

never been explained, and that was, whether his Majesty had a power to divide the province as was then proposed.

Upon consulting the 14th George III., it appeared that the king had that authority.

*Mr. Chancellor Pitt* said, the point being settled that his Majesty had an authority to divide the province, the question would be whether it was fit for parliament to agree with his Majesty to establish two legislatures; and if they did not agree, they might negative the whole of the clause, and might dispose of the whole of the bill; because it proceeded all through its various clauses on the fundamental supposition of two legislatures. It appeared to his Majesty's ministers, first, that the only way of consulting the interest of the internal situation of Quebec, and of rendering it profitable to this country, was to give it a legislature as near as circumstances would admit, according to the principles of the British constitution. In the next place it appeared to them that there was no probability of reconciling the jarring interests and opposite views of the inhabitants, but by giving them two legislatures. It was conceived this form of government was best adapted to put an end to all the difficulties of a legal sort, and to render the regulations more useful to the subjects of that country. He believed that there was such a rooted opposition of interests of the one description and the other, that if there was a constitution consisting of a House of Assembly, in which the parties might be nearly balanced, the consequence, at least for a long series of years, would be a great degree of animosity, and a great degree of confusion. If one of the parties had a great ascendancy over the other, the party having the superiority was very unlikely to give satisfaction to the other party. It seemed to his Majesty's servants the most desirable thing if they could not give satisfaction to all descriptions of men, to divide the province, and to contrive that one