

self in Council, Lord High Admiral, &c. Lord General of the Navy, and managed all the affairs of the Admiralty, during his reign, by Mr. Secretary Pepys. Down to the period of the Revolution, the office of Lord High Admiral was of unlimited power, influence, patronage and great profit. By the second William and Mary it was put into commission, and the King authorized to appoint Commissioners to execute it with the *same* powers and authorities which the Lord High Admiral had theretofore possessed. One of the first acts of those Commissioners was to appoint a Court Martial to try Lord (Admiral) Torrington for misconduct in the battle with the French Fleet off Beachy Head—for which he was dismissed from the service. It has struck our moderns with wonder, that those foolish men who brought about the Revolution, should have left such an alarming power in the hands of the Crown; such a mine of wealth at the King's disposal, as might render him independant of his subjects, and able to destroy their liberty—let those alarmists remember, that the King formerly paid both his own army and navy—that he was consequently, and justly entitled to all captures, prize money, &c. that he is by a statute of Edward II. expressly intituled to all wrecks of the Sea—that our ancestors in 1688, were as jealous of their liberties and rights as we can be, yet when the above office was put into commission they neither mentioned the perquisites of it, nor attempted to take them from