

appear paradoxical, but these questions will bear debate ; and ere I set down, I will evince that directly and suddenly to tear away this tree of poisons that has sprouted from the cranies of our state-building will endanger it to its very foundation. The honourable gentleman has somewhere, early in his speech, said, that his sentiments met those of the county petitioners :—I will work at the rude work, ere I touch on the ornamental finishing ; a word to this subject :—I well know, Mr. Speaker, that county meetings have been nearly general ; few provinces have withstood the call of patriotism ; whether its evil spirit fascinates, or true genius engages, I leave to the wordy war of the partizans of either side : I profess to be none. Can these meetings be of salutary tendency, considered in a view relative to the manners of the age, and particular circumstances of this country ? Sir, it is a question of moment to me,—to every Englishman. Let not prejudice or passion drive us to a hasty decision,—let us canvass it with good temper,  
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