

be *arrested on mesne process, in any civil suit : 3. nor be detained under excution, though levied before time of privilege : 4. Nor impleaded, cited, or subpoenaed in any court : 5. Nor summoned as a witness or juror : 6. Nor may their lands or goods be distrained : 7. Nor their persons assaulted, or characters traduced. And the period of time, covered by privilege, before and after the session, with the practice of short prorogations under the connivance of the crown, amounts in fact to a perpetual protection against the course of justice. In one instance indeed it has been relaxed by the 10. G. 3. c. 50. which permits judiciary proceedings to go on against them. That these privileges must be continually progressive seem to result from their rejecting all definition of them ; the doctrine being that "their dignity and independence are preserved by keeping their privileges indefinite;" and that "the maxims upon which they proceed, together with the method of proceeding, rest entirely in their own breast, and are not defined, and ascertained by any particular stated laws."

4. BLACKST. 163. 164.

While privilege was understood in England to extend only to exemption from arrest eundo, morando, et redeundo, the House of Commons themselves decided that "a convenient time was to be understood." (1580.) 1. HATS. 99. 100. Nor is the law so strict in point of time as to require the party to set out immediately on his return, but allows him time to settle his private affairs and to prepare for his journey ; and does not even scan his road very nicely, nor forfeit his protection for a little deviation from that

* Elsygue 217. 1. Hats. 21. 1. Grey's deb. 133.