

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

THE PROTEST.

First—Because the refusal to commit the Bill, implies a disapprobation of every part of it as incapable of being so altered as to retain a single Clause, and amounts as clearly to a rejection of every paragraph of it, as if each had been separately Voted to be struck out ; and it was so explained and understood, and that intention avowed, by every Speaker against the Commitment.

Second—Because the regulations for the administration of Justice in all the Courts of Common Pleas, as well as in the Monthly Court of Appeal, were so obviously expedient to the Eye of meer abstract Theory, as to require only to be read to be approved, and might have been contended for by the Judges, without any disparagement of Character or Office, and served for no mean defence against the Clamours and Complaints, to which Courts, where the Judges find both Law and fact, are obnoxious; and especially in such a Country as this, where they also hold the mighty trust of settling the Question, what was or was not, the custom and usage, as well as the Law of the Colony, antecedent to the Conquest.

Third—Because one of the best securities for the permanent duration of the privileges granted by the Statute, commonly called the Quebec Act, to His Majesty's Canadian Subjects, is their ready manifestation of a Correspondent Liberality to His Majesty's Native born subjects, thro' the voice of that Legislature which the Statute erects, and of which His Majesty has constituted so many of the Canadian Gentlemen to be Members. The Bill pointed to a measure for shewing such a disposition, without the smallest Infringement of the benefits granted by the British Parliament to themselves, and it had succeeded, if only one of them, had given his voice for the Commitment, the Question being decided by the Chair.

Fourth—Because the postponing the Relief which according to this Bill the Governor was to be enabled to afford to the American Loyalists settled on Our Frontiers, to us appears inconsistent with the interests of the Crown, and repugnant to every motive of sound policy, as well as the sympathy we ought to have for those, who with so much honor to themselves have sacrificed every consideration of private Interest, to their faithful affection for their Sovereign and the British cause, and to whom as Subjects of tried Loyalty, & men of Arms, this Province may one day be obliged to look for its defence & protection; to say nothing of what became the Kings Servants here to have done for Sufferers of such distinguished Merit, in obedience to the Royal commands, communicated to General Haldimand, by a letter from Lord North, of which the following is a Copy.

“Whitehall 24th July 1783.

“The distressed situation to which many of His Majesty's faithful “subjects in the Provinces and Colonies, now the United States of America, “are reduced by adhering to their Loyalty and supporting the British