

with regard to the Highlands of *Scotland*,) he endeavoured to lessen the Attachment of the Vassals to their Lords; and by the famous Act of the eleventh of his Reign, provided for their Indemnification, in case they adhered to him or *the King for the Time being*; whereby they were secured from all Forfeiture of their Lands, even though their Lord was of the contrary Party, and they were obliged by their Tenures to follow him in his Hosting, on Pain of Forfeiture, if they neglected. *Hen. VIII.* finished the Work, which his Father had begun, of demolishing the Power of the Barons. The Bishops and Abbots held by *Barony*, and had an infinite Number of Vassals; who, like those of others, were obliged to follow them or their Lieutenants into the Field: And they had in all Times been strenuous Assertors of the Cause of Liberty, and had, on Occasions of defending it by Arms, generally joined with the Barons. The King got a Parliament to suppress all the Abbeys and Monasteries, and he found himself Pretences and Means to get almost all the Bishops Manors into his Hands. Thus ended in a manner all the real military Power of the Barons, except what remained in the Hands of 2 or 3 Lords of the *Scotch Marches*, who forfeiting in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, it hath been since totally extinguished.

*Henry VIII.* indeed gave away, or sold for a Trifle, all the Church and Abbey Lands, which coming to be the Property of Commoners, rendered them much more considerable than they were before, and extended their Power, particularly as to the giving of Money in Parliament. But as the Division of Power always makes it less, or less capable of being exerted; as that which in 40 or 50 Hands would have a mighty Influence, comes to have very little when split into as many Thousands, for want of Union among the Parties, through the