

altered it again and again, in order to render it more explicit, infomuch that every by-stander at first imagined they intended to vote for it also; but, in fact, the whole of this their dubious and seemingly perplexed proceeding, arose from their anxiety for a full and fair discussion of the legal validity of General Warrants, to the end, as I conceive, that all the world might see (as, indeed, they did at last) that nothing at all could be said in support of them. No end could be more laudable, or more perfectly answered; for, after the utimost researches, no one case could be found by the most learned, diligent and laborious inquisitors, wherein such a warrant had been adjudged legal. By *Magna Charta* (the Great Charter of English Liberty, so much talked of, but so little read) a Succession of Kings, with the advice of their Barons and Bishops, and wise and great men in Parliament, declare and promulge to all the people of England, *Nullus Liber Homo capiatur, vel imprisonetur, aut disseiziatur de libero tenemento suo, vel libertatibus, vel liberis consuetudinibus suis, aut ullagetur, aut exulet, aut aliquo modo destruat; nec super eum ibimus, nec super eum mittemus, nisi per legale iudicium parium suorum, vel per legem terræ. Nulli vendemus, nulli negabimus aut differemus rectum vel justitiam.* How, therefore, could any but an illiterate and unthinking man conceive, that in time of perfect tranquility both at home and abroad, a General Warrant which named no-body, could be deemed *Lex Terræ* or *Judicium Parium*, so as to authorize the seizure and close imprisonment of a *Liber Homo*, without some notorious change of the constitution in this capital point by King, Lords,

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