

liged to their Landlord. By these Means chiefly are Things come to such a Pass, that scarce a Peer, or a Gentleman, hath any Influence in the Kingdom, but what he derives purely from his Reputation, and the good Will which the Opinion of his Integrity and Virtue may procure him among the People: And thus is it, that all the military Power in the Nation is come at last to center in the Crown.

As to the civil Power, it did not at first receive much Alteration by the Conquest. Lords of Manors continued to exercise their Jurisdiction over their Vassals in all civil and criminal Matters as usual, capital Cases not excepted: The Hundred and County-Courts, and the Sheriffs *Tourn* still subsisted, with their former Jurisdictions. The Lords of Counties Palatine had as much Authority independant of the Crown in civil Matters, as they had in Military; and Mr. *Madox* tells us in his *Baronia Anglica*, pag. 154, "That several of the Lords of the *Marches* "enjoyed great Franchises in their Seignuries, and "even a Regality which made their Seignuries "look like Palatinates, *e. g.* They had the first "Cognizance of all Causes and Complaints within their "Lordships; they had their *Chancery*, Justiciars "and other great Officers, with an extensive Juris- "diction belonging to the chief Court of their Ho- "nour." There lay an Appeal indeed from these to the King's Court; but it could not be admitted there without being paid for, and the Fines were sometimes heavy enough. There were for this Reason the fewer Appeals; and they were generally Gentlemen of Quality and Estates that brought their Disputes thither to be determined: The common People had Justice done them nearer Home. The Conqueror's Grants had been very extensive, Hundreds of Manors being in many Cases granted to one Person; but these vast Estates coming to be shared among several Co-heirs, or Parcels thereof conveyed

to