

28. The Peers have many privileges: they are the hereditary counsellors of the king; they are free from arrest, unless for treason, felony, or breach of the peace; they can only be tried by a jury of peers, except in misdemeanors, as libel, riots, perjury, and conspiracies, in which cases they are tried like a commoner, by a jury; and, in their absence from parliament, they can vote by proxy.

*Obs.*—The house of lords is also the highest court of judicature in the kingdom, and in all cases of error an appeal may be made to this from the judgment of inferior courts.

29. The House of Commons consists of 658 knights and burgesses. The knights are representatives of counties; the citizens and burgesses of cities and boroughs. England elects 513; Scotland 45; and Ireland 100.

30. The Commons are elected in consequence of writs from the King addressed to sheriffs and bailiffs; the knights of shires by a majority of those who possess freeholds of forty shillings per annum; and the citizens and burgesses, by the freemen or householders of cities or boroughs. *S E B*

*Obs. 1.*—In the election of county members, every voter must have a freehold of the clear yearly value of forty shillings. The qualifications of electors for cities, boroughs, and cinque ports, vary according to the peculiar circumstances of each place, existing at the time when it began to return members to parliament; or established by custom from time immemorial; or by the decisions of the House of Commons, or its committees, sitting under the statute called the Grenville Act. In some cities, freeholders only have the right of voting; in some places,