

Before the Quebec Bill was passed, several Petitions had been presented to the British Legislature by the British Settlers in Canada (then amounting to above Three Thousand Persons) for the calling of an Assembly, agreeably to the prospect held forth by his Majesty's Proclamation, in 1763.

On this occasion they applied to the Roman Catholics to join them. But the latter would not sign any petition, unless it contained a special request that that Assembly should be composed of Roman Catholics and Protestants indiscriminately. The new Settlers considered such a clause as having the appearance of dictating to the British Legislature, and therefore declined adopting it. They were therefore obliged to send a Petition signed by themselves alone; *but it was couched purposely in such terms as left the Mother Country entirely at liberty to erect an Assembly of Roman Catholics and Protestants indiscriminately, if she thought proper.*

Against this Petition, the Roman Catholic Bishop, Clergy and Noblesse alone, sent one *signed by only Sixty-five Persons (including a Boy of only thirteen years of age)*, which Petition, backed by Governor Carleton's recommendation, was taken as the foundation of the Quebec Bill!

It is worthy of remark, that when the English Laws were introduced into Canada, on the 1st of October, 1764, a Proviso was made by Governor Murray, that the French Laws and Customs should be allowed and admitted in all causes between the natives of the Province, in which the controversy had arisen before that period. But, upon the re-establishment of the French Laws, on the 1st of May, 1775, no similar proviso was made by Governor Carleton, in favor of the British Settlers, tho' they then transacted the chief part of the whole trade of the Country!

No. 4.—Against the finally successful Petition for a free Government for Canada, a Representation was sent by the heads of the Clergy and Noblesse, which was fortunately disregarded by the enlightened men, then at the helm of affairs in the Mother Country:—excepting that it seems to have suggested to them the division of the Province, as a likely means of reconciling all Parties.

The following Abstract of the Act, conferring the new Constitution, appeared in the Publications of those times.

“ For each of these Provinces, a Legislative Council, and an  
 “ Assembly, are established, in imitation of the British Constitution. The Members of the Council are to be hereditary, or  
 “ for life, at the option of the King: and the Members of the  
 “ Assembly are to be elected by Proprietors of Freeholds, equal  
 “ in value to forty shillings, per annum:—but in Towns, or  
 “ Townships, by the Owners of Houses, worth Five Pounds  
 “ per annum, or by the renters of Houses or Lands, paying Ten  
 “ Pounds in Six Months. *Both Provinces* are said to contain  
 “ *about One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Persons*, chiefly em-