

long he remained there; he must be able to give an account of the manners of the People and of the state of the Country; and even to point out the true mode of managing all its affairs. He had only to keep his ears open for two or three hours at table, after dinner; and from the discussion which on such occasions takes place, he may draw all the information he wants. He takes a few notes before going to bed (for the true mode, according to Johnson, is to take them on the spot); he returns home and from those materials, he publishes a Book, which no doubt he destines to be the guide of Ministers in the management of an extensive and important Colony.

Mr. Gray, we presume considers *himself* a British freeman; but in the following passage, perhaps unwittingly, he has lighted upon the practical axiom of all despotic and republican governments.

“The House of Assembly consists of fifty members; and I will venture to say, that, taking away seven or eight of them, whom I could name, the business of the House could not go on at all—such is the incapacity of the rest. Would not a Council, including these seven or eight members answer every purpose of a House of Assembly? Nay be more consonant to the feelings and prejudices of the majority of the Canadians?”

Despotic and republican governments, though differing widely in theory, are nearly resembling in practice. The share of freedom enjoyed by the people under such governments generally depends entirely upon the personal character of the men in power. A despot will crush a good man, because he is afraid of him; and the republican will do the same for a similar cause. Under such governments virtue often becomes criminal. Instead of being regulated by a wise and liberal policy, these governments confine their measures to the purpose of merely removing present inconveniencies, apparently thoughtless of the sad consequences, such short sighted conduct will ever produce.

Our author seems influenced by this levity of spirit. The Canadians, in consequence of a most impolitic law, have been left in ignorance and are thus exposed to the designs of factious demagogues; which unfortunately produces some temporary inconveniencies to the English part of the Colony: for this evil, Mr. Gray can find no remedy but in the partial relinquishment of that Constitution which is the boast of every Briton.

Let us act in a manner more generous and worthy of our name. Let us meet those inconveniencies with firmness on constitutional ground; let us act with decision and they must give way. Had not the late Mr. Pitt pursued this line of conduct at the beginning of the French revolution, when the mad cry of reform resounded through the whole of the British isles, we tremble to think what might have been the fate of that Monarch, who now lives in the hearts of his subjects, and of that country to which, with exultation, we say, we belong.