

# THE BRITISH-AMERICAN REGISTER.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 26th MARCH, 1803.

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House of Commons, Dec. 8, 1802.

## COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

(Continued from page 167.)

Mr. Fox did not wish to take up much of the time of the House, as he rose at so late an hour, but he thought he would be wanting in what was due to his constituents, if he did not state his sentiments on the question before the Committee. An Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Ryder) had misrepresented a speech which he spoke a fortnight ago, and which the Hon. Gent. might have answered at the time. It had been said, he confessed the power of France; but he always urged the increase of that power as one of the heaviest charges that could be brought against Administration. That Hon. Gentleman had said, he acknowledged the danger, but proposed nothing. He would ask him, however, what he had proposed. A high tone and blustering language had certainly been used by some gentlemen, but none had proposed to do any thing different from him. He was obliged to Mr. Banks, not only for the Speech which he had made, but for the protection he had received from him. An Hon. Gentleman, under the gallery, seemed to think that he might be considered as an agent of France, if Mr. Banks, who could not be suspected of such a thing, had not declared himself of the same sentiments. Perhaps it might be thought that as he went to Paris to inquire who Louis XIV. bribed in this Country in the time of James II. that M. Bourienne had taken the hint, and

offered him a pension for himself. In the warfare carried on by newspapers, it was not to be expected that so fair an opportunity of accusing him would be overlooked; but he could not have supposed that the idea would be taken up by Gentlemen, who, from their habits and education, ought to know better. A relation of his, the Duke of Richmond, had been accused of wishing that the French should send an army over to Sussex as it was supposed to be a favourite plan with his Grace that the French should land there. In prosecuting this libel the Duke was advised to make oath in the Court of King's Bench that this charge was false; he, however, had no opportunity to make oath that he was not an agent of France, but he hoped he would be believed so far on his word. But with regard to the next question he would say, that for the last three hundred years, the military glory of this country, independent of the navy, had been very great. The Seven-years War, in which the British arms shone so conspicuously, was preceded by a very small Peace Establishment. It was true it might be said that small and great were relative terms; but, at the periods to which he had alluded, the Peace Establishments of this country were unusually small, compared with those of France. There was no point of comparison between the Establishments of France and this Country; the constitution of the national force in the two countries was essentially different. He came now to the favourite topic, the great power of France. On that subject he should give no other opinion than he had formerly stated.