

business came into discussion, the assertions on each side were so contradictory, that no insight into the affairs of that department was obtained that could with safety be depended on.

A motion being made in the Committee of Supply, 'that sixty thousand seamen should be voted for the ensuing year,' it occasioned loud complaints that a prolongation of the American war was plainly intended by the making of such a requisition. It showed, too, said they, how much the ministry had deceived the nation, or had been deceived themselves, by asserting, session after session, that nothing was to be apprehended from abroad, and that we might prosecute what measures we thought proper respecting America, without any fear of interruption or molestation upon that account.

Such, however, was the consciousness of the imminent danger to which the kingdom was exposed, that the motion was agreed to without a division.

As the bill passed during the last session for suspending, in some cases, the Habeas Corpus Act, was now expiring, the continuation of it was moved, for the same reasons alledged on its first passing.

This motion excited anew the discontent of those who had opposed it when first proposed. They alledged that its operations ought to be made known before an acquiescence could reasonably be expected to the present motion. In order, therefore, to remove any doubt of its propriety, and to clear it from any suspicion of harshness and oppression, it was moved by opposition on the other side, that a return should be made of the prisoners, and an account given of the prisons in which they were confined, whether in Great Britain or America, with copies of their commitments, specifying the bail offered for their enlargement, and the proceedings of the Privy Council pursuant to the powers vested