

der ; when they see this, it is high Time for them to think of getting back some of their ancient civil Power, that they may be the better able to take care of their civil Rights. The Power of chusing Justices of the Peace, would secure them effectually from an infinite Number of Oppressions in various Ways, which it is in the Power of those Magistrates (too often the Tools of a corrupt Minister) to exercise ; and the Influence, which Men of Merit, Integrity, and Fortune, invested with that Magistracy, and distributing Justice with an equitable and impartial Hand, must have on the little Burroughs in their Neighbourhood, may contribute something towards correcting the Inconveniences arising from the Want of a proper Ballance in our parliamentary Representation. The Power of electing High Sheriffs would prevent that arbitrary Force used in Elections, and those undue Returns of Members, of which we have heard but too much of late Years ; particularly at the late general Election ; and would be of infinite Service for preserving the Freedom and right Constitution of Parliaments. Both are necessary for restoring the Ballance of our Constitution, and so far as they go towards that End, will be likely to maintain their Ground. For if the Freeholders of *England* come to be once again possessed of the Right of chusing High Sheriffs and Justices of Peace, and to experience the Benefits they will thence derive, an House of Commons will hardly venture to take away a Right, in which all the landed Men in the Kingdom are so deeply interested ; nor can it be done without causing a terrible Convulsion in the Nation.

Machiavel says, " That to render a Commonwealth long lived, it is necessary to correct it often, and reduce it towards its first Principles". When the Ballance of a Constitution is destroyed, there is no Way of restoring it more proper, than
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