

THE QUEBEC MAGAZINE

FOR SEPTEMBER 1793.



*Copy of the Petition of the Friends of the People in
London, read in the House of Commons on the 6th of
May 1793.*

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF GREAT-BRITAIN,
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE HUMBLE PETITION, &c.

SH EWETH,

THAT by the form and spirit of the British Constitution, the King is vested with the sole Executive Power.

That the House of Lords consists of Lords Spiritual and Temporal, deriving their titles and consequence either from the Crown or from Hereditary Privileges.

That these two Powers if they acted without Controul, would form either a despotic Monarchy, or a dangerous Oligarchy.

That the wisdom of our ancestors hath contrived, that these authorities may be rendered not only harmless but beneficial; and be exercised for the security and happiness of the People.

That this security and happiness are to be looked for in the introduction of a third estate, distinct from, and a check upon the other two branches of the legislature, created by representing, and responsible to the people themselves.

That so much depending upon the preservation of this third estate, in such its constitutional purity and strength, your petitioners are reasonably jealous of whatever may appear to vitiate the one, or to impair the other.

That at the present day, the House of Commons does not fully and fairly represent the people of England, which consistently with what your petitioners conceive to be the principles of the constitution, they consider as a grievance, and therefore, with all becoming respect, lay their complaints before your Honourable House.