

tributed to preserve the Canadians from the mania which spread itself throughout the other parts of British America.

Statesmen and Generals are apt to ascribe to their own wisdom and address, those prosperous events which are often produced by causes and combinations beyond their agency and control; and with as little reason are charged with disasters, which no human skill or prudence could have averted. Lord Dorchester, who, during the war between the colonies and parent state was Governor of Canada, fancied that the loyalty of the Canadians, was owing to their docility and his own address; and thought that the obedience of the subjects could not be better rewarded and secured, than by freeing them from that very *dependence*, which was in fact one principal cause of their obedience. He therefore gave every possible aid to those who were desirous to change the form of the Colonial Government:— An act was accordingly passed in the 31st year of His Majesty's reign, by which one branch of the government of the colony, was placed completely in the hands of the people. It would seem to be the extreme of arrogance to accuse Lord Dorchester and His Majesty's Ministers with ignorance or negligence in the adoption of this measure; but when we consider that great men are apt to abstract and generalize without sufficient regard to particulars, it is not wonderful that they should sometimes fall into error. If His Lordship was really the author of this law, he must have had no other ideas of the analogy between the system of government and the necessities and state of the governed, than Procrustes of his iron bed, to whose dimensions the subject, whether long or short, was fitted. Without considering whether the children of the state were of *reasonable discretion*, he was determined to take them