

" Interest in the just and due Execution of their
 " several Places, were by some of the King's Writ
 " chose in full County by the Freeholders". And
 as to the manner of this Election, *Horne*, who was
 perfectly well versed in all the ancient Customs of
 this Realm, and wrote his Book in the Time of
Edw. I. says in his *Mirroure*, c. 1. §. 3. " That
 " Sheriffs were chosen by a Writ directed to the Co-
 " roner, and the Conservators of the Peace by Writ
 " directed to the Sheriff."

But these Rights of the Freeholders did not remain long after the Conquest without being encroached upon, tho' *William I.* had confirmed the greatest part of the *Saxon* Laws, and *Henry I.* had restored them all in general. When Princes have a Mind to assume a Power, they seldom are at a Loss for Pretences. Thus to the Sheriffs ancient Right of guarding the County, preserving its Peace, judging in the Tourn, and presiding in the County Court, they superadded the Charge of collecting the Fee-Farm Rents, and levying the Fines, Amercements, Scutages, and other Dues and Branches of the Revenue; and then began to consider him as much an Officer of the Crown, as he had ever been before of the Country. This was followed by a Nomination of the Sheriff in some Counties, and with the Grant of an hereditary Shrievalry in others, which last being made to some great Man who had large Possessions in a County, engaged him by Interest to support this Invasion of the Rights of Freeholders, who being few in Number, and seeing the Charge put into so good Hands, submitted the more easily to a Change, till they found it attended with some Inconvenience. This I suppose to be the Case when the Commons of *England*, in the Parliament of 28 *Edw. I.* (*A. D.* 1300.) petitioned the King for restoring to his People the Election of Sheriffs. That great Prince, who of all our Kings, best under-
 & derstood