

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN REGISTER.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 15th. JANUARY, 1803.

CONTENTS.—*Debates on the Quebec Bill* 17. *State Papers* 22. *Nouvelles Etrangères* 25. *Observations on Foreign Intelligence* 26. *Decouverte du Canada* 27. *M. de Champlain* 28. *Observations Géologiques* 29. *Critique* 29. *Provincial Occurrences* 31. *Prices current, Markets and Meteorological Table* 36. *Pecury* 32.

DEBATES ON THE QUEBEC BILL.

House of Commons.

May 31. The House in Committee on the Quebec Bill; a Petition was presented from Messrs Penn, Proprietors of Pennsylvania, and another from the Merchants of Quebec, against the Bill.

Mr. *T. Townsend*, *Col. Barré*, and Mr. *Burke* spoke against the Bill; they condemned the manner of its being brought forward, at the close of the Session, and in a thin House; they said the Committee was without any information on the subject, while it was understood, ministers were in possession of a report of the Lords of Trade and Plantation on the State of the Province, of representations from men high in Office in the Province on the constitution proposed to be given to it, and of opinions of the King's Law Officers on the subject; they wished that those papers should be laid before the Committee.

Lord North and the *Attorney General* opposed the measure on the grounds that it would retard the business; but they said, the Committee might obtain all the information in these papers, at the Bar; and with greater expedition.

Mr. *Mansfield*, counsel for the merchants of London, petitioners against the Bill, was called in, who, after a long speech, setting forth the dangerous tendency of the Bill, desired leave to call in *Edward Watts*. He being accordingly called in, was asked a considerable number of

questions by *Lord Barrington*, *Lord North*, *Lord Clare*, *Lord Carmarthen*, *Col. Barré*, *Capt. Phipps*, *Mr. W. Bürke*, *Mr. Mackworth*, *Gov. Johnstone*, *Mr. Hopkins*, &c. as to the French and English laws in Canada, and to which the inhabitants gave the preference? He answered, the English laws.

The Solicitor General desired to know—If the Canadians did not at first object to the Court of King's Bench being established in Canada, and for what reasons? He answered, “On account of the exorbitant fees paid to counsellors and attornies.” (The answer being so exceedingly severe on the author of the question) the House was in a laugh for full ten minutes.

After he withdrew, Mr. *Samuel Morin* was called in, and likewise spoke in favour of the English laws being exercised in Canada; they both mentioned that the Canadians, as well as the English residents there, highly approved of trial by jury, and seemed to think that an annihilation of that right would greatly hurt the Colony. The former of the witnesses had been nine years resident in Canada, the latter eleven.

A motion was made that an Address be presented to his Majesty for a copy of the report made to his Majesty by *Lieutenant General Carleton*, relative to the state of Quebec. But it was carried in the negatives, Ayes 46, Noes 85. A motion was afterwards made for another Address for copies of papers presented to his Majesty, by his Majesty's Advocate General, *Attorney* and *So-*