

I shall now request the indulgence of this Honourable House while I offer a few Observations on some of the Articles of the New Constitution, as they appear in the Bill; and submit, for their Consideration, such Reasons for altering these Clauses as have occurred to me in the short time since I have had Communication of the Bill.

Sir, the Bill now under the Deliberation of this Honourable House states, in the Preamble, that the Act of the 14th of His Majesty, commonly called the Quebec Act, "is, in many Respects, inapplicable to the present Condition and "Circumstances of the said Province."

This, Sir, is very true; and justifies the Complaints of the People, so often expressed in their Petitions against that Act. They have had a long and painful Experience of the Inefficiency of the Act; they have severely felt, and suffered, under the Confusion which that Act introduced into the Government of the Province; they have been exposed to the pernicious Effects of uncertain and undefined Laws and to the arbitrary Judgments of Courts, guided by no fixed principles or certain Rules; and they have seen their property in Consequence thereof, dissipated without a possibility of helping themselves. It was these Evils which induced them to pray this Honourable House, that the Act, intituled, "An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the province of Quebec," might be repealed *in toto*. But, Sir, the Bill now before this Honourable House in the first enacting Clause, proposes to repeal only that Clause of the Quebec Act, which gives power to the Governor and Council to make and enact Laws and Ordinances. Sir, that Act has occasioned so much Trouble in the Province, that it has become extremely obnoxious to that part of the Inhabitants who, from Education, are able to look up to the Source of the Evil, and to comprehend from what cause the confusion has proceeded. They have considered the Act as the Origin of all their trouble; and they flattered themselves, that in consequence of their earnest Solicitations it would be entirely repealed, so as not to leave any part of an Object which had given them so much uneasiness exposed to their View.

Sir,