

by nature free, and equal in respect to their rights. If this code therefore were admitted, the power of the House could extend no further than to call together the inhabitants of Canada to choose a constitution for themselves. The practical effect of this system might be seen at St. Domingo and the other French islands. They were flourishing and happy till they heard of the rights of man. As soon as this system arrived among them, Pandora's box, replete with every mortal evil, seemed to fly open; hell itself to yawn, and every demon of mischief to overspread the face of the country." Mr. Burke continuing to launch out into the most violent invectives against the constitution and government of France, was repeatedly and loudly called to order, and at length compelled to sit down. Mr. Fox, when the tumult had subsided, with firmness defended his former sentiments relative to the French revolution; and repeated, "that he thought it upon the whole one of the most glorious events in the history of mankind." Mr. Burke rose again, and in vehement terms insisted, "that he was perfectly in order; and that the discussion of the Quebec Bill was a proper opportunity to put the country on its guard against those dangerous doctrines which prevailed in France, and which had found so many advocates here.— He observed that he had differed on many occasions from Mr. Fox, but there had been no loss of friendship between them. But there was something in the ACCURSED French Constitution which envenomed every thing." Mr. Fox hearing this interrupted him, saying "there was no loss of friendship." Mr. Burke replied "THERE WAS—he knew the price of his conduct; he had done his duty, and their friendship WAS AT AN END." Mr. Fox, on whom the attention of the house was now eagerly fixed, rose to reply, but his feelings were too powerful for utterance. All the ideas so long cherished, of gratitude, esteem and affection, rushed upon his susceptible and generous mind; and involuntary tears were observed to steal down his cheek.* A profound and expressive silence pervaded the House. At length, Mr. Fox, recovering himself, said, "that however events might have altered the mind of his Right Honourable Friend, for such he must still call him, he could not so easily consent to relinquish and dissolve that intimate connection which had for twenty-five years subsisted between them. He hoped that Mr. Burke would think on past times; and, whatever expressions of his, had caused the offence, that he would at least believe such was not his intention." The concessions of Mr. Fox made no visible impression on the haughty and unbending temper of Mr. Burke; and from this day a schism took place in the politics of the opposition party, which has been productive of very important consequences.

But to return to the bill. Two motions of Mr. Fox, the one for omitting the clause relative to hereditary nobility, and the other for fixing the number of the house of assembly in Lower Canada, at 100, were rejected by majorities of more than two to one; and, on the 18th of May, the bill passed as originally proposed by Mr. Pitt, except that, to meet the ideas of Mr. Fox, he consented that the houses of assembly should be chosen every four years instead of seven; that the House of Assembly in Lower Canada should consist of 50 members instead of

* BELSHAM'S George III.