

standing"—said he—"the astonishing changes Chap. XIV.
1812. that mark the age in which we live, the inhabitants of this portion of the empire have witnessed but as remote spectators the awful scenes which desolate Europe; and while Britain, "built by nature for herself against infection and the hand of war," has had her political existence involved in the fate of surrounding nations, you have hitherto, undisturbed in the habitations of your fathers, viewed without alarm the distant storm which now seems bending its course towards this peaceful and happy region." He recommended an increased and unremitting care and vigilance in securing the colony from either open invasion or insidious aggression, and he hoped the parliament would testify its loyalty by an early attention to those acts, which experience had proved essential for the preservation of his Majesty's government, as also by its readiness in supplying government with such aid as should be suitable to the exigence of the times, by enabling the loyal canadian subjects to assist in repelling any sudden attack made by a tumultuary force, and effectually to participate in the defence of their country against a regular invasion at any future period.

The assembly in answer, assured the governor that they would give their attention to those acts which he regarded as essential to his Majesty's government, notwithstanding the repugnance they might feel from an improper use of one of them, and the bad effects which