

It was about this period of the debate, that the question appears to have been first started, as to the incompetency of the House to declare an opinion on the subject of the union; one certainly, that, notwithstanding the high estimation in which I hold the talents, and principles of Mr. Wilson and others who proposed, and finally carried, that negative declaration, I can not but consider as false in fact, and absurd in consequence. That when they were elected the question was not agitated, could be no reason for declining to declare their opinion, for upon the same principle every new question whatever would require to be referred to a fresh house, thereby bringing about all the evils of annual, or even shorter, parliaments.—While the House is in session, they are bound to consider, and determine, as far as they can, all new questions that occur which regard to the common weal. Had they been required to legislate on the occasion they would have been bound to do so; and still more, when nothing further was required than a public declaration of what their sentiments were, as the counsellors, the advisers, and the well wishers, both of the crown and of the people. Moreover, as the speaker justly observed, "being called upon by His Majesty's representative to take this important measure into their serious consideration, they were bound by their duty to give an opinion upon this great and important question." But, many members appear to have been swayed, in giving their consent to the milk and water termination of the debate, by the idea that, in expressing an opinion, the House would be considered as expressing the opinion of the country. This is a mistaken notion; the opinion of the country has been, properly and constitutionally expressed in another way, and their opinion would only be that of a body of men, forming part of that country; one indeed of great weight, and responsibility; but whose opinion may be very different from that of the bulk of the people. The imperial parliament and His Majesty's government had a right to look for it; that they might weigh it, and compare it with all the others laid before them; and will be disappointed not to have it, along with those of the House of assembly and legislative council of the Lower province. Mr. Nichol, who however, was against the resolutions, and wished the house to decide upon the question, went

the future; for altho' there does not exist a shadow of apprehension that the British government would ever again countenance such proceedings; yet, should the Scotch faction ever get into absolute sway in this country, so inveterate are they against the French language, laws, customs, and people, that they would be glad to recommend a similar state-policy with respect to them, if they would not quietly submit to have their native gold melted down and amalgamated with imported dross.