

tempts were made to take the constitution from their heads by absurd theories. He firmly believed the English constitution was enthroned in the affections of their bosoms ; that they cherished it as part of their nature ; and that it was as inseparable from Englishmen as their souls and their bodies. Some ministers and others had, at times, apprehended danger even from a minority ; and history had shewn that in this way a constitution had been overturned. The question, he said, would be, what had they to do with the French constitution ? They had no right to have recourse to the proceedings of the National Assembly, because the Government of this country had not yet recognised it. If they had, they would silence him. If the French revolutionists were to mind their own affairs, and had shewn no inclination to go abroad and to make proselytes in other countries, Mr. Burke declared, that neither he for one should have thought, nor any other member of the House had any right to meddle with them. If they were not as much disposed to gain proselytes as Lewis XIV. had been to make conquests, he should have thought it very improper and indiscreet to have touched on the subject. He would quote the National Assembly itself, and a correspondent of his at Paris, who declared that he appeared as the ambassador of the whole human race—

Mr. Anstruther, interrupting Mr. Burke, here spoke to order. He said his right honourable friend had transgressed something of what he looked upon to be the bounds of order in that House. It was a rule of order for members to confine themselves to the question in debate. When he stated this, he begged it to be understood, that if any minority in the country had any intentions to alter the constitution, there was no man more ready to take strong and decided measures to check that minority, and to crush that spirit than he should be—

Here *Colonel Phipps* called Mr. Anstruther to order, and said that a declaration of his attachment to the constitution, or of his gallantry in defence of it, was as much out of order as the right honourable gentleman, whom he was calling to order.

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