

Case, when the attainted Person having himself absconded, and fled from Justice, has thereby made such an extrajudicial Proceeding justifiable. It is also as certain, that neither of these Things can be pleaded in the present Case, which I need not be particular in showing, because not suggested, nor is there the least Colour for such a Suggestion. And yet I pretend to know the People in the Charter Governments so well, and to be so thoroughly acquainted with their meek Principles of Obedience, that I dare affirm, if such an Act should pass, however rigorous and severe they might think it within themselves, they would not let fall an indecent Word of their Superiours, but would receive the News with the lowest Submission : So great is their Loyalty to the King, and so profound their Regard for the Resolutions of a *British* Parliament, the wisest and most august Assembly in the World. However, seeing there is no such Act already pass'd, and 'tis to be hop'd, from the Honour and Justice of Parliaments, never will, it can't be thought a Crime modestly to State the Hardship of the Case : I don't mean with Respect to the Merits of it, which have been already consider'd, but as to the *Manner of Proceeding by Bill in Parliament*. It is a most sacred and unalterable Rule of Justice, and has ever been so esteem'd by all the civiliz'd Nations of the World, that no Person be depriv'd of Life, Liberty or Estate, or any Thing he possesses, 'till he has had Time and Opportunity to make his Defence. And if the Matter in Judgment be of great Value, dearly paid for, and long enjoy'd, it adds much to the Weight of the Argument, and aggravates the Injury in depriving the Possessors unheard. Now this is the Case of the Charter Governments. How great the Purchase-Consideration was, has been before said ; but how valuable the Charters themselves are, can never be said, Liberty being estimable. And for the Time they have enjoy'd them, were they not on Record, it would be what the Civillians call *Immemorial*, one of them being above Four-score Years standing. It seems therefore a Severity without a Precedent, that a People, who have the Misfortune of being a Thousand Leagues distant from their Sovereign, a Misfortune great eno' in it self, should UNSUMMON'D, UNHEARD, IN ONE DAY be depriv'd of all their valuable Privileges, which they and their Fathers have enjoy'd for near a hundred Years. It's true, the legislative

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