

By the advice of the lords, and with the consent of the commons; whereas the laws of Taxation seem all to be made by the advice of the commons, and with the consent of the lords: which, whatever squabbles the divisions of of our parliaments into two distinct houses, may produce, in the articles of privilege or power, is a most glorious addition to our constitution, and the great bulwark of national security, as I have endeavoured to evince in the following short state of their constitutional principles.

"Our nobility are, by their birth, by their education, and by their circumstances, the best judges of what laws may be necessary for enabling the king to govern his dominions, to protect and administer impartial justice to the people in every part thereof, and to prevent as much as possible, the bad effects of that partiality, which mankind are naturally too apt to shew towards those of their own province, sect, party, or family; which is the end to be obtained by the laws of England; and for this purpose, our kings were, by our ancient constitution, provided with a power and a revenue, sufficient for all ordinary occasions, in time of peace: therefore, when any extraordinary supply is desired, there are three things to be strictly examined, and naturally considered, which are, the necessity of it, the ability of the people to advance the money, and the methods most proper for raising the sum desired.

"As to the necessity of any extraordinary supply, our nobility may be as good nay, they may be supposed to be better, judges than the commons, because they are the king's hereditary counsellors in all our foreign affairs, of any importance, which are generally the cause of an extraordinary supply becoming necessary; therefore no supply can be granted by the house of commons without their consent; for if it be asked when they do not think it necessary, though it has been granted, and the bill for raising it, prepared and passed by the house of commons, the lords may prevent a shilling of the money being raised, by refusing to pass the bill.

"But as to the abilities of the people to raise the sum required, and as to the methods for raising it, that may be the least inconvenient or burthensome upon the people, who are to pay much the greatest part of the money, our nobles have now so little connection with the people, and are so seldom resident at their seats in the country, that they can not be supposed to have any knowledge: at least, they can not be supposed to be so good judges as the representatives of the people, who, by law, ought to be residents in the counties or places they represent, and by their connections with the people in every county, city, and borough, of the kingdom, must be well acquainted with their circumstances; nay, if they are not chosen by the most barefaced bribery and corruption, which it is the duty, and really the