

Chap. not the impolitic division of the late province of Quebec taken
xxiii. place, and had a fit plan of representation been adopted, the
~~~~~ british population would now exceed the french, and the imports and  
1822. exports of the country be greatly beyond their present amount."

The petition drawn up by the committees of the districts of Quebec and Montreal, against the union, was temperate and well reasoned. The following are extracts from it :--

" That your petitioners have learnt, with the most profound grief and the greatest alarm, that a bill was introduced, with the sanction of your Majesty's servants, in the honorable the house of commons, at the last session of the parliament of the United Kingdom, for making changes in the constitution of the government in this province, as by the statute 31st Geo. III., chap. 31st, happily established therein.

" That inasmuch as by reason of the near approach of the time when parliament may be assembled, the legislature of this province may be deprived of the opportunity which the commons, in their wisdom and justice, proposed to afford to the people of this province, of submitting to your Majesty and to the two houses of parliament, their sentiments on this momentous subject, your petitioners conceive it to be their duty to your Majesty and to themselves, most humbly, and with the least possible delay, to lay their representations on the subject of the same bill at the foot of your Majesty's throne.

" That no alteration in the aforesaid statute had, at any time, been, publicly, prayed for, by any of the authorities constituted under it, or by any portion of your Majesty's subjects residing in this province; but on the contrary, all classes and descriptions of people therein, have uniformly expressed their inviolable attachment to the said constitution, and have but recently, cheerfully hazarded their lives and fortunes in defence of your Majesty's government, as established by the said statute in this province.

" That the said statute was granted to your Majesty's subjects in this province, conformably to the royal promise contained in the proclamation of the 7th October, 1763, after various petitions for, and against the proposed measure, from the different descriptions of persons whose interests were to be affected thereby, after a royal message to parliament recommending the division of the province, and after a hearing at the bar of the honorable the house of commons, whereby the said act was received and justly regarded by all your Majesty's subjects in these parts of your dominions, as a solemn compact, forming, by the highest authority in the british empire, the legal and permanent guarantee of their liberty, their property and dearest rights.

" That the said statute, modelled upon the constitution of the parent state, by some of the best and wisest of her statesmen, provides sufficient powers for the remedying of abuses, redressing of grievances, allaying discontents and promoting the general welfare of the province, without the necessity of those legislative interferences on the part of the supreme government, which, in similar cases, have been found so pernicious, by transforming discontents, purely local and temporary, into dangerous misunderstandings between the colonies and the mother country.