

by having Recourse to those ancient Usages, of which we have had Experience, and under which the Nation hath long flourished. The old Rights of Freeholders in electing these two Kinds of Magistrates, are Branches of Power merely Civil, and of too harmless and inoffensive a Nature to give any Jealousy to a Prince, wise enough to place his own Greatness in the Happiness of his Subjects. These would naturally allay the Ferment which appears at present in the Nation; these would quiet the Minds of a People, uneasy to the highest Degree, under the terrible Apprehensions they have of the Loss of their Liberties, and the Ruin of the Constitution by a Deluge of Corruption, carried on for a long Series of Years with Impunity, notwithstanding the regular Sitting of Parliaments. And certainly, if they have Reason to think their own Representatives infected with it, never had People a juster Cause of Uneasiness; for if Parliaments (the only Branch of Power as yet left in the Hands of the Subject) should once grow corrupt, and giving up their Country, should devote themselves to the Service of a Minister that bribes them, they will never punish Corruption in others; they will be ready, if not to justify, at least to screen all Iniquities; and far from redressing any, will become themselves the greatest of Grievances. In such a Case, the Condition of a Nation is desperate; there is an End of all Hopes of Relief from Oppression, and of all Expectation of public Good; the People are deprived of the only Guardians of their Liberties, and having no other Means to preserve them, they are lost without Resource: In a Word, *the Constitution itself is subverted*, in the Opinion of the Great Mr. Lock, who thus expresses himself on the Subject of the Corruption of Parliaments, in his *Treatise of Civil Government*, Book 2. c. 19. of the *Dissolution of Government*. “ The supreme Executor (says he) acts
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