

of the Army should, if possible, be saved. So far he had merely considered this question with regard to the expence. But were there no other feelings on this subject? Our ancestors always regarded a standing army as unconstitutional. It greatly increased the influence of the Crown. In looking round the House, how many Members could be found who had not some relation or brother for whom they wished to procure a commission from the Minister. This was a kind of influence which, more than any other, tended to influence votes in that House. But the evil did not arise from the officers only. No one could overlook the danger which might arise to a free country, from the Government having more than 100,000 ready to execute whatever orders they might be pleased to give them. He was not in the confidence of His Majesty's Ministers, but, thank God, he saw in them no disposition to War. The Hon. Gent. who opened the debate, had spoken very distinctly on this subject, and he was glad of it. His Honourable friend (Mr. Sheridan) did not appear to differ much from him respecting Switzerland, notwithstanding all he had said on that subject. It did not appear that he would have gone to war with France on that ground. He would have sat still, like others; the only question with him would be, whether we should sit with our arms across, or our arms akimbo; but whichever way his arms might be, he was determined that his tongue should be free. It was some consolation that if Philipps against Bonaparte were necessary, we neither wanted the spirit nor the eloquence of Demosthenes to pronounce them. He was willing, for his part, to vote a good quantity of this sort of supply, provided the Committee would agree to strike out 20000 men from the vote which was proposed. Much had been

said about men and measures: if he, who had always opposed the measures of the late administration, should say he hesitated to support the present Ministers because they had always approved of the conduct of the last, he should speak a language, which, whether right or wrong, would at least be intelligible. But he could not see on what ground the Gentlemen near him should object to a Ministry who had always supported the measures they pretend to have admired. If the Noble Lord (Temple) and his friends had any advice to give to the Crown, why did they not move an Address to His Majesty? But they had no advice to give—nothing to propose—and this was what distinguished them from an honourable party and an interested faction. They were satisfied with the measures of Ministers, but they wanted their places. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer was called for by the Noble Lord and his friends; but he had gone out, it seemed, on the Catholic Question. If that was the cause of his going out, how could he come in now? Their opinion of the present Ministers was spoken plainly enough. It was not exactly what it had been described by an Hon. Gent. opposite. They did not

Damn with saint praise, assent with civil leer,  
And, without sneering, teach the rest to sneer.

There was, certainly, no praise at all; and, as certainly, nothing like civility; but, as to sneers, they were abundant enough. He wished the Hon. Gentlemen would speak out their real sentiments respecting the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. With regard to the advantages the French had obtained by the Peace, he begged of the House to recollect the situation of St. Domingo. If he were one of those who rejoiced in the misfortunes of a rival State, he would say, it was worth while to have made the Peace, to have enabled the French to send