

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN REGISTER.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 14th MAY, 1803.

CONTENTS.—*Debate in the House of Commons* 289. *Public Papers, King's Message & Spanish Ambassador's Letter* 295. *Nouvelles ib. Letter on the abolition of Duels* 297. *Caractère des Canadiens* 299. *Chanson* 301. *Poetry* 302.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday March 11.

Mr. GARTHSHORE moved, "That it is the opinion of this Committee, that 10,000 Seamen be employed in His Majesty's service, for eleven lunar months, to commence from the 26th of February 1803, including 3400 Marines.

M. FRANCIS said he thought there was much serious consideration due to this subject, and he could not help saying, he thought the general state of the country ought to be considered and that included a consideration of the conduct of those Ministers, which had brought us to the state in which we are. Whatever he said in that House, he said deliberately, and on much reflection—First of all, he would observe, that he could have wished that the resolution for the Address to His Majesty had passed by acclamation without a word, for Speeches, even in favour of it, and followed by an unanimous vote, were liable to misinterpretation, and more especially in France, the cause of it, the want of information to the House. For many of his Majesty's Ministers he had great personal respect, and up to the present time, they had his constant support; whether that support ought to be continued, depended on points to be discussed. When the Preliminaries were signed, he partook of the general joy which was felt in this country; and afterwards he felt himself deeply indebted to Ministers for procuring us Peace merely as such, and as to the terms, though they were liable to

some objections, and many persons of great abilities did object to them, yet it did not appear to him that we paid a greater price than the thing was worth, namely, a deliverance from the War. While he said, price for the thing, still he gave credit to Ministers, and he should not quarrel with them, although he disapproved of some of their measures. In his mind, neither the Parliament nor the Public had constitutionally a right to interfere with the Executive Power in making Peace or War, that was the practical effect of our Constitution; perhaps he did not entirely approve of the sentiment of it, but such it was. Parliament might inquire, however, into the conduct of those who advised His Majesty either to make Peace or War, and that either for the purpose of punishment in the case of treachery, or of removal in case of incapacity; but we were bound by their acts, as the acts of our agents. Now he asked when we had made the sacrifice, when we had paid the full price of our object had our object been obtained. If it had not, all was thrown away; we had in this case got nothing but an insecure Peace while it lasted, and immediately afterwards a certainty of War; why then, he would ask, could we continue our confidence in those Gentlemen; who made a Peace without any security for its continuance, but who had brought the country into another War? These were points on which the Country had a right to be satisfied. As to the people, they were British men, and that was enough. There was neither a heart or a hand in this country, that would not oppose any aggression on the part of Fran-