

A P P E A L.

*To His Majesty's Most Honourable Board of Council for
the Affairs of Guernsey and Jersey.*

HONOURABLE SIRS,

THE existing abuses in the constitution of the island of Jersey render it necessary that a representation of them should at length be made to your Honourable Board, as the supreme legislators of these islands.

The right of petition, on the part of the British residents in Jersey, has been declared illegal; by which means they have been prevented from stating instances of the gross violation both of law and of justice.

It will be recollected, that in the year 1811, His Majesty's commission was issued and directed to three distinguished legal gentlemen,—William Osgood, Maurice Swabey, and Henry Hobhouse, Esqrs., Barristers at Law; *confined solely* to an inquiry into the then method of electing jurats, which for a long series of years had filled the island with contentions of the worst description, arising from the election of uneducated and illiterate men to that office.

In consequence of this inquiry, the charter of King John was founded, which, on the mode of electing jurats, runs, "*per Ministros Domini Regis et optimates Patriæ*," whom the above gentlemen reported as being the Bailly, His Majesty's Procureur, the Viscount, His Majesty's Advocate, and the States of the island; and that such positive law should have its full operation and effect.

This charter, had it been strictly attended to, would have produced the most salutary effects; but in contravention of it, every rated householder has been indiscriminately admitted to these distinctions.