

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN REGISTER.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 19th FEBRUARY, 1803.

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House of Commons, Nov. 23, 1802.

THE Speaker proceeded to the reading of his Majesty's Speech, which having finished—

Mr. Trench (an Irish member) rose to move an address of thanks to his Majesty.—In doing which, it was proper, he observed, in bringing forward such a motion before a new Parliament, to make a few observations. He then took a view of our internal situation, commerce, &c. which, he remarked, was highly flattering. Respecting continental affairs, it was necessary, he said, to keep a strict watch, as France had manifested a most hostile spirit of encroachment, not only against one or two individual states, but against the greatest part of Europe; and notwithstanding we have manifested a strong desire for peace, yet in justice to that inclination, it will be necessary to retain large military and naval establishments, the expences of which, he had no doubt; the country would cheerfully defray, satisfied that ministers will preserve peace, if it can be maintained with honor, without tarnishing the glory and independence of the British name. He concluded by moving an address to his Majesty, the mere echo of the speech.

Mr. Cartwright said it was not his intention to oppose the address, but he could not help expressing it to be his opinion, that ministers had been much to blame in disarming so quickly as they had done; in doing so, they had deviated from the conduct

of all former ministers upon former occasions.—They had always taken care at least to provide a force equal to that of France, instead of which, if we were now to go to war, he doubted if we had a fleet equal to that of the enemy; because since the peace, they had constantly been increasing their force, and we had been decreasing ours.

Sir John Wrottesley and Mr. Pyles, after a few observations, opposed the motion.

Mr. Fox rose to give his assent to the Address. There was one expression in the speech from the throne, relative to the union with Ireland, of which, if he approved, might implicate his approbation of that measure. The union with Ireland he had condemned and opposed to the very utmost of his power, but, as it was carried into effect, he most earnestly wished it to experience all the success which its most sanguine admirers could possibly desire.—The honorable mover of the address had alluded to the maintenance of expensive military and naval establishments. His Majesty's Speech had not given any authority for such a conclusion; in reality it had given no such idea; and altho the Hon. Gentleman had talked of large establishments, Mr. Fox said he was decidedly of opinion, that small establishments were best in the time of peace, and could in the event of war be soonest increased to the proper standard. If the peace was entitled to approbation, upon what principle of policy, good faith,