Rough Idea of what might be said by Ths P. of Wales.

My Lords

Conscious of the wisdom and loyalty of both Houses of Parliament, I have hitherto forborne to express any sentiments of mine, upon the present unhappy state of the Government of this Country: a state which has arisen from a calamity which all must lament, but which I feel with the severity of a domestic misfortune.

I would not even have risen at this time, to join my thoughts to the deliberations of your Lordships, but that the duty I owe to my Royal father and my anxiety for the national wellfare, compel me to break a silence which I would have observed, on any points that might concern my own personal interests; being thoroughly satisfied, that the wisdom of your Lordships and of the other House of Parliament, will form a better judgement upon every concern of mine, than I can venture to ground upon my own opinions.

But while I leave every personal consider=ation, with perfect confidence, at the disposal of the Houses of Parliament, I should hold myself deficient

in

In the duty of a loyal and affectionate son, if, during the present inability of my Royal father, I should not object to any circumstances, which, according to the best of my judgement, may retard his recovery or may render Government more uneasy to his mind, when that happy period shall arrive, which is the wish of the whole world and is the ardent prayer of his dejected family.

My Lords, have we not all, one and the same object — That the Sovereignty of these kingdoms shall be preserved entire, for the exercise of those hands, which alone are intitled to hold the Crown and weild the Sceptre. — I disclaim not only the right, but I hope you will believe the wish likewise, to touch those Ensigns of Royalty, during the life of my ever respected father: But if they are to remain sacred from any approach of mine, I hope they will not be violated, by any other less connected person or persons. While His Majesty lives, and long may he live and reign a blessing to his people, he alone is the King of this Country: and as his Regal authority is one single individual power, which cannot be separated or divided without being impaired, I think it a duty I owe to my Royal father, to give my voice against parceling out and distributing his Sovereign functions; which,

in

Regency

Brought Idea of Fitness
might be said at
the Regency

Thetford

In my opinion, would be using an unnecessary, and therefore a reprehensible licence, with his Royal Dignity; and would be a dangerous measure for the unanimity and prosperity of the nation. ~

Whatever powers the necessities of State will not suffer to lie dormant, for a time, let them be exercised by some one person, who, for that occasion and to that extent, shall be the Representative of His Majesty: The duration of the occasion is in the hands of the Almighty; and the extent of powers is in the wisdom of parliament: But let me conjure your Lordships, on behalf of my Royal Father, not to agree to mangle his individual powers and prerogatives, by questionable distri= =butions of his authority; a sight that would distress his reviving mind, at all times anxious to preserve entire every part of the Constitution of this Country. Let me also offer the same intreaty, on behalf of the Loyal people of these kingdoms, whose quiet and happiness might be disturbed, by the rise of new, distracted, and perhaps counteracting powers, in the Government of the Country; from whence Embarrassments might ensue, which the wisdom and experience

of

of my Father, even in his firmest unimpaired health, might find difficult to disentangle.

I have understood, that the partialities of your Lordships and of the other House of Parliament, have supposed me qualified to exercise, as the Representative of His Majesty, those Royal functions, which the affairs of State call into immediate action. This is a flattering opinion, which I receive with serious respect and cordial gratitude. I mention it in the present stage of this important business, for the purpose of declaring, that I most willingly join, in leaving to the great Council of the Nation to determine, which of the suspended powers of the Crown ought to be restored and exerted, for the present Government of the Country. Whatever may be their number and extent, if brought to my hands, I will accept them with readiness, for the good of the people. — But with far greater pleasure will I surrender them again, into the hands of him to whom of right they belong, when it may please God to bestow upon us all the happiness of seeing him once more in a condition to receive them.

My Lords, where is the necessity for consuming much time on enquiries by your Lordships into ineffectual variations

Variations in my Father's disabled condition; and what occasion is there for exposing to the world the venial effects of domestic hopes and anxieties for his recovery. My Lords, let the temporary representation of the Sovereign be appointed for as short a time as the wisdom of both Houses may think proper; I join my voice for as limited a duration as the concerns of state can possibly admit: and if, even within the narrowest period, His Majesty should happily recover, I trust, that by the aid and support of his Parliament, I shall be able, under the blessing of Almighty God, to restore his Royal prerogative, unimpaired, into his hands: and his dominions flourishing & prosperous, as they came under my management.

Why therefore should we expose any longer this kingdom to the eyes of other nations, in the defenceless and dangerous situation, of a Country without a Government; while we waste our time in unnecessary deliberations, which may tend to foment dissensions at home and lessen our national consequence abroad. My Lords, I earnestly recommend a cessation of all needless investigations, which tend to bring additional distress and confusion into a family already sufficiently afflicted; and, through too much delay, serve to leave the nation at the mercy of those mischiefs, which cannot long fail to spring up, in a Country uncontrouled by any existing Government.