

Diversity of Opinions, and the Difficulties of forming a Concert between such Numbers, and from the Want of that Reputation, which the declaring of one of those great Lords antiently gave to a Cause, and which encouraged others to join in it, the military Power vested in the Barons did not descend with their Lands to the Commoners, but became a great Accession to the royal Authority. The Lords indeed, who still retained their Estates, and did not leave off at once all their ancient Customs, but kept up the ancient Hospitality, and made their Houses the *Academies*, where all the young Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood received their Education, were taught to ride the great Horse, and bred up in all warlike Exercises, (which formed in the Gentry an early Attachment to a great Family, and was one Reason of the great Interest which the M. of *Newcastle* appeared in 1641, to have in the Northern Counties, as it likewise gave the Gentlemen such a *Gout* for Martial Affairs, that it became a Fashion to go Volunteers into a foreign Service to perfect themselves in the Art of War,) did, for a Time, keep up a considerable Interest in their Neighbourhoods. But the Troubles of 1641 putting an End to every Thing of this Nature; the Rump Parliament first suppressing the Court of Wards, and all Tenures by Chivalry; and the Convention at the Restoration abolishing them for ever, and thereby taking off all the Obligation which arose from their Tenures to instruct themselves in military Exercises, a very different Spirit has since possessed the Minds of the Gentry of *England*; the Nobility contented to hold their Lands by a base Tenure, and forgetting, as it were, that they once held by Barony, have altered the Condition of their Estates, setting them now at a Rack-Rent, as if nothing was valuable but ready Money; and Tenants paying the full Value of their Farms, scarce think themselves ob-