

it might be perfectly true that a country three or four times as large as Great Britain ought to have representatives three or four times as numerous, yet it was not to be said that a small country should have an Assembly proportionally small.—The great object in the institution of popular Assemblies was that the people should be fully and freely represented; and that the representative body should have all the virtues and vices incident to such assemblies. But when they made an assembly to consist of 16 or 18 persons, they seemed to him to give a free constitutional appearance, when, in fact, they withheld it. In Great Britain we had a septennial bill; but the goodness of it had been considered doubtful, at least, even by many of those who took a lead in the present bill. The right honorable gentleman (Mr. Pitt) had himself supported a vote for the repeal of that act. He did not now mean to discuss its merits; but a main ground on which it had been thought defensible was, that a general election in this country was attended with a variety of inconveniences. That general elections in Great Britain were attended with several inconveniences could not be doubted; but when they came to a country so different in circumstances as Canada, where elections, for many years at least, were not likely to be attended with the consequences which they dreaded, why they should make such assemblies, not annual or triennial, but septennial, was beyond his comprehension. A septennial bill did not apply to many of the most respectable persons in that country: they might be personally engaged in trade, and if chosen representatives for seven years, they might not be in a situation to attend during that period: their affairs might call them to England, or many other circumstances might arise, effectually to prevent them from attending the service of their country. But although it might be inconvenient for such persons to attend such assembly for the term of seven years, they might be able to give their attendance for one, or even for three years, without any danger or inconvenience to their commercial concerns. By a septennial bill the country of Canada might be deprived of many of the few