

wish to introduce new; all perhaps, more or less, aim at converting it into an engine of state to serve their own purposes, and to avail themselves of that influence which it must always have on the minds of men.

When we read of the events taking place in our own country, the subject becomes more interesting, and we are in danger of having our passions roused and fomented. Let us therefore be upon our guard, judging of nothing by first reports, but awaiting the calmer hour of reason, preparing to decide on full information. For the prosperity of our country let us be thankful and grateful; in its adversity sorrowful and penitential; ever careful to correct our own faults, before we censure those of others.

With respect to individuals and their concerns, examples (and they are not wanting among us) of piety, charity, generosity, and other virtues, should effectually stir us to copy, to imitate, and to surpass them; to join, so far as ability and opportunity will permit, in designs set on foot for the promotion of what is good, the discouragement and suppression of what is otherwise. And here there is great choice; many such designs are on foot; and let those who have talents for it, bring forward more. All are wanted.

The follies, vices, and consequent miseries of multitudes, displayed in a news paper, are so many admonitions and warnings, so many beacons, continually burning, to turn others from the rocks on which they have been shipwrecked. What more powerful dissuasive from suspicion, jealousy, and anger, than the story of one friend murdered by another in a duel? What caution likely to be more effectual against gambling and profligacy, than the mournful relation of an execution, or the fate of a despairing suicide? What finer lecture on the necessity of economy, than an auction of estate, houses, and furniture?—"Talk they of morals," There is no need of Hutcheson, or Smith. Only take a news-paper and consider it well; read it, and it will instruct thee—*plenus et melius Chrysisso et Crantore.*

A news-paper is, among other things, a register of mortality. Articles of this kind should excite in our minds reflections similar to those made by one of my predecessors on a survey of the tombs in Westminster Abbey. They are so just, beautiful, and affecting, that my reader, I am sure, will esteem himself under an obligation to me for bringing them again to his remembrance, by closing this paper with a relation of them.

"When I look upon the tombs of the great, every emotion of envy dies in me; when I read the epitaphs of the beautiful, every inordinate desire goes out; when I meet with the grief of parents upon a tombstone, my heart melts with compassion;—when I see the tomb of the parents themselves, I consider the vanity of grieving for those whom we must quickly follow; when I see kings lying by those who deposed them, when I consider rival wits placed side by side, or the holy men who divided the world

with their contests and disputes, I reflect with sorrow and astonishment on the little competitions, factions and debates of mankind. When I read the several dates of the tombs, of some that died yesterday, and some six hundred years ago, I consider that great day when we shall all of us be contemporaries, and make our appearance together.'

*The Public having been long destitute of Intelligence from the Want of a Channel of Communication, the Printer is induced to commence with the earlier Dates, supposing it might be agreeable to his Subscribers to participate with their fellow-subjects in the sister colonies in the knowledge of those events which are equally interesting to both. In doing this, he hopes to stand excused by those of his readers who may have already had the perusal of these extracts.*

## LONDON.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MARCH 4.

### CANADA CONSTITUTION.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer moved to have read his Majesty's message, recommending the division of Quebec into two separate provinces, and the act of the 14th of his present Majesty, chap. 25, relative to the government of Quebec.

These having been read accordingly, The Chancellor of the Exchequer again rose. He said it was his intention to move for leave to bring in a bill to repeal certain parts of the act just read, and to provide for the future government of Quebec, in a manner conformable to the wishes of his Majesty expressed in his message to that House. The plan of the government which would be submitted in the bill, was calculated, in his opinion, to promote the happiness, the prosperity, and the internal policy of that valuable appendage of the British empire; he would not, however, then trouble the house with a detailed statement of the plan, nor with any observations thereon, conceiving that they might be made with greater advantage when the bill should be before the House. The principal outlines of the bill he stated in the following concise way: He said the first provision proposed, would be to divide Canada into two separate provinces; the object of which regulation was to avoid the inconveniences arising from the growing competition, upon many important points, between the antient inhabitants and the new settlers from England and America, and to put an end to the uncertainty and disputes respecting laws, which had long distracted that province. The division, it was hoped, could be made in such a manner, as to give to each a great majority in their own particular part, although it could not be expected to draw a line of complete separation. Any inconveniences to be apprehended from antient Canadians being included in the one, or British settlers in the other, would

be secured by the establishment of a local legislature in each, formed of a Council and an Assembly. The Provinces to be named Upper Canada, and Lower Canada; the former for the English and American settlers, and the latter for the antient inhabitants.

To render their constitution as similar as possible to the British, the Assembly was to be chosen the usual way; and the Members of the Council to be Members for life; reserving power to his Majesty to annex to certain honors, an hereditary right of sitting in the Council. All laws and ordinances of the Province were to remain in force, till altered by the new legislature. They were already in possession of the English Criminal Law, and it would be left to them to introduce as much of the Civil Law as they might think convenient. The Habeas Corpus Act was already law by an ordinance of the Province, and this invaluable right was to be continued. It was meant to make provision for a Protestant Clergy in both divisions; by an allotment of lands in proportion to those already granted; and as in one of them the majority of the inhabitants would be Catholics, it was meant to provide that it shall not be lawful for his Majesty in future to assent to grants of lands for this purpose, under the sanction of the Council and Assembly of either division, without first submitting them to the consideration of the British Parliament. The tenures which had been the subject of dispute were to be settled in Lower Canada, by the local legislature; in Upper Canada, the settlers being chiefly British, or British Colonists, the tenures were to be soccage tenures, as in England.

To prevent any such disputes, as had been the cause of separating the Thirteen States from the Mother Country, it was provided that the British Parliament should impose no taxes but such as were necessary for the regulation of trade and commerce; and to guard against the abuse of this power, such taxes were to be levied, and to be disposed of by the legislature of each division; and to prevent even the possibility of a cavil, the money so raised was to be at the disposal alone of the legislatures of the said provinces. As the constitution, he said, thus briefly opened, could not be in a state of activity for some time, his Majesty was to be empowered to make temporary regulations, which, however, were to be in force for six months after the establishment of the new Constitution.

Mr. Fox said it was impossible to express an entire approbation or disapprobation of a bill, which the House had not yet seen; but he did not hesitate to say, that if a local legislature was liberally formed, that would incline him much to overlook defects in the other regulations, because he was convinced that the only means of retaining distant colonies with advantage, was to enable them to govern themselves.

The motion was then put, and leave granted accordingly.