

# THE FREE PRESS.

VOL. I.] MONTREAL, THURSDAY, 19th JUNE, 1823. [No. 35.

*La science du gouvernement n'est qu'une science de combinaisons, d'applications, et d'exceptions, selon les tems, les lieux, les circonstances.*

ROUSSEAU.

EXTRACT FROM THE LONDON COURIER, continued.

"They are said to be anti-commercial. This is not true in the main; although, compared to the enterprising English and American merchants, it would appear so. In fact, the leading French Canadians are gentry of the old French school, having immense landed property. On the other hand, the only English\* here who are opulent, excepting the governor and some few round him, have acquired all their riches in trade, and, although many are extremely rich, and live almost in a princely style, yet there is a certain "je ne-sais quoi," in the habits and manners of each, which sets cordiality and friendship, and, of course, confidence, at an immeasurable distance.† These parties were brought into collision by the introduction of the bill

\* The constant recurrence of the word English in this letter, would lead me to suppose, either that it was not actually written here, where (until lately that the Canadian Spectator and myself have restored it into use in its original meaning,) the term British has been universally adopted; or that the editor of the Courier, has changed the expression from British to English, as one more consonant to his ideas of propriety, though it is, in fact, less descriptive of the actual state of matters.

† There is much truth in the general representation here given. The French Canadians are not anti-commercial at all, upon system or principle, but the generality of them are so; by their habits and pursuits. They are not enemies to trade, but they do not desire to be forced to become traders themselves, nor to have all their interests, their customs, their partialities, and enjoyments, laid prostrate before the genius of commerce; the lesser interest of the country made predominant over the greater. As to the opulent British in this province, though they do live in what may, by affected to be called "almost a princely style;" it is the princely style of Thames street, Fish-street hill, Watling-street, and other elegant parts of the city of London; which they ape; and, y the writer of this letter can not describe the "je ne sais quoi," that makes the distance and difference between