

gentleman (Mr. Burke) was not irregular in speaking of the French constitution. He had formerly heard a right honourable gentleman say that the public had a right to the sentiments of public men on public measures, and therefore he hoped the right honourable gentleman would be permitted to go on.

*Mr. Burke* in reply said, he meant to take the sense of the Committee whether or not he was in order. He declared, he had not made any reflection, nor did he mean any on any one gentleman whatever. He was as fully convinced as he could be that no one gentleman in that House wanted to alter the constitution of England. The reason why, on the first regular opportunity that presented itself, he was anxious to make his reflections on the subject was, because it was a matter of great public concern, and occasion called for his observations. As long as they held to the constitution, he should think it his duty to act with them; but he would not be the slave of any whim that might arise. On the contrary, he thought it his duty not to give any countenance to certain doctrines which were supposed to exist in this country, and which were intended fundamentally to subvert the constitution. They ought to consider well what they were doing.

Here there was a loud call of "Order!—Order!" and "Go on!—Go on!"

*Mr. Burke* said, there was such an enthusiasm for order that it was not easy to go on, but he was going to state what the result of the French constitution perfected was, and to shew that we ought not to adopt the principles of it. He might be asked, why state it, when no man meant to alter the English constitution? Why raise animosities where none existed? and why endeavour to stir up passions where all was quiet before? He confessed a thing might be orderly, and yet that it might be very improper to discuss it. Was there any reason for doing this, or did they think the country was in danger? He declared he was ready to answer that question. He was perfectly convinced that there was no immediate danger. He believed the body of the country was perfectly sound, although at-