

left to ages to measure the value of the benefits conferred by the late change and reforms.

How flattering to Canadians of all ranks, that this corner of the empire becomes the first of any of its remote appendages, upon that *enobled* foundation!—that rare structure of human policy; which adverting to the natural, inevitable, and providential distribution of mankind into *Rich and Poor*, with qualities appropriate to their condition, and of *adverse biases*, restrains the spirit and vices incident to each class, and creates a controul upon both, by the elevation of a third order; which in its own turn is corrected by the other two; and all singly or conjointly operate the welfare of the whole.

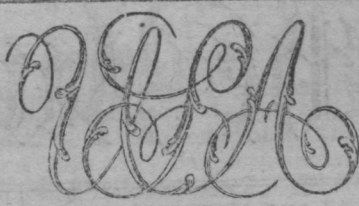
The singularity suggested, will doubtless form an ingredient, among the incitements to the general gratitude of the country, for so honorable a pre-eminence over the rest of the provinces; (I trust) it will be most sensibly felt by the *devout Canadian*, whose recollection of the hard condition of these neglected branches of the dominion of France will admire and adore, that mysterious providence, by which the separation of Canada from that kingdom, became the way of her escape, from the miseries to which France (as we can now see) was then destined, and that the conquest so much dreaded here from the long continued enmity of the rival provinces in her vicinity, by drawing this country into a connection with a brave and generous nation, which has been the means of accelerating the advancement of the *Canadian French* to that degree of felicity and security, which neither the provinces lately British, nor the *European French*, who put every thing at risk for it, as yet have acquired, and which England free as her spirit is, never gave to the colonies planted by her own hand.

According to the form of the New Constitution, as passed into an Act by the Parliament of Great Britain and sanctioned by the King, the number of members of the legislative councils is limited as follows: Seven for Upper Canada, and fifteen for Lower Canada, the legislative councillor's heirs to succeed in rotation, if worthy. The number of members to compose the houses of assembly in the two provinces, are 16 for Upper Canada, and 50 for Lower Canada, the province to be divided by proclamation. Voters eligible who have rented a house of 10l. per annum one year. The proclamation with respect to the division of the province, to be prior to the 1st of January, 1792. The executive councils are likewise to call the legislative councils and houses of assembly before the expiration of the said year 1792.

The Bishop of Nova-Scotia governs the Clergy in these provinces, who are to be allowed as tythes one seventh of all grants of lands.

Among others the following Toasts were given at the principal entertainment in the celebration of the Commencement of the New Constitution of Canada, December 26.

- THE KING, by sound of trumpet, flourish with three times three cheers, and God save the King.
- New Constitution, do. Rule Britannia.
- The glorious Revolution of 1688.
- The Queen and Royal Family.
- The Governor General of British America.
- The Lieut. Governor General Clarke, and the Province.
- Lieut. Governor Simcoe, and the Province of Upper Canada.
- The Peers and Commons of Great Britain who maintained the cause of the People of this Province and supported their petition.
- The friends of Freedom who meet to celebrate this day.
- May the New Constitution speak the will and promote the happiness of the people.
- The Liberty of the Press and may freedom be guided by wisdom and decorum.
- Trial by Jury—and may the right of Juryment to protect the innocent, remain for ever inviolable.
- May the British Nation be ever united with all free Nations, to promote the Liberty and Happiness of all mankind.
- May all the inhabitants of Canada be grateful to Great Britain.
- May all civil distinctions among men be founded on public utility.
- May the feelings which have produced this happy meeting find their way into the hearts of the rising generation.
- Peace on earth and good will towards all men.
- The Constitution of Great Britain drank with three cheers
- The French Revolution, and true liberty to the whole world.
- May the Agriculture of this province procure us an ample supply of good wines.
- Liberty of Conscience drank with three cheers.
- The abolition of the Feudal System.
- May Agriculture cause Commerce to flourish, and Commerce sustain Agriculture.
- May the fire of Liberty extend itself to the frozen climate of Hudson's Bay.
- ☞ Health and Ready Money.



CONGRESS.

PHILADELPHIA.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1791.

The Memorial of John Churchman, presented a few days since, was taken into consideration.—It was moved by

MR. PAGE, that the memorial should be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Williamson objected to the reference—he remarked generally that the subject had already been before Congress, and had consumed much time. In the Senate, he understood, it had not received any great attention. With respect to the prosperous state of the finances, on which the petitioner appears to found his hopes, he would not pretend to determine the state of the Treasury; but if it was full, and flowing, he conceived there were other expeditions which would call for all the money we had to spare.

Mr. Page moved to refer the memorial to the consideration of a select committee—he hoped there would be no opposition to this motion, as the ingenuity of the memorialist, and the importance of the objects he had in view, entitled him to the attention of the house. He said he had presented the memorial to the house last week, at the desire of the memorialist, and had moved that it should lie on the table for the consideration of members; that one object of the memorialist could not so well be stated to the house as to a committee, where numbers of his papers and calculations might be examined; that if he should attempt to do Mr. Churchman justice in the house, he might be charged with affectation, or he might not be heard, or if heard, he might not be sufficiently understood—he therefore hoped that the memorial might be referred to a select committee.—In reply to Mr. Williamson, he was sorry to find that a gentleman, whose name stood on the list of philosophers, instead of aiding him in countenancing a philosophical enquiry, should oppose even his motion that the house would refer it to the consideration of a select committee. He had not presumed to say that there was money in the Treasury to be spared for such purposes—or that even if we had money, that we had a right to give it to Mr. Churchman, if he should prove the truth of his theory; nor had he, Mr. Page, said that Mr. Churchman would find the magnetic pole—he had only affirmed that Mr. Churchman's ingenuity, which was acknowledged by many competent judges, and the importance of the objects he had in view (one of which the member himself confessed deserved attention, and the other was confessed by several philosophers and learned societies in Europe) deserved the attention of the house. Sir, added Mr. Page, I affirm, since I am thus compelled to support my motion, that Mr. Churchman's theory, whether he shall be able to find by his proposed voyage the magnetic pole or not, is a proof of his ingenuity, and is preferable to that of the great Halley. The latter supposed four magnetic poles, and that they resided within the bowels of the earth; the former supposes but two, and that one of them is in the neighbourhood of one of the United States, and within the reach of the fishing voyages of another. Since Dr. Halley's theory has been exploded which did not long account for the variation of variation, as it is called, and which he explained by an hypothesis which has been called extravagant, as it supposed the earth a hollow shell, with a nucleus within, revolving freely, and carrying round it the four points which he supposed attracted the magnetic needle, and gave it its direction; no theory, except Mr. Churchman's, has been offered to the world, which solves so many phenomena of the variation of the needle, and bids fair to be of real use. I assisted (by the invitation of one of the committee of the first Congress at New-York, to whom Mr. Churchman's memorial was referred) in the examination of any place whose latitude is known, and where the variation is known, and I did put it to the test in this manner—I gave Cook's voyages to one of the committee, and desired him to tell me the latitude of any place and the variation found there, and I calculated what the longitude ought to be according to the theory, and constantly found it to be nearly that stated in the voyage; the committee compared Mr. Churchman's calculations of the longitude which they demanded of him, with that given by Cooke, and found a wonderful agreement; and I have since seen many of Mr. Churchman's comparisons of this sort, which agree with observations so nearly, as to justify my assertion that the theory shews the in-

genuity of Mr. Churchman; and I will add, that although it may not be generally applied to finding the longitude because of the smallness of variation in some places, and other circumstances, yet it may be used in many places, if the truth of the theory be once established; and whatever can contribute to the discovery of longitude at sea, must be worthy of encouragement; but granting that the variation of the needle could not be applied to the discovery of the longitude at sea, yet an easy and certain method of finding the variation is a most desirable thing, and of great consequence to geography, navigation and surveying; and if Mr. Churchman's theory be true, not only the variation, but the alteration of that variation will be found by an easy calculation at any place whose longitude and latitude is known, and for any given time; and he puts the truth of his theory to the test, which few theorists have been willing to do, of a single experiment, a voyage to Baffin's Bay. The United States need not be ashamed to encourage the memorialist:—the British Parliament encouraged voyages to ascertain the truth of Halley's theory, and, if I mistake not, when that was abandoned, it was supposed that the poles of the earth influenced the needle; the Parliament offered 20,000l. to any one who would go to the north pole, and at the expence of their government, the attempt has been made. But Mr. Churchman only requires that a voyage be made within 14 degrees of that pole—and all I have asked is, that his memorial be referred to a committee to examine his theory, his calculations and vouchers, respecting the probability of its truth, and the reasonableness of his petition. If the committee should think his theory worthy of the experiment, he proposes to establish its truth; and this house should not think Congress authorized to grant money for that purpose; they may recommend Mr. Churchman and his theory to the patronage of the legislatures of the sister states, whose authority and ability to enable the memorialist to prosecute his enquiries cannot be doubted any more than their readiness to listen to a recommendation so worthy of Congress. On the other hand, should the committee be of opinion that Mr. Churchman's is a mad projection, and that his petition ought to be rejected, let the house, if satisfied with their report, confirm it by their unanimous vote.—Where then is the danger of referring the memorial to the consideration of a committee? But if the house reject the motion for a reference, and the ingenious memorialist be obliged to apply to foreign countries, whose learned societies have already applauded his theory, and should there meet with encouragement, and be enabled to establish its truth, may we not be in danger of incurring the censure of the liberal and enlightened world?

Mr. Clark made some observations on the subject. He said that the variation of the needle was already sufficiently understood by all land surveyors, otherwise they were not fit for their business; and with regard to any discoveries by sea, he had little hopes from them, after all the fruitless attempts which have been made by the ablest navigators and philosophers of Europe.

Mr. Seney said that there was a degree of attention due to all applications from men of genius, and as Mr. Churchman's memorial comes supported by many respectable vouchers, it ought certainly to be referred to a committee:—if Congress should not deem it proper to give him the aid he requires at present, perhaps it may be recommended to the next house, to afford him encouragement.

Mr. Williamson said it was the very same petition which had been before Congress the last session, when there were only three or four members who appeared to support it.

Mr. Page said it was not out of order to reconsider the subject—and to condemn it rashly, without a proper investigation, would be to render Congress ridiculous in the eyes of the world.

Mr. Murray hoped the house would appoint a committee—he was not in Congress when this subject was before decided against. This was a question on which he was incompetent to decide, but he could feel sufficiently for the literary reputation of the house, and the great interest of science, to believe, that to commit the business to a committee, would best comport with the dignity of the subject. Something more than was then submitted to the wisdom of Congress, is now brought forward—at least Mr. Churchman so alleges. Let those gentlemen who wish to have an opportunity of gratifying a laudable curiosity, be indulged—When a man of science comes here with supposed discoveries in the active sciences, we owe it to the subject, to ourselves, and to human nature, to give his propositions fair play and mature consideration. We can not do this without a reference to a committee. We ought to be cautious how we hastily decide on the views and experiments of philosophical applicants, and ought to take warning from the disgrace of other nations whom history has held up for their premature rejection of enterprizes and schemes of science. Columbus, himself, Columbus, to whom we owe our country, travelled about a philoso-