

*the restoring to the Freeholders of England their ancient Right of choosing the High Sheriffs and Justices of Peace in the County Courts.* They acquiesced in the giving up of those Powers, at a Time when they conceived their civil Rights were fully secured by the settled Constitution and Incorruption of Parliaments, and by the wise Proportion, with Regard to the several Interests in the Kingdom, observed in the Number of their Representatives; and likewise at a Time when the military Power of the Nation lay chiefly in the Hands of the Subject. The Freeholders of those Days never imagined, that their Representatives, who represent likewise all the landed Interest in the Kingdom, should come, 2 or 3 hundred Years afterwards, to be outnumbered, 3 to 1, by a new Sett of Representatives of little beggarly Burroughs; which being poor, are exposed to be venal, and having little or nothing of their own, have yet by the Majority of their Attorneys, the sovereign Disposal of the Property and Liberties of all the Freeholders of *England*, without the Consent of any one of their Representatives. They thought full as little of all the ordinary military Power of the Kingdom's falling into the Hands of the Crown; much less had they any Notion, that this could ever come to be deemed insufficient for the Safety of a Realm, which, in their Days, made all their Neighbours tremble for Dread of its Power; and that it should be pretended a Standing Army was necessary for a further Security. But now that they see the Ballance of the Representation destroyed, and all the Security, which they promised themselves from thence, defeated and taken away; when they see not only the ordinary Militia entirely in the Hands of the Crown, but a mercenary Army kept up at a vast Expence out of their Property, and ready at the Word of Command to seize the rest, and commit any other Violence that the Commander shall think fit to order;