

T H U R S D A Y, MAY 31 1787.

views opposed to them, were concerning measures, the consideration of the proposed change, mentioned in the which, if they succeeded, their liberties and rights preceding paragraph, observes, is not must certainly fall a sacrifice.

We know that by the constitution of Great-Britain, the king has not only an equal authority in matters of legislation, with the other branches of parliament, but that the whole executive power is lodged in his hands. He is also the head of the church, and the fountain of honours. A monarch, with such titles, and to clerical dignities, with his other prerogatives, renders him a person to form a nation; he may well, be esteemed a danger to the government over which he is placed. The monarch, with him are sitting down, from the rest of the citizens of the state, though not with citizens; hence; who derived their distinctions from him, who are daily increasing, and may require, on special occasions, to prompt monarch, and in a tocratical defence, for they are free, and the nobility, I say, with the dignity of order, form no inconsiderable part of the nobility. He may become instruments to his hands, and the worst of purgals, for that may be the worst of all purposes, which has not the sufferings and rebasement of many, to the grandeur, or pleasure of a few.

I speak the language of one, who is interested in the fate of the governed, whosoever may be those, who pronounce themselves patriots, patrons of liberty. I am interested in equal rights, and equal rights, and I know, that whatever tends to injure, or deny by a free government, injuries of the same kind.

The sacred, by a savage merciless enemy; let it be supposed *however improbable*, that that branch of the legislature has the keeping of the public purse, should neglect or refuse to untie the strings of it, as an immediate acquiescence in some of its measures or propositions does not take place; it is no difficult matter to conceive in such a case, the mis-

Under such a constitution as I have above described, that this conduct might occasion. But careful, (and such an one the British constitution is) of this nature, Sir, are so *unlikely* to happen from any me be permitted to repeat the idea of these writers, that there is a necessity, a constant necessity, *not* from this privilege, that an apprehension of danger to people to watch over, and occasionally to interfere in the conduct of those, whom they appoint to represent their part in the legislature of the government. Their liberty, their property depends upon the conduct of this branch. This branch is in constant danger of the influence of the other branches who have often thrown themselves, and the people may always be supposed to be, enemies to its freedom, and by consequence inimical to the interest of those who support it.

This, Sir, is true of the English government, but what has this to do with us? Have we a king armed with power, equal to those of the king of England? Have we a house of lords created, and supplied with members, in the same manner, and having the same privileges as the house of lords in Great Britain?

These questions may be unnecessary, but the following one may not be so. Is either branch of our legislature possessed of, or does it pretend to possess, any authority of the head or heart of that man, who is now reigning? a patriotic concern for the interests of his fellow-citizens, would induce him to hurry in discord and confusion, or in any manner, in its consequence prove as bad, would be a constitution, under the stale popular pretences of preserving and exercising the rights of its citizens? Should he proceed from a defective head, he might be pitied and pardoned; but a faulty heart would deserve neither commiseration, or mercy. If there be so deluded, or so abandoned a character, let those who know him, make the application.

There are unnecessary. I myself should have had not, so say the least of it. A reform has been given and attempted to be given to the branch of our legislature. The members who have been instrumental in this reform, I will not pretend to give a full and complete assurance, if these persons are successful, their success will prove the constitution and government of this country to be the best that they in their proper capacity could make; or that they can with any other; or should the worst they present take place.

I am aware of the noise that has been, and will continue to be sounded in the ears of every listener, against the doctrine I support. But if he will reflect as well as listen, the confusion must quickly vanish. A general assembly composed of firemen and equals, not elevated above their constituents, but by their own deliberate choice, and that only for short periods, unprivileged by distinct personal rights or rank, can never in a mind untainted by prejudice, and not disordered by faction, be compared to a British parliament, headed by a British king. Principles and practice in the one government can only in such minds be adopted, as a rule of conduct in the other.

If there is one branch of the Legislature, it is
the House of Commons, over which you pre-
sided, Sir, in the charge of originating money
bills. This power, exercised at all, or if not
exercised, may prove of

Or conduct in the other.
But let up, Sir, take this subject up on a more
general scale. The foregoing remarks are confined
to a particular case. Reasons that are applicable
to every government, and that arise out of the nature
of the thing ought, and will be with men of
sense and political consideration, sufficient

gent, and of course I have observed which I sincerely hope there can be no more of. I am sorry they are every part of our life; and general ill will, and dissimulation, as derived from
fence, and political integrity, deceive Mr. Locke in his treatise on civil government, describing the nature and extent of legislative power, says, "that it is the supreme power of the commonwealth, and that appointing he the power of law but what it shall approve *pursuant* to its trust. This power is limited to the public good." A power to
See the resolution of congress for raising a troop of light horse in the state of Maryland, 20 October, 1789.