

constitution, I cannot perceive how magistrates, commissioned by royal authority (as in this our town of Kingston) can constitutionally hold the exclusive right, to govern a town. For the privileged rights, of the inhabitants of a city or town in England, incorporated by a particular law, extend to the power of chusing their own magistrates. And in those towns that are not governed, by a particular act of incorporation; magistrates appointed by the king, are never found meddling, in the management of common affairs. Nor should they; for wherever that happens, magistrates become absolute rulers.—Of this evil my fellow townsmen, you and I experience a growing increase, every year. Furthermore, the laws ought to be the directing guide to all officers, and every officer ought by law, to be held to his own order, and not be allowed, as the magistrates of this town are authorized by law, to be both magistrates and police officers. It is a necessary duty we owe to ourselves, to the town, and to posterity, to endeavour by lawful means, to obtain a removal, or a division of this combined power, which we have proved by experience, to be an overbearing evil. To this highly important duty I feel a sincere desire to draw your attention, for it is a duty we ought not to neglect. When considered, under a comparative view, the government of the town in which we live, will be found the next, in the order of importance, to that of our families. And so found, why should we neglect to try means, to remedy the growing evil. By neglecting to declare our disapproval, of the measures enforced by the magistrates, we may be suppo-