

troducing meafures to the detriment and danger of our liberties. Heaven forbid I fhould lay fo heavy a charge at their door ! I know there are many of them men, as yet, of free and upright principles. But they will give me leave to obferve, that in this CONSTITUTION, founded on the wideft bafis of political and civil liberty, perhaps the only way of fapping its foundation, is to corrupt by degrees thofe pillars which fupport it ; and it is not the meafure of a weak politician, to endeavour to compafs his ends, by means, which, at firft, appear fair and well intention'd. The reason, I underftand, the m—— gives for purfuing this meafure, is, “ the union of parties ; the larger the “ fource of bounty in the Crown, the more general will be its “ dues.” This may be plausible reasoning ; but the fact is, and of this I confeß myfelf jealous, that by thefe penfions the Crown *has* increas'd its influence in the Houfe of Commons ; and, with regard to the act of Queen Anne, if a lift of new created places fhould, as was done the beginning of the late reign, be order'd to be laid upon the table of the Houfe of Commons, I cannot fee but that thefe of the fupernumerary officers of the Houfehold muft be of the number ; otherwife the Crown may, on any future emergency, create as many as fhall *then* be found neceffary to anfwer the purpofes of the m——.

Thefe