

The following was intended to have been added as a note in page 8 of last number, at the stop in line 7, but was forced to be omitted for want of room.

It may not be irrelevant here to observe that by the original constitution of parliament, "redress of grievances" was always looked after and taken care of before any money-bills were passed, (*Fetyl's preface to the right of Commons*, p. 40. *Stat.* 36. Edw. III. c. 10. 17 Edw II. 4 Edw. III) for one of the principal ends of calling a parliament is for redress of grievances; and this was so well known in former days, that when writs have been issued for summoning a parliament, the kings sent at the same time their writs to the sheriffs of the counties to summon all persons to give in their complaints or grievances against the ministers of state, and great officers of the realm; and the house of commons, being the inquisitors of the nation, have usually taken care to impeach such persons at court as had given ill advice, or mismanaged the king's affairs; and where the nature of the crimes or the proof of them could not well warrant impeachment, the commons have complained to the king, and at their suggestion, the accused have usually been removed. The rolls of parliament give many instances of this. As early as Henry II. (*Rot. Parl.* 29 Henry II.) the commons prayed the king that the duke of Somerset and about thirty more, "be abandoned from the king's presence during their lives, and not to come within twelve miles of the court, for that people speak evil of them." The king in answer granted that they should all (some few excepted) depart, and so continue for one whole year, to see if any man could duly accuse them. In the 5th of Henry IV (*Rot. Parl.*) at the request of the commons, the lords accorded that the king's confessor, and two others, should be removed out of the king's house; and the king moreover declared in parliament that "he would do the like with any other that was about his royal person, if they were in the hatred and indignation of the people" In Edward the third's time, when an aid being demanded for defending the seas and maintaining the war against his enemies, (*Rot. Parl.* 50 Edw. III.) the commons answer "that if the king had had faithful counsellors and officers, he could not but have been the richest prince in Europe; and therefore they require that the falsehoods and crafts of certain of the king's council, and other persons may be tried and punished;" and they proceed, as other parliaments have done, to the trial and punishment of offenders, before they would consider of a subsidy. Numerous other instances in subsequent parliaments might be adduced, but these will suffice to shew, what, from time immemorial, was, in that respect, the usage of parliament.

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