

The Coroner having no Addition to the ancient Powers of his Office, it continued Elective, as it was originally: And so did that of the ordinary Conservators or Justices of the Peace, for 260 Years after the Conquest. Our Kings indeed, annexed a like Power over the Kingdom in general to the great Offices of the Crown, and sometimes, in a particular County, to the Tenure of some great Man's Estate therein. They likewise on extraordinary Occasions issued Commissions to extraordinary Conservators, for defending the Coasts from Foreign Enemies, and the Country from Domestic Insurrections, with Power to call the Sheriff and *Posse* to their Assistance. But this was done in very rare Instances, and the Writs (as Mr. *Lambard* in his *Justice of Peace*, pag. 17—20, informs us,) issued out regularly for the Election of the ordinary Conservators by the Freeholders, till the first Year of *Edw. III.*; when Queen *Isabel*, having deposed her Husband, advanced her Son, a Minor, to the Throne, and got a Parliament to support her in all her iniquitous Measures, procured an Act (*1 Edw. III. c. 15.*) for the assigning in every Shire of the Realm good Men and lawful (who were no Maintainers of Evil nor Barretors in the County) to keep the Peace. *This was done* (says *Lambard*) *to prevent the Rescue of Edw. II. who was conveyed secretly by Night from House to House, and from Castle to Castle; and for this Cause the Election of the ordinary Conservators or Wardens of the Peace, was first taken from the People, and translated to the Assignment of the King;* who began in the 34th of his Reign, to appoint them by special Commissions for each County; soon after which they began to be commonly called Justices of the Peace, their ordinary Stile at present. The Commons imagining they could easily get any Grievance redressed by Parliament, did not appear afterwards so solicitous to recover their