, were, that no sort of necessity appeared for the precautions it alluded to. No effect had been produced by it, as none of those evils had happened which it was intended to remedy.—It was therefore useless; and being otherwise of a dangerous tendency to public freedom, ought not to be allowed of, but in cases of the extremest necessity.

It was argued, on the side of ministry, that the very motive mentioned by opposition for discontinuing the bill, was a proof of its expediency. It had prevented those evils which would otherwise have happened, and must have been severely punished. Its continuance was therefore highly expedient, as it contributed so effectually to domestic tranquility.

After a variety of arguments, much to the same effect, a continuance of the bill was voted by a majority of one hundred and sixteen, to sixty.

The next subject wherein America became again an object of discussion, was the land-tax. Here the disputants on either side renewed that immense variety of argumentation which had for years been repeated to so little purpose. The inutility of warring in America for the purposes of taxation, was enforced from the impracticability of raising a revenue out of a country that had no money, and which ought