

"Scotland *." The reason assigned for refusing these applications, was clear and satisfactory. A letter from the Court of Hanover contains these words:—"The Elector cannot give the money demanded for the elections. Besides, he should fail infallibly, as the Court would always have the heaviest purse †."

Nothing is more surprising, than the inaccuracy which abounds in many, even of our best historians. There cannot be stronger proofs imagined of the corruption of both Houses of Parliament, than what have been just now produced. Yet, with this blaze of evidence before his eyes, the writer of the *Memoirs of Britain* has advanced a very strange assertion.—When speaking of Mr. Duncombe's acquittal in the House of Peers, in 1695, he adds, "For the honour of the House of Lords, *this is the only instance in English history*, in which the distribution of private money was suspected to have had influence with a number of Peers ‡."

After such a specimen of the honesty of the Whigs it would be unnecessary to enumerate all the other methods which they fell upon to embarrass their unfortunate Queen. One of their schemes was, to bring over the Elector Prince, under the title of the Duke of Cambridge, as a head to their party. But unluckily this project was equally disagreeable to the Elector of Hanover and to the Queen. In a letter to George, dated 30th May 1714, "I am determined," says Anne, "to oppose a project so contrary to my royal authority, however fatal the consequences may be §." And George himself absolutely refused every proposal of this kind. "His refusal was so peremptory, that the Whigs, and even his servants, made no scruple of ascribing his conduct to a *jealousy of his own son* ||." It has been said, a thousand times over, that George the First entertained the most violent suspicion as to the legitimacy of his

* Macpherson's State Papers, vol. iii. p. 498.

† Ibid. p. 497.

‡ *Memoirs of Britain*, vol. ii. part 3d, Book iv.

§ State Papers, vol. ii. p. 621.

|| Macpherson, vol. ii, chap. 10.