

ily admitted to be, that we were bound to give them the best government they were capable of receiving for the promotion of their internal happiness, and the external relation they had to this country. In doing of which, however, he was apprehensive that some gentlemen might conceive it improper and unnecessary to resort to the experience of antiquity, and that they would give the preference of resort to the academies of Paris, to the proceedings of the London clubs, and to the Paris lanterns, for illumination. It was not his intention neither to resort to antiquity; he would take, as the examples on which he would argue the constitution to be given to Canada, the example of the American constitution, the example of the French constitution, and the example of the British constitution. He said the constitution of America was fit to be considered upon the present subject, on account of the province for which we were about to provide a constitution being in the neighbourhood, and as we were bound by policy to provide a constitution that would give the Canadians no reason to envy their neighbours.—The American constitution was made as agreeable as the circumstances would admit to the British; the difference between their revolution and that of France would bear no comparison; the Americans had what was essentially necessary for freedom, they had the phlegm and the good temper of Englishmen—they were fitted for republicans by a republican education in the form of their governments, maintained by a vigilant and beneficent Monarch. The formation of their present government was preceded by a long war, in which the military discipline they maintained prepared them for the civil discipline of a republican government; their revolution was not brought about by base and degenerate crimes, nor did they overturn a government for the purposes of anarchy; they had not the materials for a monarchy, or for an aristocracy; but they raised a republic as nearly representing the British government as it was possible—they did not run into the absurdity of France, and by seizing on the rights of men, declare that the nation was to govern the nation, and Prince Prettyman to govern Prince Prettyman. There were in Canada many of the antient inhabitants; a question then arose whether it would or would not be proper to give to them the French constitution? In his opinion, however, there was not a single circumstance that recommended the adoption of any part of it; for the whole of the French constitution was abominably bad, it was the production of folly, not wisdom,—of vice, not virtue;—it contained nothing but extremes as distant as the poles—the parts were in eternal opposition to each other—it was founded on what was termed the rights of men, but to his conviction it was founded in the wrongs of men; and he then held in his hand an example of its effects on the French colonists. Domingo, Guadaloupe, and the other French islands were rich, happy, and growing in strength and consequence, in spite of the

three last distressing wars, before they heard of the new doctrine of the rights of men; but those rights had no sooner arrived at the islands, than any spectator would have imagined that Pandora's box had been opened, and that hell had yawned out discord, murder, and every mischief; the natives attacked each other; the troops mutinied and attacked the Governor, the Governor attacked them; the father attacked the son, and the son the father;—the blacks attacked the whites, and the whites the blacks; anarchy, confusion, and bloodshed raged;—it was a general summons for

Black spirits and white,
Blue spirits and grey,
Mingle, mingle, mingle;
You that mingle may.

When the Assembly heard of these disorders, they ordered the troops to quell them; but by a statement of the French marine minister of 25th of April, it was declared that the affairs of Saint Domingo were become more alarming; that the troops sent out against the insurgents had joined them, and murdered their commander. He looked on the revolution with horror and detestation; it was a revolution of consummate folly, formed and maintained by every vice.—The House had been told by a Right Hon. Gentleman, on a former day (Mr. Fox) that the revolution was a monument of human integrity, and they had been told the same by others; but he would show, before he sat down, from the last accounts from the National Assembly, what their proceedings had lately been in respect of their boasted monument. They had formerly declared it to be an eternal constitution, never to be shaken; they had made the whole nation swear to it; and when they had obtained every thing they appeared to wish, a King and no King—their Sovereign a prisoner to the chief gaoler of Paris—they were not content; but wishing to show what a degraded thing a King might be, the chief gaoler, M. de la Fayette, allowed his nominal Monarch a day's rule from Paris, to make an Easter holiday—but against this the Magistrates of the municipality remonstrated, fearing an escape; though to him it appeared of very little consequence whether the unfortunate Louis was or was not among his people, unless it was for the purpose of insulting him, and of making him the channel of insult to every kingdom in Europe. The remonstrance, however, was not attended to, and the King, with his attendants, set out for St. Cloud in a coach, which was stopped by a grenadier, with a presented bayonet, and a declaration that he (the King) should not proceed.

Mr. BAKER spoke to order. He could not conceive that upon a question for the constitution of Canada, the Right Hon. Gentleman was in order to characterize and satirize the constitution of another country, by which he might involve this country in an unnecessary altercation—He said, the Right Hon. Gentleman was promoting the purposes of

others, and though perhaps unwittingly, was the instrument of certain gentlemen on the other side of the house.

Mr. Fox to order, said in the way his Rt. Hon. Friend had taken up the business, he did not think him disorderly; for his own part, however, he saw no relation whatever between the present bill and the constitution of France—but as this day seemed set out for a general invective and unqualified abuse against other governments, those of Turkey, China, &c. might in their turns be introduced and reprobated with equal propriety; every gentleman might single out his mark from antient or modern history—and, in that way, he considered his Right Hon. Friend perfectly right in proceeding.

Mr. BURKE, with some warmth, observed that the introduction of the French constitution upon the discussion of the Quebec bill was at least as proper as the introduction, by the Right Hon. Gent. (Mr. Fox) of his declaration, during the consideration of the Russian treaty, of the French constitution being a beautiful and stupendous fabric—He said, he did not throw out general invective and unqualified abuse; he should leave that to his Right Hon. Friend (Mr. Fox); what he had asserted, he would prove.

Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. ST. JOHN spoke to order, contending that Mr. Burke's arguments were disorderly.

The cry of *Order! Order!* became general through the House—in which Mr. Pitt, Mr. Martin, Mr. Orde, and Col. Phipps, spoke in support of the orderly proceedings of Mr. Burke. Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Anstruther, Mr. Gray, Mr. St. John, and Lord Sheffield, concluded that he was disorderly; Lord Sheffield concluded by moving, “That dissertations on the French constitution, and a narrative of the transactions of France, are not pertinent to the question before the House.”

Mr. Fox seconded the motion.

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER considered the introduction of a discussion on the French constitution to rest on discretion and order, and should give his negative to the motion.

Mr. Fox replied. In the course of which speech he charged Mr. Burke with having come forward on the present occasion, to fortify the misrepresentations of a former debate—His Right Hon. Friend had acted towards him with absolute injustice—he had, by irregularly and unfairly introducing general topics, prevented his entering into a refutation of the charge insinuated against him by Mr. Pitt, on a former night, of his entertaining republican principles; but tho' he entertained no such principles, he was not ashamed again to declare his opinion: He considered the revolution of France to be the greatest event for the happiness of the world that had happened since the creation. He considered Mr. Burke's conduct to be very inconsistent with his former conduct; and said, that it was to the discredit of the mouth that spoke, and the pen that wrote, respecting great events, without sufficient informa-