

were making to inspire them with doubts with respect to my sentiments for the constitution. I have accepted, and I have sworn to maintain, that constitution, of which the civil constitution of the Clergy forms a part, the execution of which I will maintain with all my power. I now but repeat those sentiments which I have often manifested to the National Assembly: It knows that my intentions and my wishes have no other object than the welfare of the people; and that welfare can result but from an observance of the laws, and an obedience to all legitimate and constitutional authorities."

The President immediately read the following answer:—

"SIRE,

"If the profound sentiment with which the National Assembly is penetrated towards you, could possibly receive any increase, it would be from your presence: May your Majesty find among us, in those testimonies of affection with which you are surrounded, some compensation for your uneasiness.

"Inquietude is inseparable from the progress of Liberty—In the midst of the cares which the good citizens take to quiet the people, alarms are circulated—threatening circumstances unite from all quarters, and their distrust returns.

"Sire, You, the People, Liberty, the Constitution, have but one interest. The cowardly enemies of the Constitution and of Liberty are likewise your enemies. Every heart is devoted to you. As you wish the welfare of the people, the people are equally solicitous for the welfare of their King.

"Let us prevent a faction too well known by its plans, its efforts, and its plots, from interposing between the Throne and the Nation, and all our wishes will be accomplished.

"When you thus come, Sire, to bind more closely, in this Assembly, the ties whereby you are attached to the Revolution, you strengthen the friends of peace and of the laws. They will tell the people that your heart is unchanged, and every uneasiness, every distrust, will disappear; our common enemies will be again confounded, and you will have procured to the country a new victory."

The King then retired—the hall resounding with *Vive le Roi*.

It was then decreed, That the King should be requested to furnish the Assembly with a copy of the speech he had delivered, for the purpose of having it printed, with the President's answer, to quiet the alarms of the people.

In the sitting at night, M. Chabraud, the President, informed the Assembly, that having waited upon the King, agreeable to their decree in the morning, his Majesty had informed them, that, anticipating the wishes of the Assembly, he had ordered a copy of the speech which he had pronounced, to be sent them.

Yesterday, a tumult of an alarming kind took place in this city. The rumours of an army being assembling to invade France had inflamed the multitude, and their Majesties having determined to go Saint Cloud, the circumstance was worked up into a plot—and the mob surrounded the chaise of their Majesties, and would not suffer them to proceed on their journey. Monsieur de la Fayette exerted himself with becoming spirit to procure a free passage for their Majesties, but in vain. They threatened his own life if he persisted—and their Majesties, after sitting in the carriage an hour and three quarters, during which time they were entertained with the eloquence of the mob, who told them that "they were misled by bad advisers; and that, in a moment so imminent, it was not wise in his Majesty to take steps that must inflame the jealousies of his people," returned to the palace of the Tuilleries, and the multitude, after shouting *Vive le Roi*, were perfectly restored to temper.

LONDON.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, APRIL 8.

CANADA CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Hussey presented a petition from the merchants trading to Quebec, against certain parts of the Canada Constitution Bill. Ordered to lie on the table.

The order of the day being read for the consideration of the report of the said bill,

Mr. Hussey being desirous that the bill should undergo a more considerable discussion than it already had, and conceiving many of the clauses to be extremely objectionable, moved to have it re-committed.

Mr. Fox seconded the motion, entering at large into the clauses which he conceived necessary for the full and mature consideration of the house: and to induce the house to agree with him in the recommitment of the bill, he said he would state a few of the most prominent objections he had to it. The first was to the constitution proposed for their Assemblies, which, as stated by the bill, was to consist of not less than 30 in one province, and in the other of not less than 16. He did not mean to state, that Assemblies should be constituted of numbers in proportion to the size of the country it represented; but sure he was, that where a popular Assembly was intended, he would have it so in effect, with all its faults and all its advantages. But he could not conceive an Assembly, containing such few numbers, could possibly become any thing but a tool in the hands of the Governor, especially armed as he was with the power of parceling out the districts whence representatives were to be chosen, naming the Returning Officer, &c.

Another objection to this Assembly was its duration, literally copied, indeed, from our Constitution; namely, seven years, but as literally reversing the principle. Whether or no it was right here, he would not now argue, but he was sure that in an in-

fant country, they ought to recur, perhaps annually, or nearly so, to the sense of the people; where, on the part of the represented, so rapid an increase was to be expected in population; and where, on the part of the representatives, they might be under the necessity, from trade and other causes, to visit the Mother Country. He objected to the qualifications proposed for the Electors of Representatives in the Assembly, and contended strongly against the formation proposed for the Councils, which he said, ought not to be hereditary, but elective, as in America, whose different governments he applauded, as calculated to make the people happy and powerful.

To the clause apportioning a seventh part of all the new grants as a provision for the Clergy, he objected, as being not only in itself more than was right, but also not being in its application to the Clergy of the Church of England, but, generally, to Protestant Clergy. Appeals also, as they stood now, from the common Courts of Justice to the Governor and Council there, thence to the King and Council at home, and finally to the House of Peers, he considered as oppressive: Why not from the Council there, to the Lords here at once, if the Lords were to be the ultimate appeal, without the unnecessary expense of travelling through the King and Council, when they were not decisive? Lastly the division of the country into two provinces he considered as peculiarly imprudent, as tending to keep alive the distinction between French and English, and indeed depriving the former of the blessings of a British Constitution; for by coercion it would be impossible to keep them. Upon these grounds he wished the bill to be re-committed, in order to be amended.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer readily assented to the recommitment of the bill; anxious on the one hand, that on so momentous a concern as giving a constitution to a country, every possible consideration should be paid to it, and also confident that the parts of the bill would be found to answer all the objects proposed; therefore, although the Committee was the proper place to discuss those various parts, yet he would just say a few words in reply to what had fallen from the Right Honourable Gentleman.

First, with respect to the numbers of which the Assemblies were to be composed, he begged he might be understood, that so far from limiting them to those mentioned, that those only were what they must of necessity consist of in the first instance, expressly providing for the increase of population in the country. As to the Clergy, the principle of supporting them would not, he conceived, be disputed; and he had taken as his guide, upon the quantum of such support, that which is usually made the commutation for tythes in this country, and the appropriation in all new inclosures. On the principal part of the bill, namely, the division of the country into two provinces, he differed with the Right Hon. Gentleman,