

High Admiral is the ninth officer of the state; and was formerly of the highest trust and honour, —so much so, that he was generally one of the king's sons or relations. He had the controul of all maritime affairs, and governed the royal navy; with power to decide, civilly and criminally, in all maritime cases; to judge of all transgressions, on, or beyond the sea; on the coast, in the ports or havens, and in the rivers below the first bridge from the sea; he commissioned all officers, and was, by law and custom, entitled to all fines and forfeitures for transgressions on the sea, the sea-shore, and ports, rivers, &c. to the effects of pirates, and condemned felons, or those outlawed; to waifs, strays, wrecks, a share of all lawful prizes, to all great fishes, as sea-hogs, and other fishes of great size,* except only whales and sturgeons; of these I need not speak to your Majesty, and let Sir Francis find out to whom they belong. The antiquity of the office may be conceived, when I mention that King Alfred the Great, was the first who filled, and held it from 872, to the year 900, as the dignity and consequence may be, when it is remembered that many princes have been appointed, and that James the Second declared him-

* Great size!—His Grace of Norfolk may go to sea without alarm. If he become a waif, stray or wreck, on the sea-shore he will not be claimed, notwithstanding our difficulty in obtaining *tallow* from Russia.