

him do this, and though he be never so brave, he will be apt to tremble with Apprehensions of the Danger to which, without a full Assurance of the Virtue and Integrity of the Gentlemen entrusted with that Office, the Lives and Liberties of all the People of *England* would be exposed.

Justices of Peace have, ever since the People parted with their Rights of electing them, been the Creatures of the Crown : They owe to its Designation all the exorbitant Power, which is placed in their Hands, and which they are ready always to employ as directed by the Administration. Any new Trust or Authority vested in them, as they are put in and removed at Pleasure, is a proportionable Accession to the Power of the Crown : Which hath been aggrandized in various other Manners. The Author of *the short History of Standing-Armies in England*, published in 1698, mentions one, which is the more alarming, because (as he apprehended) it may come in Time to be made a Means of Corruption, even with Regard to Parliaments ; “ the Fountain-  
 “ Head from whence the People expect all their  
 “ Happiness, and the Redress of their Grievances.  
 “ Our Constitution (says he) seems to have pro-  
 “ vided for keeping them free from Corruption,  
 “ by never suffering the King to have a mercenary  
 “ Army to frighten them into a Compliance, nor  
 “ Places or Revenues great enough to bribe them  
 “ into it. The Places in the King’s Gift were but  
 “ few, and most of them Patent Places for Life,  
 “ and the rest great Offices of State, enjoyed by  
 “ single Persons, which seldom fell to the Share of  
 “ the Commons ; such as the Lords, Chancellor,  
 “ Treasurer, Privy-Seal, High-Admiral, &c. and  
 “ when these Offices were possessed by the Lords,  
 “ the Commons were severe Inquisitors into their  
 “ Actions.—In those early Days, the Art was not  
 “ found out of splitting and multiplying Places ;