

34 OBSERVATIONS

But the distilleries may be carried on to as great profit in Nova Scotia as on any part of the continent; and still more so the important business of ship-building; and nothing can be more evident than that Nova Scotia in particular is better situated for the fisheries than any other country whatever. In short, if proper attention is paid to Nova Scotia, the lands in that province, at present of little value, will increase in their price more rapidly than can at first be imagined.

It is obvious how necessary Canada and Nova Scotia are to our islands; that we should put those colonies on the best possible footing; and that the government of Canada must be altered.— That the Canadians in general are discontented under their present government, appears from the aid and countenance they gave the American army when in Canada. § If we are not wise enough to give them a free constitution and government agreeable to the wishes of the people, the encouragement and aid they might have from their neighbours may promote the wish of a government independent of Great Britain. A military police is bad for a town, except in a state of war, but totally inadequate for the government of a large country, such as Canada. The exorbitant fees of office, and expence of obtaining justice in the courts there, and the great distance, in many cases, from them, are considered as a great grievance, and loudly complained of by the Canadians. If we could find out that government they would like best,—if they could agree in their ideas of the best form of government,—they ought to have it according to their wishes, except in such points as clash with the necessary commercial interests of the country that nurtures, encourages, and protects them. At present they have no representatives; they should have a General Assembly, and trial by jury. If their constitution is formed on the best plan of our late colonies, † it will draw many inhabitants from

§ It did not arise from a wish to return to the dominion of France; they had experienced the advantage of belonging to Britain. They were kept poor under the French government: they have grown rich under ours. Their priests acknowledge they have, in great measure, lost their influence. The French Canadians were dissatisfied, but the settlers since the peace of 1763 still more so. The cause of discontent will be explained.

† In some of the colonies the Council was appointed by the Crown, and the office was held during pleasure. In other colonies it was chosen annually by the people. The Council should be more independent of the Crown, and entirely independent of the people: it should be during good behaviour. If prejudice or policy think it necessary that none but protestants should be of the Council, yet Roman Catholics ought to be capable of being elected of the Assembly. The Council would