

tageously, especially in commercial concerns; and that it would have the effect of producing, from time to time, laws adapted to the wishes and condition of each province.

The bill containing these regulations, was read a first and second time, and passed through the Committee, without any opposition or debate; but on the 8th of April, the day the report was to be taken into consideration, a petition was presented against it from certain merchants, warehouse-men, and manufacturers of Quebec, who conceived it would operate in a manner prejudicial to their interests; and Mr. Hussey proposed it should be recommitted. Mr. Fox immediately rose, and objected, in very strong terms, to several parts of the Bill. He observed, that many clauses in the bill appeared to be very exceptionable, and such as he could by no means subscribe to. The bill proposed to give two assemblies to the two provinces, and thus far it met with his approbation; but the number of persons of whom these assemblies were to consist deserved reprobation. In Great Britain, we had a septennial bill; but the goodness of it had been considered doubtful, at least, even by many of those who took a lead in the present bill. By a septennial bill, the country of Canada might be deprived of many of the few representatives that were allowed by the bill, in consequence of removal from home upon commercial pursuits. Of the qualification of electors he felt it impossible to approve. In England a freehold of forty shillings was sufficient; five pounds were necessary in Canada. As to the points of hereditary honours, to say that they were good or that they were not good, as a general proposition, was not easily maintained; but he saw nothing so good in hereditary powers and honours, as to incline us to introduce them into a country where they were unknown, and by such means distinguish Canada from all the colonies in the West Indies. In countries where they made part of the constitution, he did not think it was wise to destroy them; but to give birth and life to such principles in countries where they did not exist, appeared to him to be exceedingly unwise. He did not clearly comprehend the provision which the bill made for the protestant clergy. By the Protestant clergy, he supposed to be understood not only the clergy of the Church of England, but all descriptions of protestants. He wished to deprive no clergyman of his just rights; but in settling a new constitution, and laying down new principles, to enact that the clergy should have one-seventh of all grants, he must confess, appeared to him an absurd doctrine. The greatest part of these protestant clergy were not of the Church of England; they were chiefly what are called protestant dissenters in this country. But of all the points of the bill, Mr. Fox said, that which struck him most forcibly was the division of the province of Canada. It had been urged that, by such means, we could separate the English and French inhabitants of the province; that we could distinguish who were originally French from English origin. But was this to be desired? Was it not rather to be avoided? Was it agreeable to general political expediency? The most desirable circumstance was, that the French and English inhabitants of Canada should unite and coalesce, as it were, into one body, and that the different distinctions of the people might be extinguished forever. He wished the people of Canada