

ry three or four representatives that were allowed by the bill. If it should have been said that this objection applied to Great Britain, he completely denied it; because, although there were persons engaged in trade in the British House of Commons, and many of them very worthy members, yet they were comparatively few, and therefore he should think that, on the situation of Canada, annual and triennial parliaments would be much preferable to septennial. Of the qualification of electors he felt it impossible to approve. In England a freehold of forty shillings was sufficient; but in Canada ten pounds were necessary. Perhaps it might be said, that when this was fairly considered, it would make no material difference, and this he suspected to be the case; but granting that it did not, when we were brought to the world by this bill our notions of the principles of election, we should not hold out that the qualifications in Great Britain were lower than they ought to be. The qualifications on a house were still higher, he believed, than ten pounds. He thought that the whole of this constitution was an attempt to undermine and contradict the avowed purport of the bill,—the introduction of a popular government into Canada. But although this was the case with respect to the two Assemblies, although they were not like the Councils in both provinces were unlimited as to number. They might consist of any number whatever, at the will of the governor. Instead of being hereditary councils, they might be personally chosen by electors, as was the case in some of the colonies in the West Indies, or chosen by the governor. As to the points of hereditary powers and hereditary honours, he would say that they were good, or that they were not good, as a general proposition, was not easily maintained; but he saw nothing so good in hereditary powers and honours as to incline us to introduce them into a country where they were unknown, and by such means distinguish Canada from all the colonies in the West Indies. In countries where they made a part of the constitution, he did not think it wise to destroy them; but to give birth