

future grants of land to be made by his Majesty within the said provinces, as this House shall think fit."

In consequence of this message, Mr. Pitt, on the 4th of March, moved "For leave to bring in a Bill to repeal certain parts of the act of the 14th of his present Majesty, intituled 'An act for making more effectual provision for the government of the province of Quebec in North America,' and to make further provision for the government of the said province." On this occasion Mr. Pitt opened the several heads of his plan with a detail unusually full. Scarcely a regulation of the most minute kind was left unexplained. It was proposed, he said, to divide the Country into two provinces; to be called Upper and Lower Canada, in which there should be separate legislatures, each consisting, in imitation of the Constitution of the mother country, of a legislative council, and a house of assembly, which should have power, with the consent of the King signified by the Governor, to enact laws for their respective provinces; all the present laws and ordinances remaining in force, till repealed or altered by the new legislatures. The members of the councils were to be nominated by the king, and to continue for life, his Majesty being also authorized to annex to certain honours, corresponding to those of our peerage, an hereditary right to sit in the councils. The number of members of the council in Upper Canada, was not to be less than seven, and in Lower Canada, not less than fifteen. The members of the house of assembly were to be elected by districts and townships, and to continue for seven years; the qualification for voters in the former, being a freehold of forty shillings a year, and in the latter, owning a house of five pounds, or occupying one of ten pounds a year. The number of members of the house of assembly in Upper Canada was not to be less than sixteen, and in Lower Canada not less than thirty. The governors of the respective provinces were to appoint the time of meeting of the legislative council and house of assembly, to prorogue, and to dissolve them. There was to be a right of appeal from the provincial courts of law to the governor and executive council, and from them to the privy council in England, and ultimately to the house of Lords. Provision was to be made for the maintenance of the protestant clergy of the established church, by an allotment of one-seventh of the land. And to prevent such discontents, as had occasioned the separation of the American states, the British parliament was to have no power to impose any taxes upon the inhabitants, except for the regulation of trade and commerce, and the levy and disposal of those taxes were to be under the direction of the local legislatures.

The grand object in dividing the country into two distinct provinces, was, to put an end to the competition and disputes between the old French inhabitants, who almost entirely resided in Lower Canada, and the new settlers from England and the American states, who were principally fixed in Upper Canada, and were daily increasing.* It was also hoped, that the establishment of two independent legislatures would tend to make the laws definite and well understood, the uncertain and defective nature of which had hitherto operated very disadvan-