



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

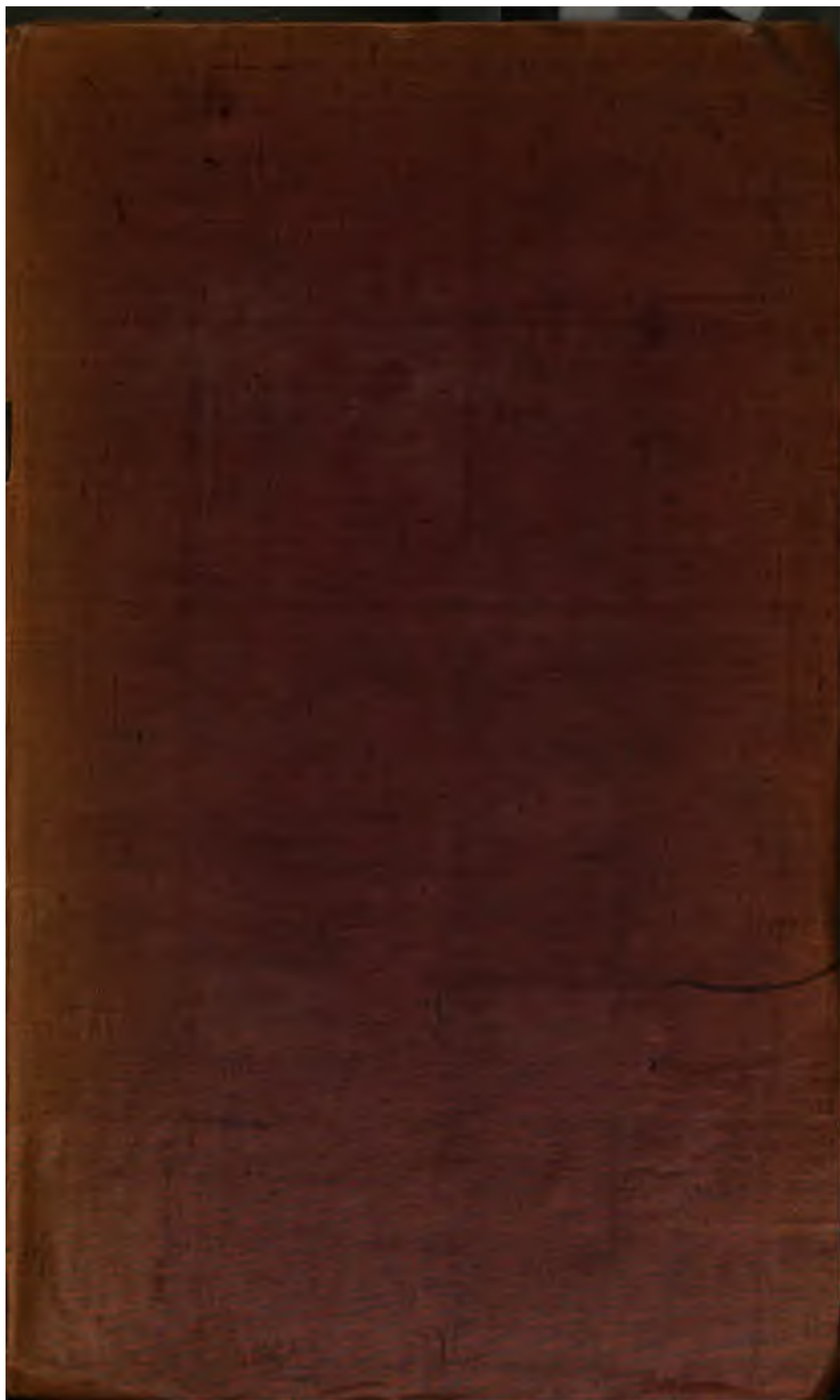
Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

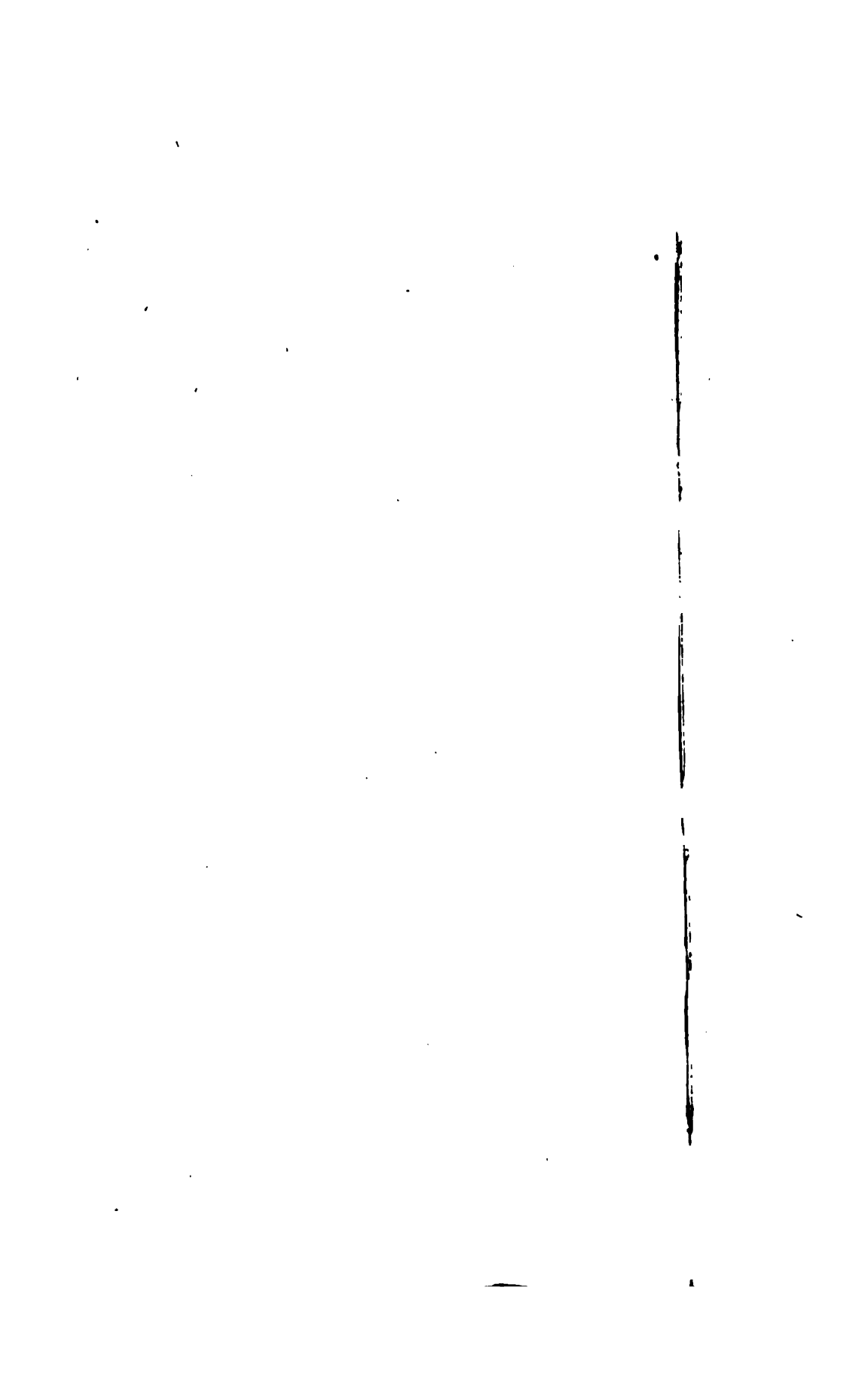
We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

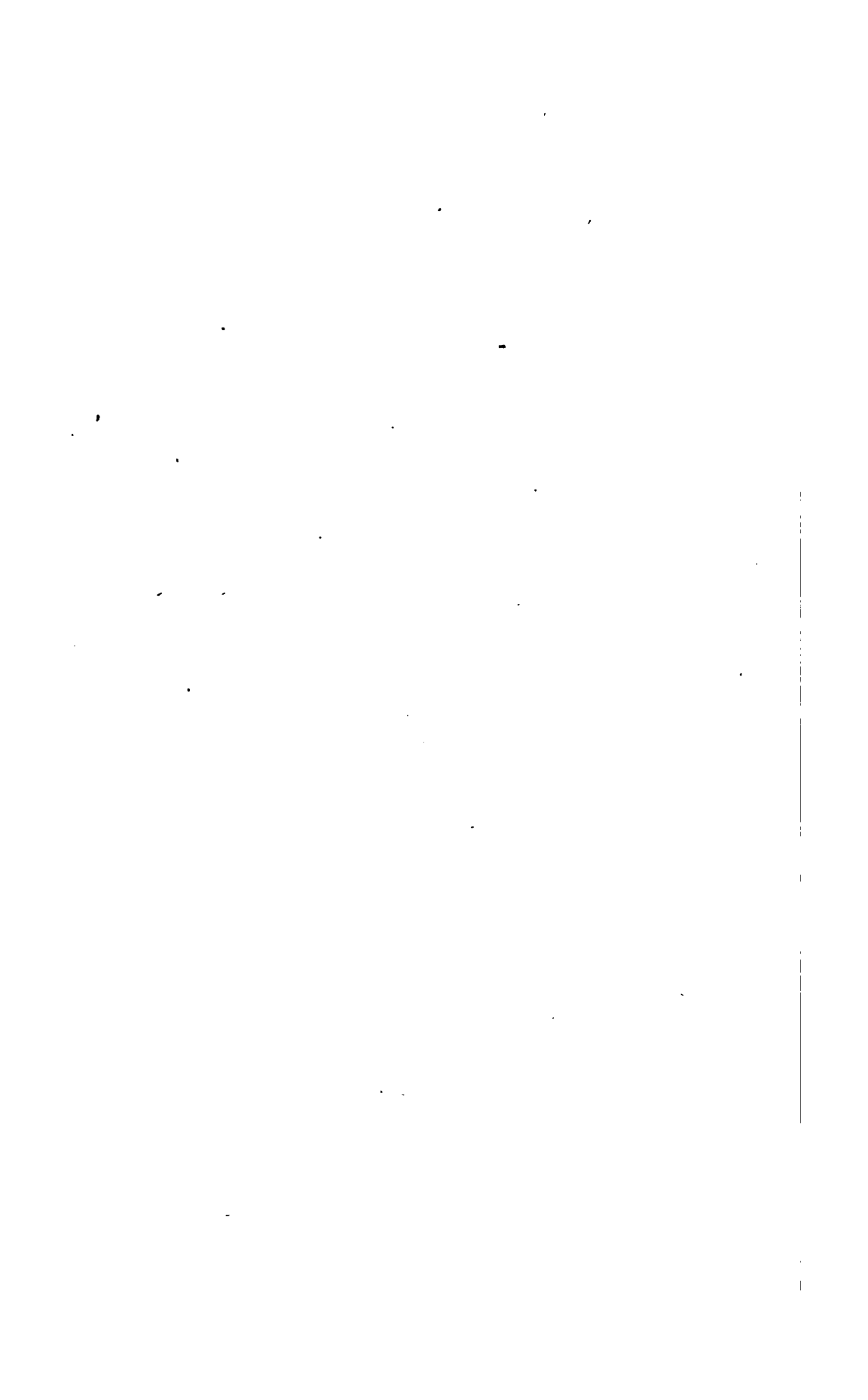
About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>





CB
ADI
TTe
v. 2



—

l
,

l

l

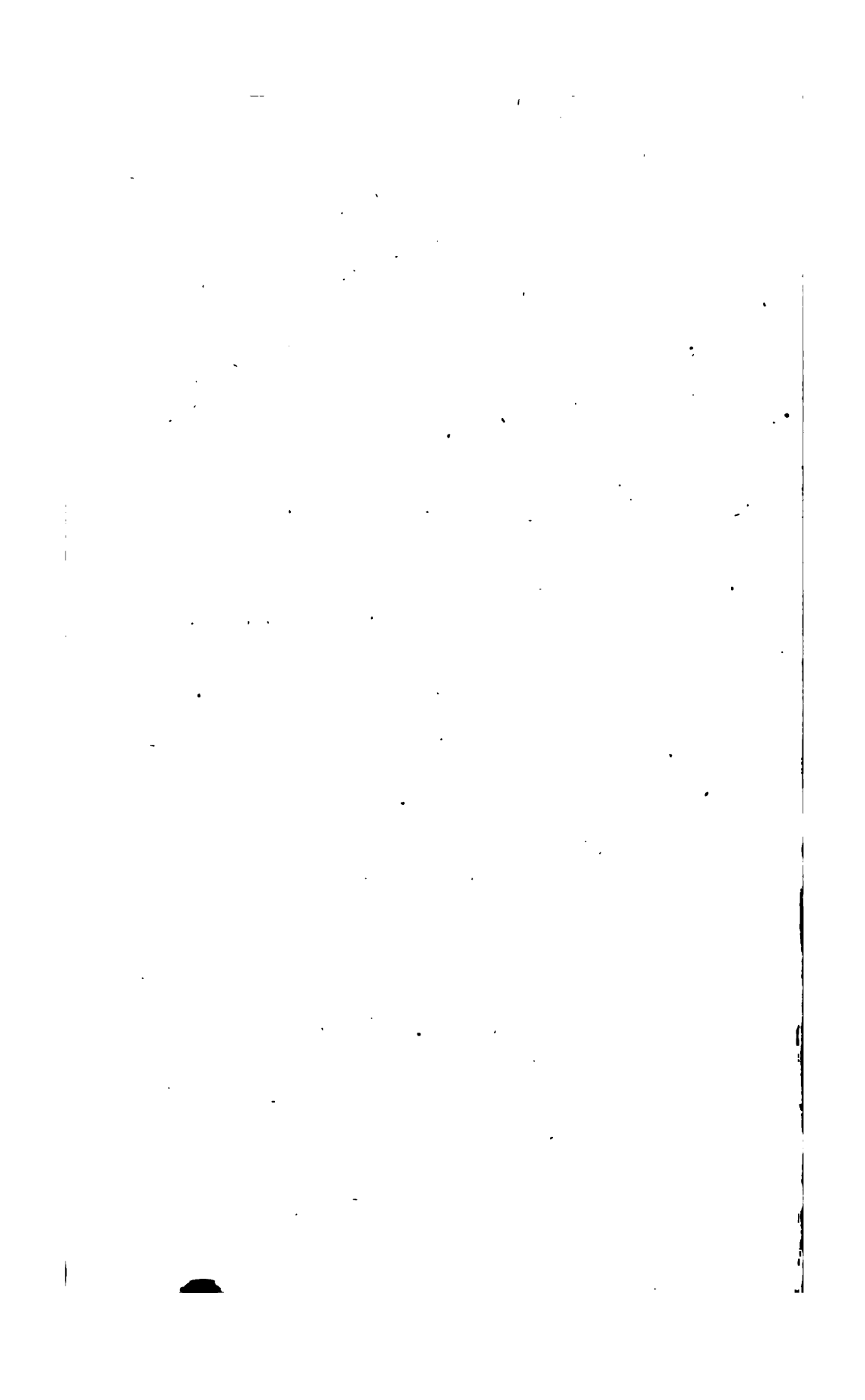
l

l

l

H I S T O R Y
OF THE
BOROUGHS OF GREAT BRITAIN,
AND THE
CINQUE PORTS.

[Entered at Stationers Hall.]



W. Field, Thomas Hinton Burley

AN ENTIRE AND COMPLETE
H I S T O R Y,
POLITICAL AND PERSONAL,
OF THE
BOROUGHS OF GREAT BRITAIN;
TOGETHER WITH
THE CINQUE PORTS.
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
AN ORIGINAL SKETCH
OF
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS,
FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD UNTIL THE PRESENT TIME.
ILLUSTRATED BY
A VARIETY OF NOTES AND REFERENCES.

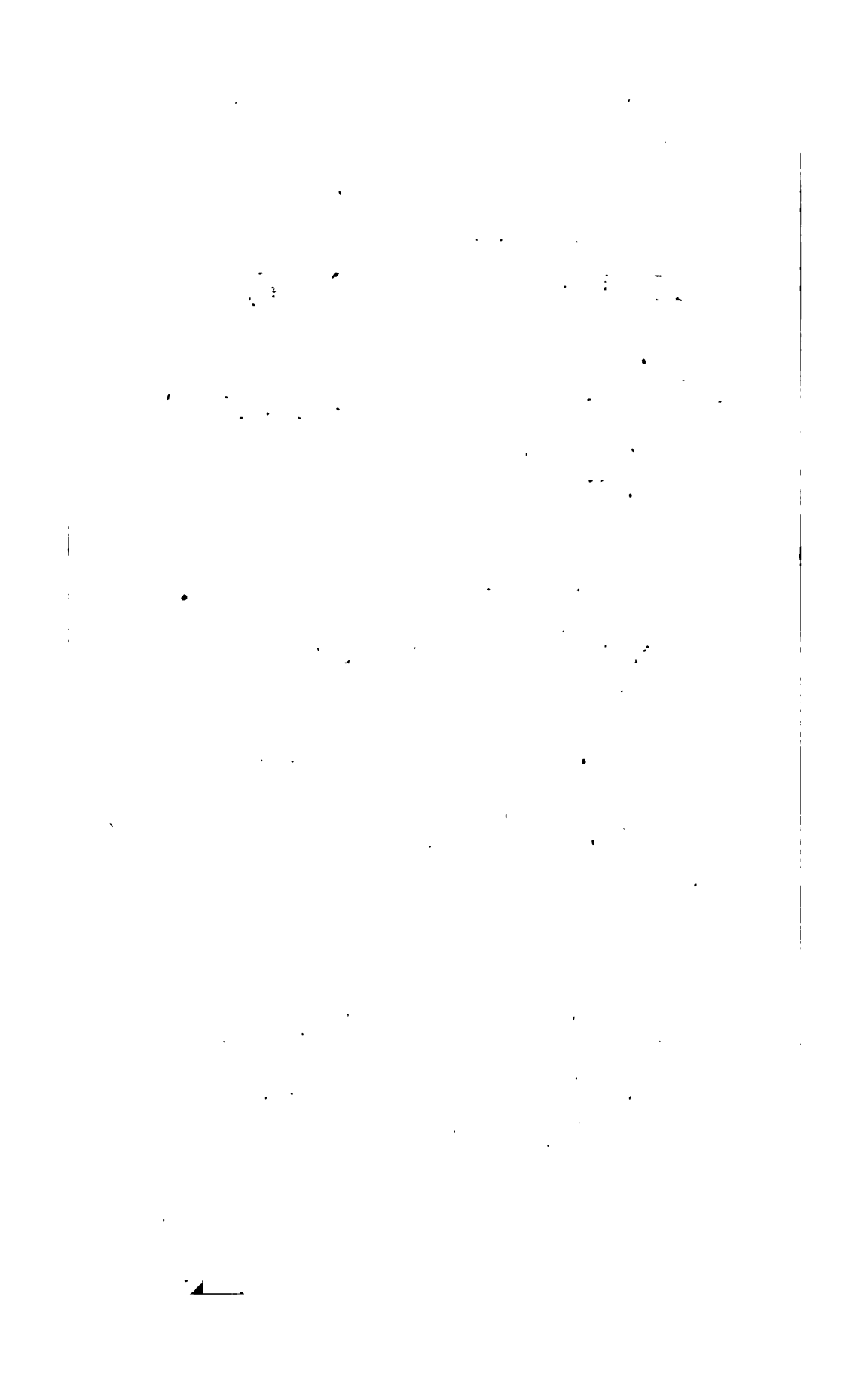
IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOLUME II.

LONDON:

Printed for G. RILEY, Bookfeller, No. 33, Ludgate-Street;
And sold by J. DEBRET, Piccadilly; Messrs. EGERTON, Whitehall;
Messrs. WHIELDON and BUTTERWORTH, Fleet-Street;
W. RICHARDSON, Cornhill; and S. HAZARD, Bath

M. DCC. XCII.



C O N T E N T S
OF
THE SECOND VOLUME.

	PAGE		PAGE
D URHAM County	1	Herefordshire	110
Durham City	6	Hereford	113
Essex	17	Leominster	116
Colchester	19	Weobly	120
Malden	34	Hertfordshire	123
Harwich	40	Hertford Town	125
Gloucestershire	42	St. Albans	130
Gloucester	45	Huntingdonshire	138
Cirencester	49	Huntingdon	142
Tewkesbury	53	Kent	144
Hampshire	58	Rochester	153
Portsmouth	60	Canterbury	155
Southampton	66	Maidstone	158
Stockbridge	72	Queenborough	173
Christchurch	78	Lancaster County	179
Lymington	81	Lancaster	181
Yarmouth, Isle of Wight	83	Preston	187
Newton, or Newtown	88	Liverpool, Leverpool, or Lirpool	191
Newport	90	Clitheroe	195
Winchester	96	Wigan	197
Andover	98	Newton	199
Whitchurch	102	Leicestershire	200
Petersfield	103	Leicester	

	PAGE		PAGE
Leicester Town	— 201	Oxford University	— 387
Lincoln County	— 206	Woodstock	— 390
Lincoln City	— 207	Banbury	— 393
Grantham	— 211	Rutland County	— 395
Stamford, or Stanford	212	Salop County	— 399
Great Grimsby	— 216	Shrewsbury	— 405
Boston	— 218	Bridgenorth	— 418
Middlesex	— 222	Ludlow	— 420
London	— 244	Wenlock	— 426
Westminster	— 254	Bishop's Castle	— 428
Monmouthshire	— 281	Somersetshire	— 430
Monmouth Town	— 283	Bristol City	— 434
Norfolk	— 286	Bath	— 439
Norwich	— 288	Wells City	— 444
Yarmouth	— 296	Taunton	— 447
Thetford	— 300	Bridgewater	— 456
Castle Rising	— 306	Minehead	— 460
Lynn	— 308	Lichester	— 463
Northumberland	— 312	Milborne Port	— 477
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	315	Staffordshire	— 496
Morpeth	— 318	Stafford Town	— 498
Berwick upon Tweed	— 322	Litchfield	— 501
Northamptonshire	— 326	Newcastle under Line	505
Northampton Town	— 329	Tamworth	— 509
Peterborough City	— 337	Suffolk	— 511
Brackley	— 341	Ipswich	— 514
Higham-Ferrers	— 343	Dunwich	— 530
Nottingham County	— 345	Orford	— 534
Nottingham	— 348	Aldbrough	— 536
East Retford	— 357	Sudbury	— 538
Town of Newark	— 363	Eye	— 543
Oxfordshire	— 369	St. Edmundsbury	— 544
Oxford City	— 375		

E R R A T A.

Page 148, Instead of the numbers on the poll for the county
of Kent, *read*

For Sir Edward Knatchbull ' 4285

Filmer Honeywood, Esq. 3101

Hon. Charles Marham 2724

174, line 5, *for* expence, *read* wear and tear.

176, line last, *for* and extra draft, *read* as extra craft.

178, line 7, *for* masters of floops, *read* mates of floops.



HISTORY

OF THE

BOROUGHs OF GREAT BRITAIN.

DURHAM COUNTY.

ANCIENT STATE.

THIS maritime county takes its name from the city of Durham. It is commonly called the bishopric, and sometimes the county palatine of Durham, from its having been formerly a kind of royalty, under the jurisdiction of its bishop, and subordinate to the crown.

THIS county was well known to the Romans, who had in it several stations. It was anciently a station of the Brigantes; but upon the estab-

VOL. II.

B

lishment

blishment of the heptarchy, it became a part of the kingdom of Northumbrians. It was one of the counties which, from their being seated on the south side of the Tyne, were named Deira, to distinguish them from Bernicia, the northern division of the Northumbrian kingdom.

Soon after the conversion of the Saxons, the county of Durham was given by their kings to St. Cuthbert, bishop of Lindisfern, an island belonging to Northumberland, and which is now known by the name of Holy Island: this county was, therefore, called by the Monkish writers, the patrimony of St. Cuthbert, in the same manner as the Roman ecclesiastical state is still called, the patrimony of St. Peter. This grant of the Saxon kings was confirmed by the Danes and Normans, who added several other liberties and privileges to the church of St. Cuthbert. In the reign of William the Conqueror, one Walcher, a native of Lorrain, being bishop of Durham, bought the earldom of Northumberland of the king, and then, assuming the office of a secular judge, sat in court, and, with unlimited authority, determined all causes at his pleasure. This is supposed to have been the origin

origin of the temporal powers of the bishops of Durham; and upon this purchase, it is thought to have been made a county palatine. From this temporal power, the bishops bore in their seals a knight on horseback, armed with a sword in one hand, and the arms of the bishopric in the other.

THE common people, jealous of their privileges, have even refused to march into Scotland in time of war, from the pretence of their being *Halwerkmen*, i. e. men bound to perform none but *boly-work*, as they held their lands to defend the body of St. Cuthbert, and were not to serve, either for the king or the bishop, beyond the confines of the bishopric. The prerogative of one of these prelates was seized by Edward I. who deprived the see of many privileges; some of which were, however, recovered by succeeding bishops, whose power was so great, even after its abridgment, that it became a maxim—
 “ Whatever prerogative the king has without
 “ the county of Durham, the bishop has within
 “ it, unless there be some concession or prescription to the contrary.”

ALTHOUGH clergymen were forbid by the canons to be present when judgment of blood was given, yet the bishop of Durham sits in court on these occasions in his purple robe. He had the power of calling parliaments, and creating barons as their members. He also raised taxes, and coined money. The courts were kept in his name; he appointed all judges, and all writs were made in his name: all recognizances entered upon the bishops rolls in his chancery, and made to him, were as valid within the county, as those made to the king were in others. Those who alienated freehold lands without his leave, were obliged to sue to him for pardon, which he might grant, not only for trespasses and intrusions, but also for rapes, felonies, and other crimes. He had, also, power to grant charters for boroughs, corporations, fairs, and markets; grant licences for building chapels, founding chaunteries and hospitals; and create officers for life or during pleasure, by patent. But these grants were no longer valid than the life of the bishop who made them. He was also lord admiral of the seas, and other waters, belonging to the palatinate; had his vice-admirals, his courts of admiralty, commissioners
of

of water-passages, and officers of beaconage. He owned a great part of the lands in the palatinate which were held of the fee *in capite*. He had likewise several forests, chaces, parks, and woods, besides all moors and wastes in this county; the lands, goods and chattels of all convicted of treason escheated to him; and the bishop still claims all forfeitures upon outlawries and felonies. Such were the privileges of the bishop of Durham, when they were abridged by 27 Henry VIII. which statute stripped them of the palatinate power of granting pardons, creating judges, and making out judicial writs and indictments. But the bishops and their temporal chancellors were still allowed to act as justices of peace. In the reign of Edward VI. this bishopric was dissolved, and all its revenues and immunities were given by parliament to the crown; but queen Mary repealing this act, restored the fee to the state in which it had been left by her father Henry VIII. However, as the county was a kind of principality distinct from the rest of the kingdom, it never sent members to parliament until the reign of Charles II.

THE county of Durham is in the province of York, and is a diocese of itself. It is not divided
into

into hundreds ; but, like Cumberland into wards or wakes. It has one city, only seven market towns, and 113 parishes. It sends to parliament but four members, two of whom are chosen by the county, and two by the city of Durham.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The aristocratical interest that prevails in this county, is that of the earl of Darlington and the Bishop of Durham. An union of their interests is considered as decisive against the most formidable opposition.

DURHAM CITY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city is so fortunate as to have preserved its independence, except an established attachment to the respectable families of Tempest and Lambton, who have represented it for many years, can be included under the name of influence. The corporation have, however, been inimical to the interests of these families, and the weight of ecclesiastical controul, which, under a bishop of Durham, can never, from what we have observed respecting the county, be inconsiderable, have joined in vain to oppose them ; but the *vox populi* has ultimately prevailed.

ANCIENT

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This city, which was formerly called *Dunbolme*, from *Dun* a hill, and *bolme* an island in a river, was afterwards called by the Normans *Duresme*, from whence arose its present appellation. Durham owes its origin to the Monks of Lindisfern, or Holy Island: these ecclesiastics being, with their bishop Earl Dolphus, driven from thence by the Danes, retired first to a small town north of Durham, called Chester in the Street, about the year 883. Here they carried with them the reliques of St. Cuthbert, their bishop, and having continued there 113 years, they removed to this place about the year 995, where they deposited their reliques under a small oratory built with hurdles or sticks, and twigs wattled together. From this low origin, Durham rose so rapidly, that in the next century a cathedral was built, and the episcopal see transferred from Chester in the Street to this City, A. D. 1083 the cathedral was pulled down, and a new church erected upon a larger and more magnificent foundation. The decorations of this structure are said to be richer than those of any other church in England; the cause assigned is, that it has suffered less by alienation of revenue, than any other cathedral in the

the

the kingdom. Its present endowment was established by Henry VIII. Neither this city nor the county sent members to the general parliament before the time of Charles II. The first regular return was in the 13th of his reign.

CORPORATION. This city is said to have been first incorporated by Richard I. when it was governed by bailiffs appointed by the bishops, and afterwards by an alderman and twelve burgeses.

QUEEN Elizabeth gave it a mayor, aldermen, and common-council; but it has since been governed under a charter procured by bishop Crew, of Charles II. by 12 aldermen, a recorder, 12 common-council, a town clerk, and other officers, who could hold a court-leet and court-baron within the city, in the name of the bishop for the time being. They also keep a Pye-powder court, instituted to regulate disorders at fairs.

THE bishop being earl of Sadberg, a small town near Stockton, is a temporal prince; he holds the title by barony; he is sheriff paramount for the county, and appoints his deputy,
 1 who

who makes up his audit to him, without accounting to the Exchequer. He is also, as count palatine, lord of the city, and appoints all civil officers, and other inferior magistrates.

THE corporation of Durham had been guilty of so many illegal practices, as at last to be several years without a mayor, and in that imperfect state of not having it in their power to elect one according to the constitution of the city. A new charter was repeatedly applied for, but the bishop and the old corporation differing about its principles, it was not obtained till within these few years, when Doctor Egerton, the last bishop but one, granted them a new charter, under which they at present act.

THE want of a mayor, did not prevent the election of members of parliament or the admission of freemen, nor was the charter forfeited by that imperfection in their body.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. The choice of members to serve in parliament is in the corporation and freemen.

By Stat. 25 Car. II. c. 9. "The county palatine of Durham may have two knights for the county,

county, and the city of Durham two citizens to be burgesſes for the ſame city to ſerve in parliament, to be elected by writ awarded to the lord biſhop of Durham, or his chancellor of the county, and precept thereupon by the lord biſhop, or his temporal chancellor, to the ſheriff; the election of the knights to be made by the greater number of freeholders, as in other counties, and the election of burgesſes for the city of Durham to be made by the major part of the mayor, aldermen, and freemen; which knights and burgesſes ſhall be returned by the ſheriff into the chancery, upon the like pains as the ſheriffs of any other county." See Stat. 18 George II. c. 18. ſect. 12.

HONORARY FREEMEN. A conteſt happening between the corporation who adopted Mr. Ralph Gowland, and the city who ſupported Mr. Lambton, in the year 1762, when the latter preſented a petition againſt an undue election of the former. The petition ſtated that, when Mr. Lambton and Mr. Gowland offered themſelves as candidates to repreſent the ſaid city, " that John Drake Bainbridge, Eſq. was, together with ſeveral other aldermen, very ſtrenuous and active in ſoliciting votes for Mr. Gowland; and

and that they and their agents corruptly prostituted a public charity to the purposes of influencing several indigent freemen; and that finding the inclinations of a large majority of the legal voters were in favour of the petitioner, they concerted a scheme of overpowering that majority by factitious votes; and that, for this purpose, the said John Drake Bainbridge, and several other aldermen of the city, long after Mr. Gowland and the petitioner had declared themselves candidates, and within a few weeks of the late election, took upon themselves illegally to displace out of the common council of the said city several of the most substantial and respectable inhabitants, and to substitute other persons of inferior character and station, whose only recommendation was their known attachment to Mr. Gowland; and that on the 4th October last, the said John Drake Bainbridge procured himself to be appointed mayor of the said city, and after his appointment to that office, continued the same zeal and activity in soliciting votes for the said Mr. Gowland; and that the said John Drake Bainbridge, and several of the Aldermen of the said city, having unduly garbled a common council for their purpose,

purpose, they proceeded, on the 13th October last, to make a pretended but illegal repeal of an ancient by-law, by which none could be admitted freeman until their claim had passed three quarterly guilds; a regulation that was made for the better security of the legal freemen and trading companies of the city, and to prevent a precipitate admission of improper and unqualified persons; and that having thus rescinded and got rid of the aforesaid by-law, which would have prevented the execution of their scheme, some of the aldermen above mentioned, on the second of November, which was not a month before the writ of election issued, illegally, and against the consent of a large majority of trading companies, admitted upwards of 200 occasional freemen, for no other purpose but to encrease the poll for Mr. Gowland; and that the persons so admitted were strangers to the said city, residing at a distance, and most of them unknown to the wardens of the companies, but strenuous partizans of Mr. Gowland, and under the influence of the said mayor and his confederate aldermen; and alledging that, even after the teste of the writ of election, and during the very time of the poll, the aforesaid mayor un-

duly

duly admitted a great number of persons to the freedom of the said city, in order to procure, at any rate, a majority of votes for Mr. Gowland; and that, notwithstanding repeated applications were made to the mayor, by the petitioner and his agents, for an inspection of the corporation gild-book and for a list of the pretended freemen so made and admitted as aforesaid, he, the said mayor, refused both; and that, at the late election, which began on the 7th of December last, the aforesaid mayor illegally, and contrary to his duty, as returning officer, admitted the votes not only of the occasional freemen above mentioned, but also of many other persons who offered, and ought to have been admitted to vote for the petitioner; and that, notwithstanding the number of such occasional voters amounted to upwards of 200, yet the pretended majority for the fitting members upon the close of the poll, was no more than 23; and that, to complete the design of these unwarrantable practices, the aforesaid mayor hath unjustly, and contrary to the duty of his office, returned the said Mr. Gowland as duly elected representative for the said city, notwithstanding the petitioner had a clear majority of 192 legal votes in his favour, and

and ought to have been returned accordingly; and that his conduct as mayor, and his confederates, is a manifest injustice to the petitioner, an open violation of the rights and franchises of the legal freemen and voters of the said city, and a daring infringement of the orders of this house, &c. *"

THE petition signed by the freemen was also read, and alledged, "that by those proceedings of the said mayor and his confederates, the petitioners, and the rest of the legal freemen of the said city, are grossly injured, and their rights, liberties, and franchises were grossly violated and invaded, &c †."

THESE petitions being referred to a hearing at the bar of the house, upon the 4th May following, a motion was made; and the question being proposed, that 215 persons made, or pretended to be made, free of the city of Durham, since the death of Henry Lambton, Esq. late member of parliament for the said city, had not a right to vote in the late election of a citizen to serve in parliament for the said city.

* Journals, Vol. XXIX. 105.

† Ibid. *ibid.*

THE house, on the following division, determined in the affirmative.

Yeas 88

Noes 72

Majority for the question 16

MR. Gowland was next, on a motion, declared not duly elected.

AND it was resolved, that major general John Lambton was duly elected to serve in that parliament for the city of Durham.

IT was then ordered, that the deputy clerk of the crown should attend the house as the next morning to amend the return for the said city of Durham, by razing out the name of Ralph Gowland, Esq. and inserting the name of John Lambton, Esq. instead*.

THUS were the rights of the people triumphant over the illegal and arbitrary influence of corporative authority. And to prevent the possibility of such an abuse of municipal power in future,

* Journals, Vol. XXIX. 337.

the famous statute, known by the name of the Durham Act, passed in the 3d of his present Majesty. By this act no person has a right to vote, who has not been possessed of their franchise twelve calendar months before the first day of the election. This act does not extend to persons who are entitled to their freedom of right by the custom of the borough; for such may be admitted at any time previous to an election, or even during the poll.

IN Durham, persons acquire their freedom either by servitude or election into companies at certain guilds, holden by those companies. The admission by the mayor is a mere ceremony; for when there was no mayor, they were entitled to vote for members of parliament.

NUMBER OF VOTERS, 1200.

ESSEX.

ESSEX.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

SINCE the expensive contest of the late Mr. Luther, for the representation of this county, the opulent gentlemen amongst the whigs and tories have contented themselves, in order to avoid the ruinous expence of a county contest with each sending one member. Essex, like three fourths of the English counties, is by this compulsory coalition deprived, *de facto*, of any representation. For upon every political division, the members, by dividing against each other, preserve so nice a balance, as to give the whole weight to the nominal representatives of the *immaculate* boroughs. But when it is considered that all the counties in England send but eighty representatives, and the decayed boroughs upwards of *four hundred*, they could give no effectual support to the cause of the people they represent, were their elections ever so pure, or their union ever so complete.

ANCIENT STATE. This county, called by the Saxons *East Deaxa* and *East Dæscire*, and by the Normans *Exssetsa*, was, in the time of the Ro-

mans, inhabited by the Trinobantes, whom Cæsar represents as the most warlike people in the island. Cunobeline, their first governor after Cæsar's invasion, was the first who stamped the British coin in the Roman manner.

Of all the counties in England there is none where antiquaries have taken more pains to trace out the Roman ways, but have seldom agreed among themselves. Malden and Colchester were certainly Roman towns; but authors differ respecting the military way that led to them from London. The Roman name of Malden was *Camulodunum*, which was a celebrated colony of that people. *Colchester* had the name of *Colonia*. *Layton* was the ancient *Durolitum*; and *Dunmow*, according to Horsley, was the villa *Faufini* of the Romans.

THIS county lies in the province of Canterbury and diocese of London. It is divided into 20 hundreds, and contains 24 market towns, but no city, 34,800 houses, 208,800 inhabitants, and 415 parishes. It sends 8 members to parliament; two knights for the shire; two burgessees for Colchester, two for Harwich, and two for Malden.

COL-

COLCHESTER.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.—This borough has derived a distinguished character in the annals of controversy and corruption. The several contests between Mr. Rebow and Mr. For-dyce, the once eminent banker; Mr. Christopher Potter, the contractor, with the late Sir Edmund Affleck; and the more recent oppositions between Mr. Teirnay and Sir George Jackson, have produced some very curious anecdotes, which, if the compass of our work would admit us to relate, must create a blush even on the face of political profligacy. Sir Thomas Webster having represented this town, in what was called the pensioned parliament of Charles II. became so disgusted with the parliamentary depravity of that body, as to take a resolution to abandon them and the cause of the people in that house where he saw no possibility of either opposing the despotic measures of the court, or supporting the liberties of his country. He wrote accordingly a letter to his constituents on the election of the first parliament of James II. which met on the 21st of March 1685,

declining the representation of a people, whose delegated legislature was converted into an engine of despotism, by the corrupt ministers of an arbitrary king, and requesting them to choose another representative; he then absented himself from the town and its connections. On the day of election, however, his former constituents, with a virtue and manliness of conduct peculiar to real independence, and which we are sorry they have not imitated upon more recent occasions, resolved to re-elect their old member, whose integrity they had tried, and whose attachment to the cause of liberty was not to be shaken. Without solicitation, therefore, or expence, and even without his own acquiescence, Sir Thomas was again deputed the assertor of their rights in parliament. The court candidate, in whose favour every exertion of influence had been made without success, had recourse to the stratagem so frequently practised before the establishment of the Grenville act, of petitioning parliament, and procuring himself to be voted into his seat by the strength of the minister in the house. This petition was accordingly brought to hearing, and Sir Thomas Webster, who had been elected by a considerable majority, without

without expence or sollicitation, and even without his knowledge or consent ; was voted *guilty of bribery and corruption*, and his courtly opponent voted into his seat.

We are sorry not to be able to trace the conduct of these electors by similar acts of patriotic fortitude down to the present moment. One instance indeed occurs of a choice, that reflects equal honour on the constituents and representative. Sir Robert Smyth, Bart. was stopped in his carriage, as he was passing through this town, at the general election in 1780, and elected by a very respectable majority, out of the same respect to his private and public virtues, they had before shewn in their affection for Sir Thomas Webster. They however tarnished the applause so liberally obtained, by suffering the same gentleman, at the subsequent election in 1784, after an independence and integrity of conduct, which ought to have endeared him to his constituents as it has done to his country, not only to be put to an immoderate expence, but to be obliged to apply to a committee of the house of commons, to recognise his claim to that seat to which

which their undue return of his opponent, Mr. Potter, compelled him.

It is remarkable, that of three violent contests which have happened in this borough, that of Alexander Fordyce, Esq. against Mr. Gray and Mr. Rebow, in 1768; the second, of the same gentleman and Robert Mayne, Esq. in 1780, against Sir Robert Smyth and Mr. Rebow; and the third in 1781, between Christopher Potter, Esq. and Sir Edmund Affleck—Mr. Fordyce, Mr. Mayne, and Mr. Potter, the unsuccessful candidates, all appeared in the list of bankrupts within a very short time of their respective defeats, and the ruinous expences of a Colchester contest was supposed to have contributed, in no small degree, to their misfortunes.

THE influence under which this town has the misery to labour, in common with most others, although in different degrees, is that of the corporation, who possess the absurd power of making foreigners, by which it is understood, *non residents*, and others, who have no natural or legal claim to such a right, freemen of the said borough. This will always enable them to *manu-
facture*

facture a majority in favour of any candidate whose interest they may choose to espouse.

No less than four petitions from this borough have been tried since the existence of the Grenville act, (viz.) Affleck versus Potter, Smyth versus Potter. Teirnay versus Jackson, and Teirnay versus Thornton and Jackson; and from the complicated nature of their constitution there are like to be ten times as many more. The only remedy for this expensive evil is the establishment of the right of election where the constitution originally vested it—in all the housekeepers, without distinction, throughout Great Britain.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This town, as before observed, is the *Colonia* of the Romans; that it was a Roman town is apparent from their being more Roman bricks in this town than in any town in England. The present castle is said to have been built about the year 910, by Edward, son of Alfred. But others, with more probability, relate that the town and castle being found in ruins by William the Conqueror, it was given by him to the famous

mous Eudo Dapifer, who built the castle on the site of an ancient palace. Colchester appears, from the lists of members in Morant's history of this town, to have sent to parliament ever since 23 Edward I.

CORPORATION. This town is governed by a mayor, high-steward, a recorder, or his deputy, 11 aldermen, a chamberlain, a town clerk, eighteen assistants, and eighteen common council. The mayor and aldermen for the time being, with 48 guardians, are also a corporation for the benefit of the poor. It was next incorporated by William III. and afterwards in 1763. It is a liberty of itself, containing 4 wards, and 16 parishes, within and without the walls.

CORPORATION CASE. IN 1735 one William Scaber executed a bond to the mayor and commonalty. In 1740 judgments of ouster were pronounced against all the persons acting *de facto*, as mayor and aldermen in Colchester: all those persons were dead before 1763. And on the 9th of September 1763, the present charter was granted and accepted. In Easter term 1766,
the

the new corporation brought an action of debt on Seaber's bond against his executor.

THE question was, therefore, whether the present corporation could maintain the action? This was involved in another question—whether the old corporation was dissolved in 1763?

ON this the opinion of lord Mansfield was, “The corporation is not dissolved by the judgments of ouster, and subsequent deaths of the mayor and aldermen, though they are without their magistrates. Their constitution is not destroyed and gone, their former rights remain. Would not a freeman of Colchester still continue to have *a right to common, or to vote for members of parliament?*”

“I am clear upon principles of law, that the old corporation was not *absolutely dissolved* and annihilated, though they had lost their magistrates. Where then is a judgment against the corporation itself, the case would be of a different consideration.”

THE other justices, Wilmot, Yates, and Aston, concurred with his lordship.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 28 March 1696. *The Committee reported*, that the right of election for Colchester, in Essex, was agreed to be in the sworn burgessees, not receiving alms.

27 Jan. 1710. *Resolved*, That the mayor of the borough of Colchester, in the county of Essex, cannot make foreigners free of the said borough, without consent of the majority of aldermen and common council.

6 May 1714. Agreed, that the right of election is in the mayor, aldermen, common-council and free burgessees, not receiving alms.

Resolved, That the right of making foreigners (not having a right of freedom by birth or service) freemen of the borough of Colchester, in the county of Essex, is in the mayor and free burgessees of the said borough, in common hall assembled.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—1400.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—None.

TREATING.

TREATING.

21 Nov. 1702. *Resolved*, That the agents of Sir *Isaac Rebow* have been guilty of treating, and other corrupt practices, in order to procure the said Sir *Isaac Rebow* to be elected a burgeses to serve in parliament for the borough of Colchester, in the county of *Essex*.

Ordered, That *John Weely*, agent for Sir *Isaac Rebow*, for his corrupt practices, in endeavouring to procure the said Sir *Isaac Rebow* to be elected a burgeses for the said borough of Colchester, be taken into custody.

CONTEMPT OF PRIVILEGE.

20 Mar. 1713.. A complaint being made to the house, that the town clerk of the borough of Colchester, having been served with an order of the committee of privileges and elections for permitting *Nicholas Corfellis*, Esq. and his agents, to inspect the free-school book, and any public books, charters, papers, or records, in order to the preparing for the hearing of the matter touching the election for the said borough,

rough, before the said committee, he the said town clerk had refused the same.

WHEREUPON one *John Summers*, servant to the said Mr. Corfellis, was called in, and examined at the bar, in relation to the matter of the said complaint.

AND then he withdrew.

Resolved, That *Thomas Glascock*, town clerk of the borough of Colchester, in the county of Essex, having refused to obey the order of the committee of privileges and elections, for permitting *Nicholas Corfellis*, Esq. or his agents, to inspect the public books and records of the said borough, be, for the said contempt, taken into the custody of the serjeant at arms attending this house.

BRIBERY AND DISQUALIFICATION.

4 April 1784. Sir Robert Smyth, Bart. presented a petition, alleging, that at the last election for the borough of Colchester, Sir Edm. Affleck, Bart. Christ. Potter, Esq. and the petitioner, were candidates; that the petitioner had the majority of legal votes, but that the mayor, from partiality to Mr. Potter, illegally rejected rightful votes for

for the petitioner, and admitted illegal votes for Mr. Potter; that Mr. Potter, by these means, and also by bribery, had procured himself to be unlawfully returned—" And that a commission of bankruptcy was issued against the said Christ. Potter, on the 17th of April 1783, and he was therefore found and declared a bankrupt; and on the second day of the month following, an assignment of all his estate and effects whatsoever was made for the benefit of his creditors; and that at such time the said Christ. Potter had no freehold estate whatsoever; and from the estate and effects of the said Christ. Potter, the petitioner is informed no more than two shillings and sixpence in the pound has been paid to his creditors; and for these reasons, the petitioner begs leave to represent to the house, that the said Christopher Potter had not at the time of the said election, such an estate in law or equity, for his own use and benefit of, and in lands, tenements, or hereditaments, as qualified him to be elected and returned to serve as a member for the said borough, according to the law in that behalf made and provided; and that the said Christ. Potter was not capable of being elected and returned."

UPON

UPON hearing the petition, both parties admitted that Sir Edmund Affleck, according to the following poll, was duly elected.

For Affleck 665

Potter 425

Smyth 416

AT the election, Mr. Potter being called upon, delivered in an affidavit, sworn before the mayor, of his having a sufficient estate.

THE counsel proceeded to invalidate the election of Mr. Potter, on the subject of disqualification—They alleged, that he had not complied with 33 George II. c. 20, which requires that all members of the house of commons (with some exceptions) before they presume to vote, or sit in the house, shall publicly deliver in at the table, while the house is sitting, a schedule of their qualifications, specifying the situation, &c. and shall take and subscribe an oath of the truth of the schedule. The oath is to be enrolled, and the schedule filed by the clerk; and the election of a member not complying with this act, or not being duly qualified, shall be declared void, and a new writ issue.

THE

THE counsel then referred to the instances of Honiton, Weymouth, Malden, and Boffinay, as cases in point, proving that the house had deemed the election of members, so refusing, void.

THE counsel for the sitting member answered, that Mr. Potter had complied with the statute of 9 Anne: which requires an oath of qualification at the time of election, or before the meeting of parliament, by swearing to his qualification when requested. And the statute of 33 George II. only requiring members, *when they take their seats*, to give in and swear to the schedule of their qualifications, he was free from the penalty of that act, from not having yet taken his seat.

WITH respect to his being disqualified by his bankruptcy, this was sufficiently answered, from his having obtained a certificate, that might since have enabled him to acquire sufficient property for qualification. The allegation, his counsel said, ought to have been such, as if true, would have convicted the sitting member of perjury in his affidavit; for that alone would prove the incapacity.

SUPPOSING the sitting member to have disobeyed the standing order, the point contended for would not be the consequence of this construction; for the counsel observed, that the house of commons *could not make a legal disqualification*; this was only to be affected by the whole legislature. He contended, that the cases adduced were not in point, they were only just examples of practice respecting the order they depended on, and no more. It was impossible, he said, to find a case so applicable to the present, as to enable the committee to follow, without opposition from Mr. Potter.

AFTER a short reply from the counsel for the petitioner, the committee

Resolved, That the petition presented by Sir Robert Smyth, Bart. does contain an express charge of want of qualification against the sitting member.

Resolved, That Christopher Potter, Esq. has not complied with the standing order of the house of the 21st November 1717, which requires
 " that the qualification is expressly objected to
 in

in any petition relating to his election, shall, within 15 days after the petition is read, give to the clerk of the house of commons a paper, signed by himself, containing a rental or particular of the lands, tenements, and hereditaments, whereby he makes out his qualification."

"*Determined*, That the last election of members to serve in parliament for the borough of Colchester, in the county of Essex, is, so far as relates to Christopher Potter, Esq. a void election."

THESE resolutions being communicated to the bar, the counsel for the petitioners resumed that part of their case by which they claimed the seat for their client; and proposed to shew that he had a majority over Mr. Potter, by disqualifying ten of his votes, which would leave the numbers for Mr. Potter 415, and for Sir Robert Smyth 416.

AFTER a few more observations from the counsel for the sitting member, the committee, July 5, "*Resolved*, That the election of Christ.

Potter, Esq. for the borough of Colchester, having been declared void, the counsel be restrained from entering into any examination relative to the disqualification of votes on the poll for the said borough of Colchester."

On the same day the chairman reported to the house, "That the committee had determined, as before stated, that the election for members to serve in parliament for the borough of Colchester, in the county of Essex, is, so far as relates to Christopher Potter, Esq. a void election."

A new writ was in consequence ordered to be issued.

MALDEN.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The influence in this borough, if a positive one may be said to exist, is between Joseph Holden Strut, Esq. and Charles Callis Western, Esq. the present members. The house of commons having, with great justice, determined, that honorary freemen, and freemen claiming their right by purchase, have not a right to vote for members to serve in parliament

parliament for this place, effectually prevents the fabrication of votes for time-serving purposes, which has been practised at Durham, Carlisle, Scaford, and other places. The number not exceeding 200 is too small to place them beyond the grasp of venality and influence, as we have seen experienced by the conviction of the late Bamber Gascoigne, Esq.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. Malden, as before noticed, was the ancient Roman city of Camelodunum, which has appeared from some coins of king Cunobeline, dug up here. This was the first Roman colony in Britain; the town was taken by the emperor Claudius, in the year 43, who placing a stout band of veterans in it, called it *Colonia Viétricentis*; he likewise coined money in memory of this exploit, on which was inscribed Col. Cameloduni. The Romans also erected here a temple to the honour of Claudius, in which was an altar, called the altar of *Eternal Dominion*, and certain priests, termed *Sodales Augustales*, were appointed to attend it; but the cruelty and oppression of the Roman soldiers, of this station, so exasperated the Britons, and in particular Boadicea, queen of the Iceni, who

personally receiving the grossest and most disgraceful insults; collected a numerous army, and besieged, plundered, and burnt this city. She afterwards stormed the temple, where the soldiers were assembled to defend themselves; and in two days time she put them all to the sword. She likewise routed the ninth legion, that came to their assistance, in such a manner as to have killed 70,000 Romans, and their allies. The Romans rebuilt it, some time after, as appears from the Itinerary of Antoninus, who takes notice of it as being a Roman station. After this king Alfred, sometimes called Edward the elder, finding it greatly ruined by the Danes, repaired and fortified it with a castle. Malden first sent members 2 Edward III.

CORPORATION. It is at present a populous borough, governed by 2 bailiffs, 8 aldermen, a steward, recorder, and 18 capital burgessees. It is a liberty within itself, and has a convenient harbour. It was incorporated 1 Philip and Mary, 1554.

BOROUGH

BOROUGH ENGLISH.

THERE is a custom in this place, that when a man dies intestate, his lands and tenements descend to his youngest son; or, if he dies without issue, to his youngest brother. This custom is termed *Borough English*, and is said to have arisen from the lewdness and tyranny of the ancient feudal lords, who, when any of those who held under them married, claimed the first night with the bride: as some doubt, therefore, naturally arose, whether the first-born child was legitimate, this custom was established to exclude such child from the inheritance, and the youngest was preferred, as being the most distant from suspicion.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—May 20, 1715, Mr. Hampden (according to order), reported, &c. as follow :

1. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this committee, that the right of election of members to serve in parliament for the borough of Malden, in the county of Essex, is in such freemen as do not receive alms, and are entitled to freedom by birth, marriage, or servitude.

2. *Re-*

2. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this committee, that such persons who derive their right to freedom from honorary freemen of the borough of Malden, in the county of Essex, have not a right to vote in the election of members to serve in parliament for the said borough.

3. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this committee, that persons claiming their freedom by purchase, and exercising trades within the borough of Malden, in the county of Essex, have not a right to vote in the election of members to serve in parliament for the said borough.

4. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this committee, that John Comyns, Serjeant at Law, having, at the late election of members to serve in parliament for the borough of Malden, in the county of Essex, wilfully refused to take the oath of qualification, as is directed by an act of parliament of the 9th of Anne, (entitled, “ An Act for securing the freedom
“ of Parliaments, by the further qualifying the
“ Members to sit in the House of Commons,”)
6
though

though duly required so to do, and not having at any time before the meeting of this parliament taken the said oath, his election is thereby void.

Here followed two resolutions of the committee who were duly elected.

THE said resolutions being severally read a second time, and the question being severally put upon the three first of the said resolutions, That the house do agree with the committee in the said resolutions.

It passed in the negative.

THE rest of the resolutions being severally read a second time, were, upon the question severally put thereupon, agreed unto by the house.

Number of Voters, 195.

Returning Officers,—The two Bailiffs.

Patrons,—Mr. Strut and Mr. Western.

PENSION.

IN the pension-list of Charles II. Sir Richard Wiseman, one of the members for Malden, had 1000*l.* a year pension, and was keeper of one of the treasurer's parliamentary tables.

HAR.

HARWICH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.—This was formerly a treasury borough, and numbered amongst the appendages to the influence of government. But the celebrated John Robinson, Esq. of parliamentary notoriety, managed with so much dexterity its political attachment, while he was in the employment of a late administration, as to secure to himself that patronage which he had before exercised officially.

THE right of election being in thirty-two individuals, most of whom are, by themselves or their relations, in possession of those favours which the ex-secretary had so amply the power of distributing, nothing but an opposition to a future administration can possibly shake the omnipotency of his influence. But as he possesses the lucrative office of surveyor-general of the crown lands, and a pension of 1000*l. per annum*, we presume upon his well known attachment to *good things*, that such an act of tergiversation is not likely to happen.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION.—This town, which derives its name from the Saxon word *Harewic*, a haven or bay, has no great claim to antiquity. It, however, sent members as early as 17 Edward III. when it discontinued, until it was restored by James I. anno regni 12.

CORPORATION.—This town was first made a borough, and incorporated, in the reign of Edw. II. by Thomas Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, and marshal of England. It received a new charter in the time of James I. by the interest of the learned and celebrated Edward Coke, the attorney-general, and afterwards recorder of this town for li f This charter, and all other immunities belonging to the town, were, through the mediation of Sir Harbottle Grimstone, their recorder at that time, and master of the rolls, confirmed by Charles II. The corporation at present consists of a mayor, chosen annually on St. Andrew's day, out of eight aldermen. There is also a recorder and twenty-four capital burgeses. The mayor has the power of keeping admiralty courts, which have a jurisdiction over all naval affairs.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—April 6, 1714, *Resolved*, That the right of election to serve in parliament for the borough of Harwich, in the county of Essex, is in the mayor, aldermen, and capital burgeses, or headboroughs of the said borough, residing within the said borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS. 32.

RETURNING OFFICER. The Mayor.

PATRON. John Robinson, Esq.

PENSION.

In the pension-list of Charles II. it appeared that Thomas King, Esq. a member for Harwich, had a pension of 50l. a session, besides meat, drink, and now and then a suit of clothes.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

ANCIENT STATE.

THIS county, which obtained its name from the city of Gloucester, the *Colonia Glevum* of the Romans, was inhabited by a people whom the Romans called *Dobuni*. The Saxons, who succeeded the Romans, called the inhabitants *Wic-*
cwi,

cwi, from the Saxon word *Wic*, which signifies a creek of a river.

DURING the heptarchy, this county was long subject to the West Saxons. It was, however, afterwards included in the kingdom of Mercia, whose king usually resided at Tamworth, in Staffordshire. It was miserably harrassed by the Danes, whose general was Gurman. This county suffered, likewise, greatly in the civil wars between Maud and Stephen. In the reign of Hen. II. it was much desolated by the incursions of the Welsh. And at last, it was distinguished by taking a decided part in favour of the barons in their wars.

THIS county is in the province of Canterbury, and is a diocese of itself. It is divided into 30 hundreds, and contains one city, and 25 market towns, in which are 280 parishes, 26,700 houses, and 162,568 inhabitants, who are represented in parliament by eight members chosen as follow : Two knights of the shire for the county ; two citizens for the city of Gloucester ; two burgesses for the borough of Cirencester ; and two burgesses for the borough of Tewksbury.

GLOU-

GLOUCESTER COUNTY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The predominant influence in this county is that of the duke of Beaufort, and the earl of Berkeley. There was, indeed, a powerful contest in 1776, upon Mr. Southwell being called to the house of peers, in which the numbers upon the poll were nearly equal ; but it was a contest between the interest of these two noblemen for superiority : W. B. Chester, Esq. being supported by the former, and the Hon. George Cranfield Berkeley, by the latter. Mr. Chester obtained the majority upon the poll ; a petition was presented and tried against his return, in which he eventually succeeded. This was the first county petition tried under the Grenville act. The above noblemen are now coalesced, and each has his friend *in the representation.*

A MEMBER CHOSEN WITHOUT HIS CONSENT.

It is so far unnecessary to be a candidate in order to be a member, that a person may be chosen and returned without either his knowledge or consent. This is proved by a circumstance which happened at an election for this county, as reported by
Glan-

Glanville. The committee and the house determined, April 9, 1624, that Sir Thomas Estcourt, having a majority of votes on the poll, was duly elected and returned, *although he had declared at the election, that he desired not to be chosen.*

GLOUCESTER.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city is at present independent; a remarkable instance of which was given upon the death of Sir Charles Barrow, in 1789, when the citizens opposed the interest of the Duke of Norfolk, and after a poll of fifteen days obtained a victory by a majority of one vote.

THE Duke of Norfolk is an alderman of this corporation, and most of the body corporate are in his grace's interest. The earl of Guildford is recorder, and lord viscount Sydney has an interest in the city, arising from the property he inherits of the late George Selwyn, Esq.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This city, called by the ancient Britons *Caer-glow*, the *fair city*, from its fine situation and beautiful buildings; was called by the Romans
Clevum

Clevum or *Glevum*, to which the Saxons, according to their custom, added *cester*, which signifies a castle or fortification, and thus called it *Gleavcester*, from whence its present name is supposed to be derived. Leland says, that in his time, it was a large place, well built with timber, and defended with strong walls, except on the south side where it is washed by the Severn.

THIS city is allowed by all writers on the subject to have been a Roman station. After the Saxon heptarchy, this place was of some note; and near it Edmund, surnamed Ironsides, fought for the kingdom, in the Isle of Alney, with Canute, who obtained the victory. A little before the conquest, Breiktric, a Saxon, was lord of Gloucester; but, refusing to marry Maud, afterwards wife of William I. she caused him to be imprisoned, and his estate seized by the crown. Afterwards it was given by Rufus to Robert Fitz-Haimon, lord of Corbaille in Normandy.

SEVERAL of our kings kept their Christmas at this city. King John, in the first year of his reign, made it a borough town, and Henry III. made it a corporation. It was besieged and
taken

taken in four days by the barons, in the reign of the last mentioned king. It was, however, soon retaken by her son, who pardoned the burgeses upon their paying 1000 marks. In 1272 Edward I. held here a parliament, in which some useful laws were made, now called the *statutes of Gloucester*. Richard II. held also here a parliament; and Richard III. in consequence of bearing the title of duke of Gloucester, before he obtained the crown, added the two adjacent hundreds of Dudston and Kings-Barton to it, gave it his sword and cap of maintenance, and made it a county of itself, by the name of the county of the city of Gloucester; but, after the restoration, the hundreds were taken away by act of parliament, and the walls of the city razed, for the inhabitants shutting the gates, in 1643, against Charles I. by whom it was then in vain besieged. The city had then eleven parish churches. But six being demolished in 1643, there only remained five, and the cathedral. This city now gives the title of duke to his Royal Highness William Henry, only remaining brother of his present majesty.

THIS city sent members to parliament as early as 23 Edward I.

CORPO-

CORPORATION. According to Sir Robert Atkins' History of Gloucestershire, this city was incorporated by Henry III. when he was crowned there. It was then governed by a mayor, aldermen, &c. But the inhabitants resigning their charter, in 1672, to Charles II. he granted them another in the 24 of his reign, by which the city and county is governed by a steward, mayor, 12 aldermen, a recorder, two sheriffs, 26 common council, a town clerk, a sword-bearer, and 4 serjeants at mace. For the better regulating the trade of the city, there are 12 companies, whose masters attend in their gowns, the mayor, on all public occasions: These are the mercers, in which are included the apothecaries, grocers, and chandlers; the weavers, the tanners, the butchers, the bakers, the smiths and hammer-men, among whom are the goldsmiths, ironmongers, coopers, and joiners; the shoemakers, metal-men, taylor, barbers, and glovers.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. Is in the inhabitants and freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS, 3000.

RETURNING OFFICERS. The sheriffs.

PATRONS. None.

CIREN-

CIRENCESTER.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. Although there have been many resolutions of the committees of the house on the right of election for this borough, yet none of them have received the sanction of the house of commons; the *right* is consequently at present undefined. The only resolution upon the journals is the general one of the 1st of May 1624, which neither excludes any part of the borough, nor any description of householders; but the returning officer, at the last general election in 1790, rejected the votes of all the householders, in the Abbey, the Emery, and the Spiringate-lane, in consequence of a resolution of a committee in 1709, which was negatived by the house of commons.

Mr. Preston, the candidate in whose behalf these electors tendered their suffrages, has presented a petition, which is to be determined this present session. The influence has for many years been in the family of earl Bathurst, who has a seat in the neighbourhood, and has the appointment of the returning officer at his court-leet. Mr. Creswell made a successful op-

position to the interest of earl Bathurst's father, in 1768.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This town, which took its name from having a cester or castle upon the river Churn, which falls into the Thames at Cricklade, is thought to be the oldest, and to have been the largest in the county. It is said that the emperor Constantine was crowned in this town king of the Britons. It is however certain, that it was a strong fortified place in the time of the Romans. It had once three parish-churches, which are now reduced to one.

AFTER the Romans left this island, the Britons defended themselves in this town against the Saxons until the year 577, when, the rest of Britain being conquered, Gloucester, Bath, and this place submitted to the Saxons. But in the year 656, Penda, first christian king of Mercia, took it from them. In 879 it was taken by the Danes, who built a tower here, now called Trifmon Tower, from the name of their general. Since the Norman conquest, Robert earl of Gloucester, in the reign of Stephen, put a gar-
rison

garrison here, when he attempted to restore Maud, the empress, to the throne.

IN the baron's wars against Henry III. this castle had a garrison put in it by them; but the king soon recovered it, and caused it to be demolished. In the reign of Henry IV. Thomas Holland, duke of Surrey, the earl of Salisbury, and other noblemen, retreating to Cirencester, and lodging in an inn, the bailiff of the town and townsmen assaulted the house, slew them, and sent their heads to London. For this service Henry granted the inhabitants all the goods of the said noblemen and their adherents, except money, plate, and jewels. He also granted to the men four does in the season, six bucks to the women, and one hog'shead of wine from Bristol. He likewise made the town a court of staple for merchandize, in consequence whereof it became a corporation. It did not, however, return members to parliament before the 12th of Elizabeth. In the year 1668, the earl Cholmondeley (a Roman Catholic peer), was murdered in the streets, for his adherence to absolute monarchy.

CORPORATION. This town being incorporated, as above, by Henry IV. it was governed by a mayor, two constables, and the commonalty, who were deemed part of the corporate body. But this charter was cancelled in the reign of Elizabeth.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. *May 21, 1624.* That where no custom nor charter for election, there the inhabitants householders ought to make the election.

Nov. 4, 1690. Resolved, by the committee, that the inhabitants of the borough of Cirencester (in com. Gloucester.) receiving a charitable donation, commonly called *by-money*, have not a right to vote in electing burgesses to serve in parliament.

Resolved, That the inhabitants of the borough of Cirencester being inmates, have no right to vote in electing burgesses to serve in parliament.

UPON the question, the house did not agree unto the first resolution, but agreed unto the second.

Dec.

Dec. 8, 1709. The question being put, that the inhabitants of the *Abbey*, the *Emery*, and the *Spiringate-lane* (not receiving alms) have a right to vote in electing members to serve in parliament for the borough of Cirencester (com. Gloucester.)

It passed in the negative.

THE state of the poll at the last election was,

For Lord Apsley	-	293
Richard Master, Esq.		262
Robert Preston, Esq.		254

NUMBER OF VOTERS—600.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Steward.

PATRON—Earl Bathurst.

TEWKESBURY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough is not under the immediate influence of any individual. Its independence is evinced by the honour it derives from so exemplary a representative as Mr. James Martin, whose integrity has manifested that rigid virtue, which so deservedly ennobled the Grecian and Roman character. To the honour of the British senate it should be recorded, that being offered a share in the very advantageous

geous loan of 1783, to a very great amount, he displayed the true dignity of parliamentary independence, by communicating to the house the insult that he conceived to be offered to the legislative assembly of the nation.

ANCIENT REPRESENTATION. This town received its first privileges from Edw. II. which were confirmed by several of his successors; but it did not return to parliament before the 7th of James the First.

TEWKESBURY was formerly famous for its monastery built by two brothers, Odo and Dodo, who were then dukes of great account in the kingdom of Mercia. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and at first only endowed with the manor of Stanway. Hugh, earl of Mercia, was the patron of this priory in the year 800, and Bricktric, king of the West Saxons, was buried here. Robert Fitz-Haimon, in the year 1102, new built it, and made great endowments, advancing it to an abbey. His daughter Mabilla, wife of Robert, earl of Gloucester, built the priory of St. James's at Bristol, and subjected it to
this

this abbey: Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hereford, with several of the families of the Despencers and Beauchamps, were great benefactors to it, some of whom are buried here; it was valued at the suppression at 1598l. a year. The church is still standing, and is now the parish church above described.

THIS place is also famous for a bloody battle fought here between the two houses of York and Lancaster, when Edward the Fourth entirely defeated Henry the Sixth, taking the queen, prince Edward, and many of the nobility who sided with Henry, prisoners. The young prince, who was but eighteen years of age, being brought into the king's tent, appeared before him with an undaunted countenance; and Edward asking him, how he came to be so rash as thus to enter his kingdom in arms? he bravely replied, "That he came to recover his own inheritance, which had been unjustly usurped." On which the king, instead of admiring his intrepidity, struck him on the mouth with his gauntlet, and turning from him withdrew, when the dukes of Clarence and Gloucester, the king's brothers, the earl of Dorset,

Dorset, and the lord Hastings, *stept up to the young prince, and barbarously stabbed him with their daggers ; after which, that party was never able to make head again. It is a large, beautiful, and populous town, consisting of three well built streets, and many lanes. It has a bridge over three of the four rivers that run by it, and a church, which is a large, noble structure, with two handsome turrets at each end, and a stately tower, also adorned with turrets. The communion table consists of one entire piece of marble, thirteen feet eight inches long, and three feet and a half broad, and stands in the middle of the choir. This structure is adorned with a number of funeral monuments, particularly several of the earls of Gloucester and Warwick, prince Edward, the son of Henry the Sixth, and the duke of Clarence, brother to Edward the Fourth. Here are also several meeting-houses of dissenters, and a free-school, erected by William Ferrers, in 1675, who gave 20l. a year for the maintenance of a master, to which several other benefactors have made considerable additions. Here is also an hospital, endowed with 40l. a year by the late queen Mary, to be paid out*

out of the Exchequer, for the maintenance of thirteen poor people, and a reader, who is appointed by the corporation; and in the churchyard is an almshouse for ten poor widows, but without any endowments.

CORPORATION. Tewkesbury being re-incorporated by James I. it was then governed by 24 burgeses, from whom are chosen annually two bailiffs, who are the ruling magistrates, and have jurisdiction within the borough, exclusive of the justices of the peace for the county.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—Is in the magistrates and inhabitants paying scot and lot.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—Supposed to be about 500.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The Bailiffs.

HAMP.

H A M P S H I R E.

ANCIENT STATE.

THIS county, called by the Saxons *Hamtunseyre*, from Hampton, or Southampton, the county town, was afterwards called *Hamteschyre*, and hence its present names of Hampshire and Hants are derived.

AT the Roman invasion, the Regni and Belgæ possessed great part of this county. The former was a tribe of the ancient Britons and the Belgæ, a people of Germany, who, passing the Rhine, possessed themselves of part of Gaul, and then sailed over to the south-west coast of Britain, in order to plunder the inhabitants, and return with the spoil. But liking the country, they drove the Britons out of those places, long after called Somersetsshire, Wiltshire, and the inland parts of Hampshire, of which they took possession, where they were found by Cæsar, on his visiting those parts of Britain. This county is thought to have been the first that submitted to the Romans. Although less than many other counties in England, some authors assert, that it had six Roman stations called *Calleva*, *Vindoma*, *Venta*, *Belgarum*, *Claucentum*, *Brigæ*, and *Cunithis*.

WHEN

WHEN the Saxons invaded this island, the inhabitants kept this county 60 years after the first landing of Hengist ; but Cerdic, the founder of the kingdom of the West Saxons, landing at Chardford in the beginning of the 6th century, reduced all the southern shore, as far as the country of the Damnonii, to his authority. The posterity of Cerdic ruled the whole country of the Belgæ for several generations, but at length this county was taken from it, and rendered a petty kingdom.

IN the reign of Ethelbert, and in the year 860, the Danes invading the Isle of Wight, ravaged all before them as far as Winchester ; but as they were returning, Osric, earl of Hampton, assisted by the men of Berkshire, defeated them, and recovered the spoils. The Saxons being settled some time in these parts, divided the country of the Belgæ into three counties, Somersethshire, Wiltshire, and Hampshire.

THIS county, exclusive of the Isle of Wight, is divided into 39 hundreds, containing one city, 20 market towns, and 253 parishes. It lies in the province of Canterbury, and the diocese of Winchester. It sends 26 members to parliament, returned

turned as follows: Two knights by the county, and two burgeses by each of the following towns; Southampton, Portsmouth, Newport, Yarmouth, and Newton, in the Isle of Wight, Lymington or Liminton, Christchurch, Andover, Whitchurch, Petersfield, and Stockbridge.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This county has, from its maritime situation, many ports in it, where a great number of custom-house officers, and others, under the immediate controul of government, reside. The interest arising from this connection, as well as from the dock-yard at Portsmouth, is so great, as to supersede aristocracy itself; and the administration for the time being have generally the nomination of its members, which may be easily evinced by the last return, when the numbers were, for

Sir W. Heathcote, Bart.	2013
William Chute, Esq.	1805
Lord J. Ruffel,	1290
J. C. Jervois, Esq.	1232

PORTSMOUTH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this town being exclusively in the corporation, consisting

consisting of a mayor, recorder, 12 aldermen, and an indefinite number of burgessees, like that of Plymouth, the same influence prevailed here for a great number of years, and the admiralty was always admitted to have the nomination of its members. The corporation, however, being chiefly composed of men of independent fortunes, and inimical to the American war, and unconstitutional measures of Lord North's administration, refused to accept the ministerial nomination of the late Peter Taylor, Esq. the army commissary, upon the death of the late Sir Matthew Featherstonhaugh, in 1774, and invited Joshua Iremonger, of Wherewell, in this county, a gentleman of great opulence and independence, to oppose the government interest. The patriotic party had not yet acquired a sufficient strength to overcome that influence which had usually prevailed here, so that Mr. Taylor carried his election by a majority of three votes.

THIS opposition to government irritated them to such a pitch, as to cause them, the ensuing term, to move the court of King's Bench for informations in the nature of *Quo Warranto*, against the

the mayor, several of the aldermen, and 63 of the burgeses. These informations having been severally obtained, and trials had thereon, judgment of ouster was issued against the whole number. Similar informations were then moved on behalf of the patriotic against the ministerial party, and 29 of the latter, were likewise ousted.

THESE judgments left the corporation without a mayor or recorder, only 4 aldermen remained in their offices, and a few of the burgeses. Administration had now so far succeeded, as to have a clear majority in this garbled corporation ; but of the four remaining aldermen, Wm. Carter, sen. Esq. Mr. White, Mr. Linzee, and Mr. Varloe, the two former being in the independent interest, and the two latter in that of government, and as the power of making aldermen, and nominating candidates for the office of mayor, is vested by the bye-laws of the corporation in the court of aldermen, no election could legally be made for either. The majority of burgeses who were in the interest of government, however, assembled, and assumed to themselves a power of choosing a mayor, and elected Mr. Munday, an
officer

officer of the customs in this port, and one of the burgessees, into that office. This election being illegal, judgment of ouster was soon obtained against him; but the burgessees still persevered in the same mode of election, and as often as judgment of ouster was obtained against one, they set about electing another of their own party, and continued this practice for nearly nine years, at the expiration of which time, Linzee and Varloe, the two ministerial aldermen, died, and left the corporate power in the hands of their opponents. The earl of Sandwich, who had been considered the patron and supporter of the ministerial party in this borough, being about this time removed from the office of first lord of the admiralty, they lost that support by which they were enabled for so many years to carry on their opposition.

THE two remaining aldermen, Carter and White, having now the sole command of the corporation, and the election of mayor of necessity falling upon one of them, Mr. Carter was accordingly chosen on the Michaelmas day following.

THE

THE corporation having once more obtained a legal form, a court of aldermen was held, the vacancies were filled up, and a number of new burgesſes elected, of ſuch a character and independence, as placed them beyond the reach of improper influence. Sir John Carter, eldeſt ſon of the above named alderman, has ever ſince been conſidered the leader and patron of this corporation. The conſtitutional objections which we have to make againſt them are, that the majority of them are nonreſidents; and that by their conſtitution they elect each other, without the ſuffrages of the inhabitants, who are thereby not only ſecluded from their natural right to their choice of magiſtrates, but alſo from the more important one, of delegating their representatives to the legiſlature, in whom is the diſpoſal of their liberty, life and property.

RIGHT OF ELECTION, is in the mayor, aldermen, and burgesſes of the ſaid borough only, 1695, 24th January.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION.—This town, which may, from having the only regular fortification in the kingdom, be termed the Key

of England, was burnt by the French in the reign of Richard II. At first, the town was fortified by a timber wall lined with earth; but Edward IV. built two forts of free-stone at the entrance of the harbour, and Hen. VII. made it a garrison. This town sent members as early as Winchester did, which was 23 Edw. I.

CORPORATION.—Portsmouth was last incorporated by Charles I. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, and an indefinite number of burgesses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—*Jan. 24, 1695, Resolved,* That the right of election of burgesses to serve in parliament for the borough of Portsmouth (in Com. Southampton) is in the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the said borough only.

Feb. 3, 1710, Resolved, That *Joseph Whiteborn,* Esq. who was elected mayor of the borough of Portsmouth on the 10th day of December, 1709, and had not duly qualified himself for that office according to law, by taking the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper according to the rites of the

VOL. II. F church

church of England, within one year next before his election, was not legal mayor of the said borough.

Resolved, That the aldermen, elected during the said pretended mayoralty of the said *Mr. Whiteborn*, are not legal aldermen, and the burgessees elected during his pretended mayoralty, have not a right to vote in elections of members to serve in parliament for the said borough of Portsmouth.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—110.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—Sir John Carter.

SOUTHAMPTON.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.—This town, which is a county of itself, is remarkable for the respectability of its corporation, which, like that of Poole, to which it is nearly similar in its constitution, is denominated the mayor, bailiffs, and burgessees, though it is customary, as at Poole, to compliment such of its members, as have served the office of mayor, with the title of alderman.

The present mayor, sheriff, and bailiffs, are all gentlemen of title.

THE late Hans Stanley, of famous memory, represented this town near thirty years, and was so profuse in the distribution of court favours, which it is well known were at his disposal, as to bring it into the vortex of government boroughs. So unstable, however, is gratitude thus procured, that they turned his nephew, the present Hans Sloane, Esq. out of its representation, a very few years after his death.

THE influence in this town is principally in the corporation, although the right of election is in the inhabitant householders paying scot and lot, and their number is near six hundred. The corporation have the power of making non-resident, or honorary burgessees; but they have not yet abused it to any extent.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION.—

This town, anciently called *Hautun*, from being seated on a bay, formerly named *Trisauton*, or the Bay of *Auton*, now Southampton-water, is distinguished from Hampton and

Northampton, by the name of Southamptoft. It is generally agreed, that this town was a colony of the Romans called Claucentum. It was greatly haraffed by the Danes in the year 980, and plundered and burnt to the ground by the French in the reign of Edward I. It was, however, soon rebuilt, fortified with towers and battlements, and in a little time became so populous, as to induce Richard II. to defend its harbour by erecting a strong castle. It was said, that this town, among other privileges, having that of all the Canary wine brought to England first landed here, became exceedingly wealthy. But the London merchants suffering greatly from the law, purchased the exclusive privilege from the corporation, and, thus, had their Canary, as well as the rest of their imported wines, brought directly to London. This town sent to parliament as early as 23 Edward I.

CORPORATION. This is the county town, and was incorporated by Hen. II. and John. It was next made a county of itself, by Hen. VI. who thus rendered it independent of the Lord Lieutenant of the county. By its last charter, granted by Charles I. the corporation consists of a mayor,
or,

or, recorder, sheriff, and two bailiffs: all those who have served any of the foregoing offices, constitute the common-council, which, consequently, are unlimited; but the corporation have a power of choosing burgessees, who, altho' not members of the common council, are yet of the corporation, and have, therefore, votes. There are eleven justices of the peace; namely, the mayor for the time being, the bishop of Winchester, the recorder, the last mayor, five aldermen, and two burgessees. All who have passed the chair are aldermen. The corporation have several officers, as a town clerk, four serjeants at mace, a town-crier, &c. The mayor and bailiffs have a court for the recovery of small debts. All causes are tried in the Guildhall, where the quarter sessions are also held. The mayor is admiral of the liberties, from South Sea Castle near Portsmouth, to Hurst Castle, which is seated on a neck of land that runs so far into the sea as to form the shortest passage to the Isle of Wight.

It was here that Canute ridiculed his flattering courtiers, by sitting crowned, and in his royal robes, on the bank of the river, forbidding the tide to approach his foot-stool; but the

the sea, deaf to his commands, and regardless of his threats, continued its wonted course, and wetting his majesty's feet and robes, he started up, and upbraided those sycophants with the grossness of their flattery, in pretending that all nature obeyed him. "Let this convince you, and all the world," added he, "that the power of the greatest monarch is poor and weak, and that none is truly worthy of the title of king, but he, whose will being an eternal law, the heavens, the earth, and the sea obey."

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—*Dec. 31, 1689, Resolved,* That the right of election of burgessees to serve in parliament for the town and county of Southampton, is in the burgessees and inhabitants of the said town.

March 17, 1695, Resolved, That the outliving burgessees, as well as the burgessees, inhabitants, and other inhabitants paying scot and lot, have a right to vote for electing members to serve in parliament for the town, and county of the town of Southampton.

RETURNING OFFICERS. *April 3, 1735, Resolved,* That the mayor and bailiffs of the town, and
county

county of the town of Southampton, are the returning officers for the said town and county.

A SHERIFF RETURNED TO PARLIAMENT.

THE inhabitants of Southampton having presented a petition against the return of Mr. Fleming to serve them in parliament, in consequence of his being sheriff of the county at the time of his election, a committee was appointed to take the said petition into their consideration. The committee met on the 10th of Feb. 1777, and, after hearing counsel and evidence, determined on the 12th Feb. that the sitting member (Mr. Fleming) was duly elected. The chief ground of their decision was, that this town, being a county of itself, and that the mayor and bailiffs proceeded to the election by virtue of a writ from the crown, and not under the authority of a precept from the sheriff of Hampshire, it did not incapacitate the sitting member.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 600.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The Mayor and bailiffs.

STOCK.

STOCKBRIDGE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this borough is in the inhabitants house-keepers, paying scot and lot. They have no particular patron; but Mr. Bucket, the landlord of the principal inn in the town, is a leading man amongst them. The frequent petitions which have been presented to parliament on the score of bribery, shew, either that this borough is more than ordinarily open to corruption, or that it is more shameless in the exercise of it. The petition of Mr. Barham and Mr. Porter, against major Scot and Mr. Cater, the sitting members, is now depending on the same charge.

ANCIENT REPRESENTATION. This town never sent to parliament till 1 Elizabeth.

CORPORATION. None: It being a borough by prescription, governed by a titular bailiff, constable, and serjeant at mace.

RIGHT

RIGHT OF ELECTION—Is in all the inhabitants paying to church and poor.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—57.

RETURNING OFFICER. The Bailiff.

MODE OF BRIBING THE VOTERS. The bailiff, who is generally an innkeeper, or one dependant upon an innkeeper, is the returning officer at elections; for it is said that the innkeeper, in order to have an opportunity of receiving bribes upon these occasions, without being liable to the penalty, has frequently procured one of his own hostlers to be elected bailiff, and has himself carried the mace before him.

THE ingenious Sir Richard Steele, who represented this borough in the reign of queen Anne, carried his election against a powerful opposition, by the merry expedient of sticking a large apple full of guineas, and declaring it should be the prize of that man whose wife should first be brought to-bed after that day nine months. This, we are told, procured him the interest of the women, who are said to commemorate Sir
Richard's

Richard's bounty to this day, and once made a strenuous effort to procure a standing order of the corporation, that no man should ever be received as a candidate who did not offer himself on the same terms.

BRIBERY.

November 15th, 1689. 1. Upon special report from the committee of privileges and elections, of gross and notorious bribery at an election for the borough of Stockbridge, in com. Southampton,

Resolved, That W. Montague, Esq. is not duly elected a burgeses to serve in this present parliament for the said borough of Stockbridge.

2. *Resolved,* That W. Strode, Esq. is not duly elected a burgeses, &c.

3. *Resolved,* That the said election is a void election.

4. *Ordered,* That Richard Hewes, the bailiff, P. Robinson Gatehouse, and S. Hall, be sent for into

into custody of the serjeant at arms, for giving and taking bribes at the said election.

5. *Resolved*, That W. Montague, Esq. be disabled from being elected a burgeses to serve in this present parliament for the said borough of Stockbridge.

6. That a debate arising touching the disfranchising the said borough for ever hereafter from sending burgeses to parliament, and that instead thereof two more knights of the shire be chosen for the county of Southampton,

Resolved, That the debate be adjourned till Monday morning next, at ten o'clock.

November 27th, 1789. 7. A petition of R. Hewes, &c. inhabitants of Stockbridge, that they were very sorry they had incurred the displeasure of the house by encouraging the giving money, and by other irregularities at the late election there, which they had not done, but that they were so near ruin by the late king's army continually quartering upon them, and praying the consideration of the house, and to be discharged

charged from their confinements. The petitioners being called in, and severely reproved by Mr. Speaker for their offences, were discharged on paying their fees.

8. *Resolved*, That the said election for the said borough of Stockbridge is a corrupt and a void election.

9. *Resolved*, That a bill be brought in for disabling the said borough of Stockbridge to send burgeses to serve in parliament for the future.

AND the said bill was brought in the same session, and read a first and second time, and committed.

7th *February*, 1693. 10. A petition of the bailiff and inhabitants of the said borough of Stockbridge was presented to the house and read, praying that the bill may be withdrawn, and that the ancient frame and constitution of the said borough, in sending members to parliament, may not be altered.

Resolved, That the said petition be rejected.

Eodem

Eodem Die, II. ANOTHER petition of the bailiff and inhabitants of the town of Stockbridge, praying to be heard by their counsel against the said bill, was also rejected.

12. AND the bill was afterwards engrossed, and read a third time; but on the third reading the question being put that the bill do pass,

It passed in the negative, and afterwards,

April 19th, 1694. A motion being made, and the question being put, that a warrant be now directed to the clerk of the crown to make out a new writ for the electing a burgeses to serve in this present parliament for the borough of Stockbridge, in the county of Southampton, in the room of Richard Whitehead, Esq.

It passed in the negative.

POLITICAL ANECDOTE.

IN a pension list published in the reign of Charles II. there appears the following extraordinary paragraph:

SIR

SIR Robert Howard (member for Stockbridge), auditor of the receipts of the exchequer, 3000 pounds *per annum*. Many great places and boons he has had; but his wife, spends all, and now refuses to marry him.

CHRISTCHURCH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. There does not appear upon the journals of the house of commons any resolution respecting the right of election in this borough; but Brown Willis, and every other parliamentary writer, states it to be in the inhabitants householders, paying scot and lot. The corporation have however assumed to themselves the exclusive right for a number of years, without any opposition from the inhabitants, and exercise it at present with wonderful address and management.

EDWARD HOOPER, Esq. of Horne Court, near this borough, senior commissioner of the customs, has for near fifty years had the controlling interest of this corporation, the direction of which he has lately surrendered to lord Malmesbury.

But

But Mr. Rose of the treasury, in imitation of his predecessor John Robinson, at Harwich, has, since his purchase of the estate at Cusnells, in the New Forest, conceived it convenient to realise a similar influence, and has accordingly directed the treasury artillery against the electors of Christchurch. A surrender was soon obtained, and a capitulation agreed on, by which Mr. Rose is allowed the nomination of one of its members. Should any two gentlemen, however, think proper to offer themselves at a future vacancy on the right of the inhabitants, and take the sense of a committee of the house of commons by petition, on the validity of their claim of suffrage, there is the best founded presumption of success, as they have not contrary resolutions of former committees to combat, as in the cases of Pomfret and Poole, but a clear and distinct right established by prescription, and opposed only by an arbitrary monopoly, sanctioned by a corrupt usage of a short period.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. In the inhabitants householders, paying scot and lot; but at present assumed and exercised by the corporation exclusively.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This town was anciently called Twenambourne, from its being situated at the conflux of the rivers Avon and Stour, near the place where they fall into Christchurch-bay, and has received its present name from the dedication of its church to Christ. It first sent to parliament 13 Elizabeth, for although it was summoned 35 Edward I. and 2 Edward II. the bailiff made no return to either precept.

CORPORATION—consists of a mayor, a recorder, aldermen, bailiffs, and a common council.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—24.

RETURNING OFFICER—The mayor.

PATRONS—Lord Malmesbury and George Rose, Esq.

MAYOR OF CHRISTCHURCH.

It was determined, in the case of the mayor of Christchurch, in the King's Bench (Stra. 1090) that a bare swearing in, and acting, does not make a man an officer, *de facto*, and that unless there is some form of election he is a mere usurper.

LYMING-

LYMINGTON.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The corporation in this borough, consisting of the mayor and burgessees, have the exclusive right of the election of members of parliament, and are all under the influence of Sir Harry Burrard, Bart. by whose means the majority of them have obtained a number of those benevolences, which render them indeed obnoxious to Mr. Crewe's bill; but are, notwithstanding that, liberally distributed by the treasury amongst the immaculate boroughs.

ANCIENT REPRESENTATION. The first return of members from this place was 27 Elizabeth.

CORPORATION. This ancient borough is a corporation by prescription, consisting of a titular mayor, aldermen, and burgessees, without limitation; the mayor is annually chosen by the burgessees, within and without the borough, and sworn at the court-leet of the lord of the manor.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

October 29, 1691. Resolved, That the mayor and burgeses of Lymington have only a right to elect a burges to serve in parliament for that borough.

Jan. 18, 1695. Resolved, That the right of electing burgeses to serve in parliament for the borough of Lymington is not in the mayor, burgeses, and commonalty of the said borough, paying scot and lot.

Resolved, That the right of electing members to serve in parliament for the said borough of Lymington, is only in the mayor and burgeses of Lymington, exclusive of the commonalty, paying scot and lot.

Jan. 11, 1710. Resolved, That the right of election of burgeses to serve in parliament for the borough of Lymington, in the county of Southampton, is not in the mayor, burgeses, and inhabitants of the said borough not receiving alms.

Resolved,

Resolved, That the right of election of burgesſes to ſerve in parliament for the borough of Ly-mington, in the county of Southampton, is in the mayor and burgesſes of the ſaid borough only.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—80.

RETURNING OFFICER—The mayor.

YARMOUTH, ISLE OF WIGHT.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. Contains about 50 houſes, cottages included. The right of election is in the capital and free burgesſes. The free burgesſes are choſen from the capital burgesſes, and are unlimited by the conſtitution of the borough; but at preſent there are only nine.

Mr. Holmes and Mr. Jervois Clarke Jervois, have each their friends and dependants as burgesſes; and by mutual compact have agreed that each ſhall nominate one of the two members. The capital burgesſes are equally divided between the two parties, as follows:

G 2

No. 1.

No. 1. Mr. Holmes.

2. ————— His brother in law.
3. ————— His own brother.
4. ————— His brother in law.
5. ————— His son in law.
6. ————— The recorder of Newport.
7. Mr. Jervois.
8. ————— A clergyman who has good preferment by means of Mr. Jervois' interest.
- 9, 10. ————— Mr. Jervois' friends live in London.
- 11, 12. ————— Do live in or near Havant.

FREE BURGESSES.

No. 1. A near relation of Mr. Holmes.

2. A gentleman of Wiltshire.
- 3, 4. Doubtful if living—connected with
No. 2.
5. Formerly a tenant to lord Holmes.
6. Ditto, and now to Mr. Holmes.
7. Do.
8. A barber and flossfeller, the only resident.
9. Collector of the salt duties in Cheshire, formerly in the Isle of Wight.

THESE

THESE free burgesſes are of old ſtanding, and will not be made capital.—Formerly they were many (the number being unlimited), but in the year 1756, after a diſpute between Mr. Holmes and Mr. Jervois, and the Leigh family of North Court in the iſland (of which Mr. Jervois's lady was a part), a compromise took place, by which it was ſtipulated that a great number of free burgesſes, then newly made, ſhould be diſfranchiſed, which was accordingly done; that each party ſhould thenceforth name one member; and, to keep the intereſts even, whenever a capital burgeſs ſhould die, the ſide to which he belonged ſhould immediately nominate another perſon to be a free burgeſs, and then make him capital, as the charter preſcribes.

FROM this ſtate of facts it is plain, that the four members of Newport and Yarmouth are returned by only two perſons; three by Mr. Holmes, with the miniſter's aſſiſtance, and one by Mr. Jervois. The members for Newtown are choſen at preſent by four perſons; in all fix members by fix electors only; and this ſmall body may be further diminished by an union
of

of interests in the borough of Newtown, between the Worsley family and Mr. Holmes; in which case four men would return six persons to represent them in parliament. If this unadorned recital does not impress on the mind the fullest conviction of the absolute necessity of some reform in the representation, it is surely fair to conclude, that the utmost power of reason and eloquence would be exerted in vain.

ANCIENT REPRESENTATION. This borough, in conjunction with Newport, both of which are in the Isle of Wight, sent first to parliament 23 Edward I. and although it was again summoned, in this reign no return was made for it, or any place in this island, until 27 Elizabeth.

CORPORATION consists of a mayor and twelve burgeses, according to a charter granted in the 7th of James I.

RIGHT OF ELECTION, *April 11th, 1717. Resolved,* That the bye-law made the 21st of Sept. 1670, by the mayor and five chief burgeses of Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight, being the major part of the chief burgeses then existing for electing free burgeses by the mayor and five chief burgeses, was a good bye-law.

19 Jan.

19 Jan. 1769, *Resolved*, That Thomas Grimes, Esq. being elected a chief burgeses during the pretended mayoralty of John Leigh, Esq. whom the house resolved was not legally elected a chief burgeses of the said borough, and was therefore incapable of being elected mayor of the said borough, on the 21st of September 1765.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Walker, and the Rev. Mr. John Oglander, being elected chief burgeses during the pretended mayoralty of the said Thomas Grimes, were not legal chief burgeses of the said borough.

Resolved, That the election of the twenty-five free burgeses, objected to by the counsel for the petitioners, elected during the present mayoralty of the said Thomas Grimes, Esq. at an assembly, in which the said Dr. Walker and Mr. Oglander attended, and voted as two of the five chief burgeses in the election of the said twenty burgeses, was illegal and void.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—50.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

NEWTON,

NEWTON, OR NEWTOWN.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.—Is a decayed place, containing only about ten cottages, and of course very few inhabitants. The right of election is attached to 39 borough lands, or burgage tenures. One elector only resides in the place; the burgage tenures are in the following hands, the real owners convey them to their relations, friends, or dependants for life; but in confidence to vote as directed by them. The number has been increased to 39 by splitting 3; which are therefore conceived not to be good votes.

Sir Richard Worsley (of these 2 are split)	*12
Sir Fitz-William Barrington	8
Mr. Holmes (of these 1 are split)	7
Sir William Oglander, as trustee for William the son of Edward Meux Worsley, Esq.	
(3 split)	3
Sir William Oglander	2

* Two of these were sold by lord Edgcombe to Sir Richard Worsley in 1782 for 1000 guineas, though only two decayed cottages.

John

NEWTOWN.

89

John Urry, Esq.	2
The Coheirs of John Leigh, Esq.	1
Maurice Biffett, Esq.	1
The heir of Robert Pope Blachford, Esq.	1
William Hill, Esq.	1
William Harvey, a husbandman	1
	<hr/>
	39
	<hr/>

FROM whence we may see that the number of actual voters is about 33. The revenue officers bill has taken off one vote only.

SIR Richard Worsley and Sir Fitz William Barrington are at present united; and it is evident, that with the assistance of Mr. Blachford, who is son in law to the latter, and any one other person, they have a decisive majority.

ANCIENT REPRESENTATION. This small borough never sent to parliament until the 27th of Elizabeth.

CORPORATION. None. It has however a titular mayor, and 12 burgessees, chosen by the lord of the manor,

RIGHT

RIGHT OF ELECTION, *April 22, 1729.* *Resolved,* That the right of election of burgeses to serve in parliament for the borough of Newtown in the Isle of Wight, in the county of Southampton, is in the mayor and burgeses of the said borough, having borough lands within the said borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—93.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

POLITICAL ANECDOTE.

IN the pension list of Charles II. this paragraph appeared—Sir John Holmes, Sir Robert's brother, and member for Newtown, a cowardly, baffled sea-captain, twice boxed, and once whipped with a dog-whip; was chosen in the night without the head officer of the town; and but one burges present; yet voted this last session, and will be re-elected.

NEWPORT.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough was formerly under the influence of the father of the present duke of Bolton, at whose decease the late

lord Holmes, of the kingdom of Ireland, took the lead of the corporation, and held it during his life. Upon the demise of that nobleman, the interest descended with his estate to his nephew, the Rev. Leonard Troughbear, who has since taken the surname of Holmes, and is the present patron of the borough. This borough contains about 500 houses, and between 2 and 3000 inhabitants; out of the most discreet and substantial of whom the charter directs, that the corporation, consisting of 12 aldermen and 12 burgesses, shall be chosen, in the following manner, viz. That when a vacancy happens in the court of aldermen, one of the 12 burgesses be elected to succeed him; and that his place be filled by taking a new burgess from among the inhabitants. In this corporation, consisting of 24 members, the right of electing the members of parliament for the town is vested. One who was an officer in the customs was disfranchised by a late act, and 17 only, at most, of the electors are resident.

THE following is a list of the members of the corporation.

ALDERMEN, 12.

1. The Mayor.
2. The Recorder. A master in chancery, and com-

commissioner of taxes; a place worth 500*l.* *per annum.*

3. An Apothecary in the town; not on the best terms with the mayor.

4. An Attorney; brother-in-law to the mayor, but not at present on his side.

5. Brother to the mayor; a commissioner of the lottery.

6. Has a Gunner's pay in one of the castles on the island.

7. A Clergyman; chaplain to the governor; a sinecure.

8. A Mercer in Newport.

9. Has a Gunner's pay.

10. The same.

11. Nephew to the mayor.

12. A Brewer in the town.

BURGESSES, 12.

1. A Land-surveyor in the Customs at Cowes.

2. A Captain in the Navy; married a niece of the recorder's.

3. A relation of the mayor's; captain in the South Hants militia.

4. A Carpenter.

5. An

5. An Innkeeper in the town.
6. A Taylor in ditto ; deputy-keeper under the mayor of the forest of Parkhurst, in the island.
7. Late a Schoolmaster in the town.
8. Has a Gunner's pay.
9. Captain of the Isle of Wight militia.
10. An Apothecary.
11. Son to the Alderman, No. 8.
12. Son-in-law to the Mayor, and Steward to the Governor of the Isle.

THE Aldermen, No. 1, 2, 5, & 11, and [the burgeses, No. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 12, do not at present live in Newport, nor did they, but for a few months previous to their several elections ; when by taking houses, and paying to the rates, they made themselves inhabitants, such as the charter describes, viz. the most discreet and substantial.

AN ANECDOTE

OCCURS in the history of this borough, which deserves to be recorded in characters of gold.— On the death of the late lord Holmes; a very powerful attempt was made by Sir Wm. Oglander, and some other neighbouring gentlemen, to deprive his lordship's nephew and successor, the present

present Rev. Mr. Troughear Holmes, of his influence over this corporation. The number of that body was at that time *twenty-three*, there being one vacancy amongst the aldermen, occasioned by the recent death of lord Holmes. Eleven of them continued firm to the interest of the nephew, and the same number was equally eager to transfer that interest to Sir Wm. Oglander and the Worsley family. A Mr. Taylor of this town, one of the burgeses, withheld his declaration, and as his vote would decide the balance of future influence, it was imagined that he only suspended it for the purpose of private advantage. Agreeable to that idea, he was eagerly fought by the agents of each party. The first who applied is said to have made him an offer of 2000*l*. Mr. Taylor had actually made up his mind to have voted with this party; but the moment his integrity and independence were attacked, he reversed his determination, and resolved to give his suffrage on the opposite side. That party, however, like their opponents, being ignorant of the favour designed them, and of the accident to which they owed it, assailed him with a more advantageous offer. He informed them that he had but just formed the resolution, in consequence

quence of a similar insult from their adversaries, of giving them his support; but since he had discovered that they were both aiming at power by the same means, he was determined to vote for neither of them: and to put himself out of the power of further temptation, he resolved to resign his gown as a burges of the corporation; which he accordingly did the next day.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. It is an ancient borough by prescription, and, as before spoken of in Yarmouth, sent 23d of Edward I. and did cease sending until 27 Eliz.

CORPORATION. Bye-charter of the 13th of Charles II. Newport is governed by a mayor, eleven aldermen, and twelve burgeses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—Is in the mayor, eleven aldermen, and twelve burgeses.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—24.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—Rev. Leonard Troughear Holmes.

WIN-

WINCHESTER.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. Although this city has above a thousand houses, its representation does not extend beyond the corporation, whose number is indefinite; but they seldom exceed fourscore, the majority of whom are non-resident. This ancient and opulent city may therefore be said to be represented by two members, chosen by fifty individuals collected from various parts of the country, whose only connection with the place is that of having obtained the name of *freemen*, from the *fiat* of the mayor and aldermen.

THE influence was formerly with the duke of Bolton; but for the last twenty years it has been assumed by the late duke of Chandos, and Henry Penton, Esq. letter-carrier to his majesty. Since the death of the duke of Chandos, his share of the influence has been directed by Mr. Leigh, of Stoneleigh, in Oxfordshire, who is the present high steward, and Mr. Penton the present recorder.

AN-

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This city is said to have been the metropolis of the British Belgæ, and is generally allowed to be the *Vente Belgarum* of the Romans; it was called by the Saxons Wintoncaſter, from the Britiſh name Gwent-caer, compounded of Gwen or Gwin, white, and Caer a city; a name it probably acquired from its ſituation among hills of chalk or whitish clay. This city had formerly thirty-two pariſh churches, of which only fix are now remaining. It is ſuppoſed by ſome to have been built 900 years before the Chriſtian æra, and the place where the Romans had afterwards looms to weave cloth for the emperors and their army; and king Athelſtone granted it the privileges of fix mints for the coinage of money. This city ſent to parliament *ab origine*.

CORPORATION. Here are, by queen Elizabeth's charter, a mayor, recorder, fix aldermen, two bailiffs, and twenty-four common councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. The members are elected by the corporation.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—60.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The Bailiffs.

PATRONS—Duchefs of Chandos and Henry Penton, Eſq.

POLITICAL ANECDOTE.

IN a pension list of Charles II. the following anecdote appears: Sir Robert Holmes, member for Winchester, first an Irish livery boy, then a highwayman, now bashaw of the Isle of Wight, got in boons, and by rapine, 100,000*l.*—The cursed beginner of the two Dutch wars.

ANDOVER.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The corporation of this town, like that of Christchurch, have assumed the exclusive privilege of election, but with much better pretensions than the latter, as they have the sanction of a resolution of the house of commons, of the 1st of April, 1689, and again confirmed the 28th of January, 1702. The corporation consists of twelve capital burgessees, from amongst whom, a bailiff and two other magistrates are annually chosen, and twelve assistant burgessees. They have also a high steward, recorder, and town clerk.

THE inhabitants of this town, who are numerous, there being upwards of six hundred
houses,

houses, have never submitted but with regret, and the strongest opposition, to the deprivation of their rights, which they had exercised till 1689, and were then disfranchised by one of those arbitrary resolutions of the house of commons, which brought their decisions into such general disrepute, as to give life to the Grenville act, which is a security to the country against future encroachments of the people's rights; but, alas! it does not remove from the journals those numerous resolutions of disfranchisement, which affect not only this town, but the towns of Banbury, Beaumaris, Bewdley, and above a hundred more, together with the popular cities of Bath, Salisbury, Winchester, &c. &c. &c. Had the acts of the tenth, eleventh, and twenty-eighth of George III. better known by the name of the Grenville acts, repealed, or caused to be expunged, all the resolutions of the house of commons, respecting the right of election in cities, towns corporate, boroughs, cinque-ports, &c. and then left the question of right open to a committee of the house of commons, constituted as that act directs, and subject to an appeal, as is enacted in the last mentioned statute, this intolerable griev-

ance might in time have been corrected, and the large and popular towns and cities, at least, have been restored to their natural and constitutional privileges.

THE political annihilation of cities and towns, such as Ely, Manchester, Leeds, &c. which formerly sent members to parliament, and the limitation of the right of franchise to the corporations of others, has reduced the constitution to a wreck, the representation to a form, the substance to a shadow; and it is now impossible to restore it to its essence, vigour, and purity, but by a radical, effectual and universal reform.

THE patrons of this corporation, who have the nomination of their members, are the earl of Portsmouth, their high steward, and Joshua Iremonger, of Wharewel, Esq.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This borough derives its name from being situated on a small river called the Ande; it having sent burgeses to all the parliaments of Edward I. and also 1 Edward II. and ceased sending until 27 Elizabeth.

COR-

CORPORATION. This town, it is said, had its first charter from king John, but was last incorporated by queen Elizabeth, and is governed by a bailiff, a steward, a recorder, two justices, nine capital burgeses, and twelve assistants, who annually choose the bailiff, and the bailiff appoints two serjeants at mace to attend him.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. In the bailiff and select number of burgeses *only*, 1st April, 1689.

Jan. 28, 1702, Resolved, That the right of election of burgeses to serve in parliament for the borough of Andover, in the county of Southampton, is in the bailiff, and select number of burgeses only,

March 7, 1727, Resolved, That the approved men and burgeses of the borough of Andover (in com. Southampton), who have petitioned this house, complaining of an undue election and return for the said borough, and that their votes were refused by the bailiff, be at liberty to withdraw the said petition,

NUMBER OF VOTERS—24.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Bailiff.

PATRONS—Earl of Portsmouth and Joshua Iremonger, Esq.

BRIBERY.

BRIBERY.

March 17, Resolved, That the electors of the borough of Andover (in com. Southampton), have endeavoured corruptly to set to sale the election of a burgesſs to ſerve in this parliament for the ſaid borough.

Resolved, That the lending of money, upon any ſecurity, to a corporation which ſend members to parliament, and remitting the intereſt of the ſame with intent to influence the election of ſuch corporation, is an unlawful and dangerous practice.

WHITCHURCH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough is the joint property of lord viſcount Sydney and lord viſcount Middleton, of the kingdom of Ireland; the freeholds which give the right of voting, being conveyed by thoſe noblemen to their reſpective friends, for the purpoſe of performing the ceremonies of an election. The number of freeholds are about ſeventy, but the actual number of electors cannot be ſaid to be more than two,

ANCIENT

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This is a borough by prescription, and first sent members to parliament the 27th of Elizabeth.

CORPORATION—None. Here is, however, a titular mayor, annually chosen at a court-leet of the dean and chapter of Winchester, who are lords of the manor.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. *Dec. 21, 1708. Resolved,* That the right of electing burgeses to serve in parliament for the borough of Whitechurch, in the county of Southampton, is in the freeholders only of lands and tenements, in right of themselves or their wives, not split since the act of the seventh and eighth years of the reign of king William.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—70.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRONS—Lord Sidney and Lord Viscount Middleton.

PETERSFIELD.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this borough being in the freeholders of lands, or ancient dwelling-houses or shambles,
built

built upon ancient foundations within the said borough, being all the property of W. Jolliffe, Esq. the nomination of the members is solely in himself.—This gentleman's political character is too well known to need any animadversion from us.

ANCIENT REPRESENTATION. This borough first sent members to parliament 35 of Edw. I. but made no other return until the time of Edward VI.

CORPORATION. This town was incorporated by queen Elizabeth, and governed by a mayor and commonalty. Yet it has given up all its privileges to the family of the Hamborrows, now descended to Mr. Jolliffe, who is lord of the manor, and at whose court the mayor is now annually chosen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. *May 9, 1727.* Mr. Gibbon (according to order) reported from the committee,

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the right of election of burgeses to serve in parliament for the borough of Petersfield,

field, in the county of Southampton, is in the freeholders of lands, or ancient dwelling-houses or shambles, or dwelling-houses or shambles, built upon ancient foundations within the said borough.—Agreed to by the house.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—154.

RETURNING OFFICER—The titular Mayor.

PATRON—William Jolliffe, Esq.

CASE OF BRIBERY.

ON Thursday the 16th of November, the committee being met, the petition of Mr. Luttrell was read, the entry of which in the journals is verbatim, as follows :

Oct. 31, 1775. A petition of the Hon. John Luttrell was read, setting forth, that at the last election of members to serve in parliament, for the borough of Petersfield, Sir Abraham Hume, Baronet, high sheriff for the county of Hereford, William Jolliffe, Esq. and the petitioner, were candidates, and that the said Sir Abraham Hume and William Jolliffe, by themselves and their agents, after the dissolution of the last parliament, and the issuing of the writ for the election, and previous to and during the poll, by themselves

selves and their agents, and by other ways and means, on the behalf, and at the charge of the said Sir Abraham Hume and William Jolliffe, did give, present, and allow to the electors of the said borough, and to several persons who had or claimed a right to vote in the election for the said borough, money, meat, drink, reward, entertainments, and provision, in order to procure themselves to be elected for the said borough, in open defiance of the law; and that the said Sir Abraham Hume and William Jolliffe, previous to, and during the poll, were guilty of bribery and corruption, and attempting to bribe and corrupt those who had a right to vote in the said election, in order to procure themselves to be returned as persons duly elected; and that James Showell, pretending to be the mayor of the said borough, acted partially and unfairly in the execution of his office, as a returning officer, during the said poll, in rejecting good votes for the petitioner, and admitting bad ones for the said Sir Abraham Hume and William Jolliffe, and in many other respects; and that, by the said and other undue means, the said Sir Abraham Hume and William Jolliffe obtained a majority of votes on the poll, and
were

were returned accordingly to serve in parliament for the said borough, in prejudice of the petitioner (who was duly elected, and ought to have been returned), and the legal electors of the said borough, and in open defiance of the law and freedom of elections; and therefore praying the house to take the premises into consideration, and to grant him such relief therein as shall, upon examination, appear to be just.

THE counsel for the petitioner opened the case, by objecting to Sir Abraham Hume, that being high sheriff for the county of Hertford at the time of the election, he was ineligible; and that notice thereof having been given to the returning officer and to the electors, the votes given to him were thrown away:

To both the sitting members, That they had been guilty of corrupting the voters by gifts and promises, after the vacancy and issuing out of the writ, by which means the election of them was void by virtue of the statute of king William*.

* 7 William III. c. 4.

AFTER

AFTER some conversation, between the counsel of both parties on the above subject, the committee

Resolved, That the counsel be not permitted to argue the point of the ineligibility of Sir Abraham Hume as high sheriff of the county of Hertford, the same ineligibility not being an allegation in the petition.

THE counsel for the petitioner then called three or four witnesses, to prove that gifts and promises had been made by Mr. Jolliffe, in the presence, and with the concurrence of the other sitting member. In their opening, they did not allege that they could on this ground bring the majority of votes against either of the sitting members to be in favour of Mr. Luttrell; the object, therefore, of the evidence, was to make the election void as to one or both. In the course of this evidence one John Newman was called, to prove a declaration made to him by one John Blackstone, a voter, about having the promise of a house from Mr. Jolliffe for his vote.

ON the part of the sitting members this evidence was objected to.

IT was said, that although the declaration (not upon oath) of a person who cannot be obliged to be a witness on the subject himself, is admissible in evidence to affect such person, yet it is not admissible as against a third party; and that as the counsel for the petitioner had not said that they meant to disqualify voters, but only to affect the sitting members personally by promises, gifts, &c. which they had made, the evidence would not be admitted for that purpose.

IT was answered by the counsel for the petitioner, that they were not obliged to anticipate the intent and purpose of the evidence they produced; that what they now offered, was certainly competent in an election cause; and that the committee, after they should hear it, would judge to what use it ought to be applied.

THE committee, after deliberation,

Resolved, That the evidence offered could not be admitted in support of any charge against Sir Abraham Hume or Mr. Jolliffe.

THE

THE counsel for the petitioner then said, they would ask the same questions with a view to disqualify Brackstone;

Which they were allowed to do.

ON Thursday the 16th of November, being the same day on which the cause was heard, the committee, by the chairman, informed the house that they had determined,

THAT the two fitting members were duly elected.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THE aristocratic influence which prevails in this county, is that of the earl of Oxford, who sends one of the members to parliament. James Walwyn, Esq. one of the members for the city of Hereford, in conjunction with Sir George Cornwall, Bart. nobly attempted, in the year 1775, to get the better of that interest; but they were

were successful only in part: Sir George Cornwall was elected by the independent interest, and Mr. Harley by the influence of the earl of Oxford.

ANCIENT STATE. This county received its name from the city of Hereford; in the time of the Romans, this county, Radnorshire, Brecknockshire, Monmouthshire, and Glamorganshire, were inhabited by the Salures, a stout, bold, and warlike people, who long opposed the Roman power under Caractacus their king, being made desperate by Claudius, declaring they should be totally exterminated. They were, however, at length defeated by Aulus Plautius, and had their king Caractacus taken and sent to Rome, where he was led in triumph. But they were not entirely subdued until the reign of Vespasian, when a Roman legion being placed among them prevented a revolt.

THIS county continued under the jurisdiction of the Britons for several centuries, after the Saxons established themselves in this island; but at last, after they had settled their seven kingdoms, it was subdued by a king of Mercia, who annexed

annexed it to his own dominions. It was afterwards harassed by the Welsh, on whose country it borders; on which account Offa, king of Mercia, thought it necessary to make a broad ditch, 100 miles long, called Offa's dyke, in order to divide it from Wales; some traces of which are still visible. The county was also fortified with no less than twenty-eight castles; the greatest part of which are now entirely demolished. However, all these precautions did not hinder the Welsh from making inroads, particularly in 1056, ten years before the reign of William I. Griffin, king of South-Wales, invaded this county, and defeated the English two miles from Hereford. The Normans however soon conquered it, for they obtained possession of it almost immediately after the conquest.

WITH respect to the division of Herefordshire, it contains eleven hundreds, in which are one city, and seven market towns, viz. the city of Hereford, Bromyard, Leominster, Ledbury, Kington, Pembridge, Weobley, and Ross. It is in the province of Canterbury and diocese of Hereford, and includes 176 parishes, 15,000 houses,

houses, and 95,600 inhabitants. It sends eight members to parliament, two for the county, two for the city of Hereford, two for the borough of Leominster, and two for that of Weobley.

HEREFORD.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city, like the county, is divided between aristocracy and independence.---The duke of Norfolk's interest returns one member, and the independent part the other. The influence which the duke has in this borough, arises from his marriage with the heiress of the Scudamore family, (by whom his Grace is put into the possession of an estate of ten thousand pounds *per annum*, and Holme Lacey, the ancient family seat near this city) and from that popularity to which his eminent talents and affable manners so justly entitle him.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. The name of this city is purely Saxon, signifying the ford of an army, which perfectly agrees with its situation; it standing on the Wye, which falls

into the Severn, and forms part of the barrier between England and Wales. As the two nations were almost constantly at war with each other, this town was generally the head-quarters of such Saxon or English forces as were stationed in the country; and here both armies probably forded the river when they passed out of England into Wales, or out of Wales into England. Some, however, have supposed the name of Hereford to have been derived from Ercinna, the ancient British name of the county, and others have imagined that both the British and Saxon names were derived from Ariconium, an ancient town near this place, mentioned by Antoninus, which is said to have been destroyed by an earthquake; and Hereford to have been built in its room.

It is likewise thought to have been founded by king Edward the elder, though others suppose that it arose about the time when the Saxon heptarchy was at its height, and first became considerable, about the year 825, on account of a church built here by Milfred, king of the Mercians, to the memory of Ethelbert, king of the East Angles, who was murdered by the queen
of

of king Offa, while courting her daughter. This church soon after became a cathedral, and Hereford was made the see of a bishop; but in the reign of Edward the Confessor, Griffin, Prince of Wales, sacked the city, destroyed the cathedral, and carried the bishop away prisoner. Hence this city was, at the Norman invasion, in ruins, and there were not above one hundred and three men within the city and suburbs; the conqueror, however, rebuilt both the city and cathedral, and also erected a castle, which, though now in ruins, Leland says, was in his time the fairest, largest, and strongest in England. This city has sent members to parliament, *ab origine*.

CORPORATION. Consists of a mayor and twelve aldermen, a high steward, a deputy steward, a recorder, and town clerk, with 31 common councilmen, among whom are reckoned the mayor and 5 of the aldermen, by charter of 17 James I.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—In the Freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—Above 1200.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—Duke of Norfolk, partially.

LEOMINSTER.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough, during the lifetime of Chafe Price, Esq. of convivial memory, was entirely under his influence and management.---He always contrived to get himself, and a colleague in the interest of government, returned, from whom he procured not only a large douceur for himself, but also a few trifling gratuities from administration, for those who were the most zealous in his cause. After his decease, Lord Bateman, who has been the adherent of every administration, became the patron and manager of this borough, in which character he continued until the eve of the last general election, when the duke of Norfolk first attempted the establishment of an interest. Under his auspices Richard Beckford, Esq. was introduced.

THE corporation magistrates having the appointment in themselves of the overseers, took care that that office should be filled with their own creatures, and those men thus appointed, refused, as in the borough of Seaford, to rate
any

any inhabitant who was adverse to their own party. The persons who had been thus treated, appealed to that tribunal which had been the primary cause of an attempt to deprive them of their votes, and they of course could meet with no redress. They however derived, from this appeal, the privilege of proving their rateability to a committee of the house of commons, who have, upon the petition of Mr. Beckford, admitted every person, so omitted by the overseers, to the full enjoyment of their political franchise. But unless there be a law, prohibiting the magistrates and overseers from acting in this scandalous and partial manner, or committees of the house of commons will inflict exemplary punishments, the evil will not be done away, and those unfortunate men, whose interests or inclinations may induce them to clash with those of the magistrates, will still be left without any mode of redress, except that of petitioning the the house of commons.

THE numbers upon the poll at the last election were, for

John Hunter, Esq.	303
John Sawyer, Esq.	247
Richard Beckford, Esq.	235

AN-

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This town is said to have been originally called *Monasterium Leonius*, from a monastery built by king Mulvald, after he had seen a lion in a vision; others, however, suppose its present name to be a corruption of *Llan Lien*, which they say is received from the ancient Britons, in whose language it signifies a church of Nuns. Others again derive *Lemster* from *Linum*, the Latin name of flax, the country about it producing the best kind of that valuable plant. This borough sent members to parliament 23 Edward I.

CORPORATION. This town was incorporated by queen Mary, and is governed by a high steward, a bailiff, a recorder, and twelve capital burgessees, who choose a bailiff and a town clerk.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

March 4, 1716. A petition of divers of the inhabitants of the borough of Leominster, in the county of Hereford, was presented to the house and read, complaining of an undue election for the said borough. And a motion being made, and the question being put, that the said petition be referred to the committee of privileges and elections, and that they do examine the matter thereof,

thereof, and report the same with their opinion thereupon to the house,

It passed in the negative.

Resolved, That the said petition be rejected.

April 6, 1717. A petition of the inhabitants and burgesſes of the borough of Leominſter, in the county of Hereford, who have a right of voting for electing members to ſerve in parliament for the ſaid borough, was preſented to the houſe and read, complaining of an undue election and return for the ſaid borough.

Ordered, That the ſaid petition be referred to the conſideration of the committee of privileges and elections, and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the ſame, with their opinion thereupon, to the houſe.

April 16, 1725. *Resolved*, That the right of election is in the bailiffs, capital burgesſes, and inhabitants, paying ſcot and lot.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 500.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The Bailiffs.

PATRON—Duke of Norfolk.

WEO-

WEOBLEY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this borough being very singular "in the inhabitants of the ancient vote-houses of 20*s.* *per annum* value and upwards, residing in the said houses forty days before the days of election, and paying scot and lot; and also in the owners of such ancient vote-houses, paying scot and lot, who shall be resident in such houses at the time of election," hath given rise to very expensive contests. The marquis of Bath, then lord Weymouth, and the parish officers in his interest, refused to rate any persons who presumed to oppose his lordship's nomination; upon which the aggrieved persons applied to the court of king's bench, for a *mandamus* to oblige the parish officers to put them in the poor rates; when the court came to the following very extraordinary decision, 19 George II. "The court refused to grant a *mandamus* directing to insert particular persons in the poor rate, upon affidavits of their sufficiency, and being left out, to prevent their having votes for parliamentary men; for that
the

the remedy was by appeal; and this court never went further, than to oblige the making the rate without meddling with the question, who is to be put in or left out, of which the parish officers are the proper judges, subject to an appeal. The above nobleman has, however, to avoid all future expences since that time, bought up all the ancient vote-houses, so that this borough is now entirely at his own disposal.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This is an ancient borough by prescription; after it had returned to all Edward I's. seven parliaments, it discontinued sending until it was restored, 15 Charles I. 1640, by the order from the house of commons,

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

March 3, 1736, Resolved, That the right of election of burgeses for the borough of Weobley, in the county of Hereford, is in the inhabitants of the ancient vote-houses of twenty shillings *per annum* value, and upwards, residing in the said houses forty days before the day of election, and paying scot and lot; and also in the owners of such ancient vote-houses paying scot and lot,
who

who shall be resident in such houses at the time of the election.

June 18, 1715. The question being put, that Simon Gough and John Moor, having signed the indenture of return, by which Charles Cornwall, Esq. is returned a burgesſ to ſerve in this preſent parliament for the borough of Weobley, in the county of Hereford, the houſe will proceed on the petition of the ſaid Simon Gough and John Moor, complaining of an undue election of the ſaid Charles Cornwall, Esq.

It paſſed in the negative.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 45.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The Conſtables.

PATRON—Marquis of Bath.

IN a penſion liſt publiſhed in the reign of Charles the Second, there appears the following inſtance of court corruption :

SIR Thomas Williams, king's chemiſt (and member for Weobley), has got 40,000l. by making provocatives, &c. &c.!!!

HERT.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS county has the singular advantage of maintaining its independence, which it has neglected no opportunity of exerting, when its own dignity, or the interests of the country demanded a display of it. A noble instance of attachment to the cause of liberty, and to those who had the zeal and integrity to support it, occurs in their conduct to Mr. Cæsar. This gentleman had uniformly opposed the despotic measures of Sir Robert Walpole, and having deranged his private fortune, was arrested and imprisoned for debt in the King's Bench, immediately upon the dissolution of parliament. The day of election, however, no sooner arrived, than the independent freeholders repaired to Hertford in bodies, and at their own expence, proposed Mr. Cæsar, and elected him by a great majority. An express was instantly dispatched to release him from his confinement; and he was the next day restored to his liberty, and to the service and affections of his

his patriotic constituents. An attempt was made, at the last election, to introduce Mr. Hale to the representation of the county, under the patronage of the marquis of Salisbury and lord viscount Grimstone, but with very little success. The numbers upon the poll being, for

William Plumer, Esq.	1831
William Baker, Esq.	1302
William Hale, Esq.	1031

ANCIENT STATE. This is an inland county, extending thirty-three miles in length from east to west; about thirty miles in breadth from north to south; and one hundred and thirty miles in circumference.

IN the time of the Romans, this county was partly inhabited by the Trinobantes, partly by the Cattieuchlani, and partly by the Cassii, a people from whom the district, at present called Caisho Hundred, in the south-west division of the county, derives its name, and through it passed three military ways. During the Saxon heptarchy, the Mercians, East Saxons, and kings of Kent, divided it amongst them, and did all in their power to destroy every vestige of antiquity,
that

that future ages might be unable to discover that this county had been possessed by any other nation; yet, notwithstanding this, there are still here several remains of antiquity. When heptarchy was reduced to one kingdom by king Egbert, who was the first English monarch, he divided the whole nation into thirty-five counties, and called this Hertfordshire, from Hertford, its principal town. After the Danes had ravaged England, king Alfred found it necessary to divide the counties into hundreds, and ordered that they should keep continual watch and ward to prevent robberies; and if any robbery was committed by day-light, the hundred was appointed to pay it; which custom is continued to this day.

HERTFORD TOWN.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this borough differing with all others, it being in the inhabitants householders, the freemen resident, and in the freemen *non-resident*, but the last description must not exceed the number *three*, it becomes necessary to remark these singularities, because they point out an incurable defect in the present system of parliamentary representation.

presentation. What constitutes a good vote in one borough, makes a bad one in another. In one place the freemen must be resident, in another, non-residence gives the same qualification. In one borough, a man obtains his freedom by marriage; in a second, by birth; in a third, by servitude; in a fourth, by purchase; in a fifth, by gift of the mayor or aldermen. Burgage-holds differ as widely in the nature of their tenure; and even inhabitants are defined as variously. In one borough, paying scot and lot, and being a resident housekeeper, is an indispensable qualification; in another, paying scot and lot without residence, or being a housekeeper, constitutes eligibility for voting; in a third, residence, without paying scot and lot, or keeping a house. In short, the whole representative system is so intricate, inexplicable, contradictory, and ridiculous, that we believe it would puzzle the whole tribe of quibblers in Westminster-hall to render it more confused and unintelligible.

BARON Dimisdale possesses the principal interest in this borough, and can secure the election of one member; the other is generally contested between Mr. Baker, the member for the county,

and Mr. John Calvert, the present member for this town, who have been alternately successful,

ANCIENT STATE. Hertford was called by the ancient Britons *Durocobriacæ*, or Red Ford, from the supposition, that the gravel at the ford over the Lea was red ; whence some have thought the present name derived from the Saxon Herudford, or Herotford, which has the same signification ; but Dr. Gibson derives Hartford from a hart, this county formerly abounding with deer ; and the arms of the town being a hart couchant in the water, seems to confirm the opinion ; besides, the soil in this part of the county is not red ; for these reasons, some choose to write the name Hartford. It is pleasantly seated in a sweet air and dry vale, twenty-three miles from London, and was of some note in the time of the ancient Britons. The Saxon kings often kept their court here ; and upon the first division of the kingdom into counties, it was made the county-town. King Alfred built a castle to defend the town and neighbourhood against the Danes, who in their light pinnaces came up from the Thames, by the river Lea, as far as Ware, and there erected a fort, whence they made frequent sallies to plunder
der

der and destroy the country. The manor of Hertford being vested in king Edward the Elder, he built a borough, and fortified it with a wall of turf, for the defence of his tenants. The manor continued vested in the king but the bailiff, under-bailiff, and other officers, were annually chosen by the burgeses of the town; the bailiff was allowed by the king twenty shillings a year for a livery gown, and the porter of the castle was nominated by the king, who paid him two-pence a day: the burgeses chose a steward to keep courts for the borough, where rents were paid, controversies determined, wills proved, bye-laws made, offenders punished, and fines assessed; and the governors of the castle were usually the sheriffs of Hertfordshire and Essex. This town sent members to parliament in the reign of king Edw. I. but after the 7th of Hen. V. the bailiff and burgeses, desiring to be excused on account of their poverty, this was discontinued till the 22d of James I. In the reign of Hen. VII. the standard of weights and measures was fixed here; and queen Mary rendered this a corporation, by the name of bailiffs and sixteen burgeses. In the 25th and 35th years of queen Elizabeth, when the plague raged in London,

Mi-

Michaelmas term was kept here, and a new charter was granted by that queen, by the style of a bailiff, eleven capital burgesſes, and ſixteen aſſiſtants. King James I. granted the town another charter, with the ſtyle of the mayor, burgesſes, and commonalty, to have ten capital burgesſes, and ſixteen aſſiſtants; the mayor to be choſen out of the burgesſes, by both the burgesſes and aſſiſtants; but the town is now governed by a mayor, a high ſteward, who is generally a nobleman, a recorder, nine aldermen, a town-clerk, a chamberlain, ten capital burgesſes, ſixteen aſſiſtants, and two ſerjeants at mace.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

1701, *Jan. 27.* Is not in ſuch perſons only as are inhabitants houſeholders, not receiving alms, and in ſuch freemen who, at the time of their freedom granted to them, were inhabitants of the ſaid borough, or of the pariſhes thereof.

Is in all the freemen, and alſo in all the inhabitants, being houſeholders, and not receiving alms.

1705, *Dec. 5.* Is in the inhabitants not receiving alms, and in ſuch freemen only as, at the

Vo I .

K

time

time of their being made free, were inhabitants of the said borough; or the parishes thereof; the number of freemen living out of the borough not exceeding three persons.

THE number of voters may be ascertained from the last poll, 1790, viz.

John Calvert, Esq.	319
Baron Dimsdale,	290
William Baker, Esq.	223

NUMBER OF VOTERS, 570.

RETURNING OFFICER. The Mayor.

PATRON—Baron Dimsdale.

ST. ALBANS.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The influence in this borough is divided between the marquis of Salisbury and earl Spencer, each of whom returns one member to parliament. These two noblemen have long contended for the superiority, but neither of them has as yet an interest sufficient to obtain a majority over the other.

ANCIENT CONSTITUTION. This town received its name from an abbey built there in the

the year 703, to the memory of Albanus, the first martyr of Britain, who suffered in the persecution under the emperor Dioclesian, and was canonized as a saint. It is generally considered as having risen out of the ruins of the ancient Verulam, which was seated on the other side of the river Ver. When Julius Cæsar invaded this island, Verulam was a large and populous city; but there are no other remains of it but the ruins of walls, some tessellated pavements, and Roman coins, which, from time to time, have been discovered by digging. It was seated on a gentle descent on the Western side of the hill, fortified with a mud wall and ditch, and encompassed with woods and marshes. The inhabitants enjoyed the same rights and privileges as the Roman citizens, and this so firmly united them to the Romans, that Boadicea, considering them as enemies, razed the city, and made a most dreadful slaughter of the Romans and their allies; but Suetonius Paulinus, lieutenant of Britain, returning from the conquest of the Isle of Man, with the fourteen legions and 10,000 auxiliaries, immediately attacked the Britons, gained a complete victory, and put 80,000 to the sword. After this, the city was

rebuilt, and the Britons lived very quietly under the Roman government till the year 304, when Dioclesian began to persecute the Christians. At length, when the Saxons had gained a footing here, they conquered this Roman city and called it Werlamcaester, and Watlingacester, from the famous Roman highway, called Watling-street, on which it stands.

One part of the ditch at Verulam is still visible, it is double, but irregularly formed. The streets likewise may still be traced, especially when the corn is nearly ripe. The composition of the Roman wall was three feet of layers of flints, and one foot made up of three courses of Roman brick; and there were round holes quite through the wall, about eight yards distant from each other. That part of the wall by the West gate, called Gorham Block is twelve feet thick. It would be endless to recount all the antiquities that have been dug up at Verulam; several mosaic pavements have been seen, and one in particular was found in 1719.

THOUGH this town is far from being remarkable for the beauty and elegance of its buildings,
the

7
the country round it, being extremely pleasant, abounds with fine seats. The town is both large and populous, and has four parish churches, St. Alban's, St. Peter's, St. Stephen's, and St. Michael's, besides several meeting-houses. St. Alban's was the abbey church founded by Offa, king of the Mercians, in the year 793, on the spot where St. Alban was martyred. King Offa afterwards caused several houses to be built near this abbey for the reception of strangers and travellers, as well as for the use of the servants and officers belonging to it; so that, in the process of time it increased to a town. In the year 1154, Nicholas, bishop of Abba, who was born near this monastery, being chosen pope, assumed the name of Adrian IV. and granted many privileges to this abbey, causing the abbot to be the first in England, both in order and dignity. At the time of the dissolution, this abbey was valued at 2102l. a year by Dugdale, but at 2510l. by Speed. The inhabitants then purchased that part of it which is still standing, and converted it into a parish church. It is at present a large pile of building, that may justly claim a particular

re-

regard both for its antiquity and beauty. In this ancient edifice is a funeral monument and effigies of king Offa, its founder, seated on his throne. On the east side stood the shrine of St. Alban, and in the south aisle, near the above shrine, is the monument of Humphrey, brother to king Henry V. commonly distinguished by the title of the Good Duke of Gloucester. It is adorned with a ducal coronet and the arms of France and England quartered. In niches on one side are seventeen kings, but in the niches on the other there are no statues remaining.

ABOUT fifty years ago, was discovered, in digging a grave, a pair of stairs that led down into a vault, in which was found a leaden coffin, wherein the duke of Gloucester's corpse was preserved almost entire, by a kind of pickle in which it lay; only the flesh was wasted from the legs, the pickle at that end of the coffin being dried up. In this church was a very noble font of solid brass, given by Sir Richard Lea, master of the pioneers, who took it, among other plunder, out of Scotland, in the year 1543, where it served as a font for baptizing the children

children of the royal family, but was placed here as a common baptistry. It was, however, carried away in the civil wars in the reign of king Charles I. and converted into money.

ST. PETER'S church is situated on the north side of the town, and St. Michael's on the north-west; and both of them are handsome structures. In the latter, among other monuments, is one in memory of the famous Francis Bacon, lord Verulam, with his effigy in alabaster, seated in an elbow chair.

IN the middle of the town of St. Alban's, king Edward I. erected a very stately cross in memory of Queen Eleanor, who, dying in Lincolnshire, was carried through this town to Westminster, in order to be interred there. Here are two charity schools, one for twenty-eight boys, who are clothed, the other for twenty-one girls, of whom fourteen only are clothed. This town gives the title of Duke to the noble family of Beauclerk. The great duke of Marlborough erected a seat here, called Holloway house; and several alms-houses were built here by him and his duchess Dowager, who caused a fine
statue

statue of the late queen Anne, carved by Mr. Ryfbrack, to be erected, on the pedestal of which she inscribed a character of her majesty.

CORPORATION.—This town sent members to parliament as early as any borough in the kingdom. It is incorporated by charter, and governed by a mayor, high steward, recorder, twelve aldermen, a town clerk, and twenty-four assistants. This borough has a district, called a liberty, which has a jurisdiction both in civil and ecclesiastical matters peculiar to itself, including the parishes of Barnet, Sandridge, Redburne, Cudicot, Shepehele, Bushy, Elstree, Langley Abbot, Sarret, Walden Abbots, Hoxton, Ridge, Norton, Rickmansworth, and Watford. This liberty has a gaol, and a gaol delivery, at St. Alban's four times a year, on the Thursday after the quarter session at Hertford. St. Albans is divided into four wards, in each of which is a constable and two churchwardens.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1700, 10th *March*,
Is in the mayor, aldermen, and freemen, and
such householders only as pay scot and lot.

1705,

1705, 24th, *Nov.* In the mayor, aldermen, such freemen only as have right, by birth or service, or by redemption, to trade or inhabit in the said borough, and householders paying scot and lot.

1714, 27th *April.* In the mayor, aldermen, and freemen, and such householders only as pay scot and lot.

Number of voters may be ascertained from the last poll, 1790.

For the Hon. Richard Bingham	263
John Calvert, Jun. Esq.	209
Thomas Clutterbuck, Esq.	117

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRONS—Marquis of Salisbury and earl Spencer.

HUNTING-

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS small county is as much under the influence of two individuals as any borough in the kingdom; the duke of Manchester and the earl of Sandwich united, always return the two members, and so powerful was this aristocratic junction, that even the opposition of the late Sir Robert Bernard, who was the particular friend of Mr. Wilkes, in his days of well-earned popularity and the cause of liberty, was not crowned with that success which it so highly merited.

ANCIENT STATE. In the time of the Romans, this county was part of the district inhabited by the Iceni, who also extended their dominion over the counties of Suffex, Norfolk, and Cambridgeshire. However, under the Saxons, Huntingdonshire was separated from that tract of the country formerly possessed by the Iceni, and became part of the kingdom of Mercia. Mr. Camden informs us, that he found in an ancient survey,

·urvey, that this county was a forest until the reign of Henry II. but be that as it may, it is certain that it was greatly ravaged by the Danes, who caused it to be deserted by many of its distinguished families. It, therefore, became considerably diminished in its inhabitants.

It is remarkable, that this county and Cambridgehire are united under one civil administration; there being but one high sheriff for both, who is chosen one year out of Cambridgehire, in general, the second out of the Isle of Ely, and the third out of this county.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE lies in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Lincoln. It is divided into four hundreds, in which are six market towns, but no city, and seventy-nine parishes, in which are said to be contained only about 8200 houses, and 49,320 inhabitants. It sends but four members to parliament; two knights of the shire for the county, and two for the town of Huntingdon.

QUALIFICATION.

Jan. 14, 1739. On a hearing for the county of Huntingdon, the counsel for the petitioner, insisted

insisted that the sitting member (Mr. Clarke) was not qualified to be elected, according to the act made in the ninth year of the reign of queen Anne, entitled, *An act for securing the freedom of parliaments by the further qualifying the members to sit in the house of commons.*

THEN the counsel for the petitioner, in support of one of their objections, offered to prove (which the counsel for the sitting member admitted), that the copyhold lands and tenements at Hammermith, in the parish of Fulham, in the county of Middlesex, which the sitting member, in the rental, or particular, by him delivered in to the clerk of the house (pursuant to the standing order of this house made for that purpose), claims in fee, according to the custom of the manor of Fulham, under a mortgage surrender, and an admission thereto, and a release of the equity of redemption from this mortgage, wec subject to a subsequent mortgage made by the said mortgager, previous to the debt of the said release of the equity of redemption.

THEN the counsel for the petitioner, having objected to the consideration given for the estate,
which

which the fitting member in the said rental or particular, claims for his natural life by deed of feoffment, and livery and seizin thereon, given by John Clarke, of Huntingdon, Gent. they offered to prove (which the counsel for the fitting member admitted), that the said estate was all the real estate, except about three pounds *per annum*, which the said John Clarke, the grantor, was seised of at the time of the date of the said deed.

THEN the counsel for the petitioner having objected to the annuity of 200l. which the fitting member in the said rental or particular, claims for life, by grant from Charles Bernard, Esq. they offered to prove (which the counsel for the fitting member admitted), that the estate charged with the said annuity, does not exceed the yearly value of 132l.

THEN the counsel for the petitioner having objected, that the fitting member, in the oath by him taken at the time of his election, pursuant to the direction of the said act of the 9th of Anne, did not particularly enumerate all the several parishes out of which the fee-farm rents, mentioned in the said particular, are issuing.

THE

THE instrument of the said oath, subscribed by the fitting member, was produced by the sheriff, who took the same, and read.

AND the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth sections of the said act, made in the 9th of Anne, were read,

AND the counsel for the fitting member were heard; and one of the counsel for the petitioner was heard in reply.

And the counsel on both sides were directed to withdraw.

MR. Clarke was heard in his place, and then he withdrew.

Resolved, That Charles Clarke, Esq. is duly elected a knight of the shire, to serve in this present parliament for the county of Huntingdon.

HUNTINGDON.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. There is no resolution of the house of commons respecting the
right

right of voting in this borough, but it is generally understood to be in the freemen and inhabitants householders paying scot, and lot. The interest of the earl of Sandwich is so powerful, as always to return two members; and this he effects, not by weight of property, for his lordship has but one house in the whole town, but by his popularity, and the obligations which he was enabled to confer upon some of his principal friends during his connection with lord North's administration.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This town derived its name from the Saxon *Huntandune*, or Hunters-down, from the conveniency of its district for hunting. It was built on a spot that was an entire forest, until it was disforested by Hen. II. Hen. III. and Edw. I. who left no more of the forest than his own land. It had once fifteen churches, which in Camden's time were reduced to four. It has now only two, besides several meeting-houses. This town sent to parliament, *ab origine*, and was made a borough by king John, 1206.

COR-

CORPORATION. John granted to this town by charter, a coroner, a recorder, a town-clerk, and two bailiffs: but Charles I. made it a mayortown, *anno regni* 6, 1630. It has had, therefore, ever since, a mayor, recorder, and twelve aldermen and burgeses. The assizes are always held here, and in this town is the county gaol.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. Is in the inhabitants and freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—200.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—The earl of Sandwich.

KENT.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS opulent and flourishing county has the happiness of maintaining its independence. The duke of Dorset possesses the first individual interest, but the nobility and gentry are too numerous to suffer it to gain an ascendancy.
The

The dock yards of Deptford, Woolwich, Chatham, and Sheerness, aided by the ecclesiastical influence of the clergy of the two cathedrals of Rochester and Canterbury, give the government a most powerful controul in the election; and united to that of the duke of Dorset, and the other connections of the minister in this county, were successful in 1790 in bringing in Sir Edward Knatchbull; but this was owing more to the want of a junction of interests between Mr. Honeywood and the Hon. Mr. Marsham, the independent candidates, than to the weight of all this influence united.

THIS county is chiefly indebted for the independence which it possesses, to that noble relique of Saxon institution, the gavel-law, by which all the sons in equal shares are partakers of the father's fortune.

A SIMILAR law prevails in France, under the new constitution, but with this distinction, that the daughters as well as the sons are inheritors in an equal degree. The French have certainly, in this instance, with great justice and liberality,

peculiar to themselves, much improved upon this equitable system of our Saxon progenitors.

THE special customs incident to Gavel-kind in Kent are :

THAT the husband, after his wife's death, enjoys a moiety of her inheritance in gavel-kind by courtesy, whether he has children by her or not, until he marries again.

THE wife, after the death of her husband has, for her dower, a moiety of his lands in gavel-kind, for so long time as she shall continue unmarried, and in chastity.

THE tenant of gavel-kind lands is kept in ward one year longer than is permitted by the common law, that is, till he is fifteen years of age, at which time he is of sufficient age to alien his estate by feoffment.

LANDS in gavel-kind, if the tenant commits felony, and submits to the judgment of the law, are not forfeited; nor do they escheat to the king, or other lord of whom they are holden;
nor

nor has the king year, day, and waste of lands in gavel-kind; holden of a common person, when the tenant is executed for felony.

THE tenant had a power of devising lands by will, before the statute for that purpose was made, in the 32d year of king Hen. VIII.

LANDS in gavel-kind descend to all the sons alike in equal portions; and if there are no sons, then equally among the daughters; and as to the chattels, it was formerly part of the custom of this county to divide them after the funeral, and the debts of the deceased were discharged, into three parts if he left any lawful issue behind him; of which three, one portion was to the dead for the performance of legacies; another to his children for education; and a third to the wife for her support and maintenance.

FURTHERMORE, if the tenant of gavel-kind lands withdraws from his lord his due rents and services, the custom of this gives the lord a special and solemn kind of *cessavit*, called *gavelet*, by which, unless the tenant redeems his lands by payment of the arrearages, and makes reasonable

amends for withholding the same, they become forfeited to the lord, and he enters into them and occupies them as his own demefnes.

THE tenants in gavel-kind in this county claim the privilege, that where a writ of right is brought concerning *gavel-kind* lands, that the *grand affize* shall not be chosen in the usual manner by four knights, but by four tenants in gavel-kind, who shall not associate to themselves twelve knights, but that number of tenants in gavel-kind; and further, that trial by battle shall not be allowed in such a writ for these lands.

The numbers upon the poll were, for

Sir Edward Knatchbull	436	4285
Filmer Honeywood Esq.	257	3191
Hon. Charles Marsham	266	3724

ANCIENT STATE. This maritime county has little changed in its name; it being called *Cen-tium*, or *Kæntion*, by Cæsar, Strabo, Diodorus Siculus, Ptolemy, and other Roman and Greek authors. The Saxons called it *Gaut-Guarlant*, or the county of the inhabitants of Kent; but whence the name was originally derived, has been a subject of much speculation: Mr. Lam-bard

bard is of opinion, that the name of Kent is derived from the British word Caine, which signifies a green leaf, and was applied to this county from its being shaded with woods; but Camden supposes that it derived its name from its form being an angle, stretching into the sea. This opinion seems to be well founded from such a point being called in Scotland, Cantir; Ptolemy calls the inhabitants of another point in North Britain, Cantæ, and the Cangani were possessed of such an angle in Wales.

THIS county, according to Cæsar, was, in the time of the Britons, governed by four petty kings, or rather by four of the principal inhabitants, appointed to defend them against their enemies. Cæsar being in Gaul, obtained such a knowledge of this island as to enable him to invade it twice with some success; and, by repeated attempts, the Romans became not only masters of Kent, but of all England, when this county was put under the government Britannia Prima. But the Romans being afterwards obliged to leave the island, the Britons elected several princes; and at last chose Vortigern their chief, in order to stop the ravages of the Picts and Scots. And,
by

by consent of his people, he invited the Saxons to his assistance, who landed with the Angles and Jutes, under their two leaders, Hengist and Horsa, in the Isle of Thanet, in this county. Having joined with Vortigern, and assisted him in the conquest of his enemies, Hengist obtained the government of Kent. Soon after South Britain was divided into seven petty kingdoms, called the Heptarchy: the first of them was that of Kent, which had successively seventeen kings; the last was Baldred, when Egbert conquered Kent, then, after being a separate kingdom 372 years, it became subject to the Saxon and Danish kings of England, until the Norman conquest.

WILLIAM the Conqueror having fought the battle at Hastings, in Suffex, was marching towards London, when he was met by a large body of the men of Kent, each carrying a bough or limb of a tree in his hand. This army, which had the appearance of a moving wood, boldly marched up to him, and demanded the preservation of their liberties, and informed William they were determined to die before they would be deprived of them, and submit to bondage; but if he would grant them their equitable request,

request, they would submit to his government. William, being so much struck with the spirit and justice of their request, wisely granted what they asked, and thus were they suffered to retain those ancient customs for which this county has ever since been so justly distinguished.

THE Conqueror, thus possessed of Kent, secured it by appointing a constable of Dover Castle, and constituting him governor of five ports, with the style and title of warden of the cinque ports, which are Hastings, Dover, Hithe, Rumeney, and Sandwich, to which Winchelsea and Rye are annexed as principals, and with some other towns as members; all of which enjoy many considerable immunities.

As the county of Kent is divided into the two great districts of East and West Kent, so is the distribution of justice in it; for, though every justice of peace is, by the commission appointed for the whole county at large, yet he usually confines his acting in that office, (except upon extraordinary occasions), to that district of the two in which he resides, and in common matters, to that particular division of justices of the lath and hundred to which he belongs.

EACH

EACH district holds its own court of sessions four times in the year; viz. twice originally, and twice by adjournment; the Eastern District originally at the Old Castle of Canterbury, from whence it is adjourned for the Western District to the county-town of Maidstone; and the Western District originally at Maidstone, from whence it is adjourned for the Eastern District to Canterbury.

THIS county is divided into five lathes, which are subdivided into 14 bailiwicks, and these again into 68 hundreds. A lathe is a division peculiar to this county; and consists of two or more bailiwicks, as a bailiwick does of two or more hundreds. Kent contains 2 cities, 29 market towns, and 408 parishes. It lies in the province of Canterbury, and partly in that diocese, and partly in the diocese of Rochester. It sends 18 members to parliament: two knights of the shire for the county, two members each for the cities of Canterbury and Rochester, two for the borough of Maidstone, two for that of Queenborough, and two for each of the four cinque-ports in this county, Dover, Sandwich, Hithe, and Rumney.

MANY lands in this county are still held by the ancient tenure of castle-guard; that is, upon condition that the tenant, in his turn, should mount guard at the castle; but a composition is taken for this service, which the tenants are obliged to pay; for upon the day appointed, a flag is hung out from that part of the castle which is still kept in repair, and such of the tenants as do not then appear and pay their quit-rents, are liable, at Rochester, to have them doubled at ever return of the Medway.

ROCHESTER.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city, owing to its being in the vicinity of Chatham, feels the influence of the admiralty, dock-yard, custom-house, and revenue-officers, too powerful to assert a claim to actual independence. The number of its electors not being, like Plymouth, limited to a self-elected corporation, prevents their representation from being entirely at the disposal of the admiralty; but it has always been customary to compliment that board with the commendation of one of them.

THE numbers on the poll at the last general election were, for

George Best, Esq.	-	369
Sir R. Bickerton,	-	322
Marquis of Titchfield,		243

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This very ancient city was the *Duro Brives* of Antoninus, and has suffered many misfortunes. In 676, it was destroyed by Etheldred, king of Mercia; and in 839, it was pillaged by the Danes; they also besieged it again in 885, when they cast up works round it; but it was relieved by Alfred. In the reign of Rufus, Rochester was seized by the Normans and English, who kept it for Robert, the king's brother, whom they intended to place on the throne. Rufus was six weeks before it without making any progress; for the besieged defended themselves with such bravery, that he began to lose all hopes of success; but at length, a contagious distemper so weakened those who held the city for Robert, that they were compelled to desire a capitulation, and his adherents were permitted to march out with their horses. This city has sent members to

parliament ever since the first summons for such an assembly, by Edw. I.

CORPORATION. Rochester was made a mayortown 1 Edw. IV. Here are, by its incorporation 1619, a mayor, recorder, 11 aldermen, and 12 common-council, a town-clerk, 3 serjeants at mace, and a water-bailiff. Once a year, or oftener, the mayor and citizens of Rochester hold what is called an admiralty-court, to appoint times when oysters shall be taken out of their fishery, and settle the quantity each drudger shall take in a day.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. Is in the freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS, 630.

RETURNING OFFICER. The Mayor.

PATRONS. Ordnance and Admiralty.

CANTERBURY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city is entirely independent in its election of members of parliament, and is neither under the influence or controul of any patron or leading man.

AN-

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. Canterbury was called by the Saxons *Cant-Wara-Byrig*, or the city of the people of Kent, and from thence its present name is derived. This ancient city, the chief of this county, and the metropolitan see of all England, is a county of itself. It is of such antiquity, as to have the credit of being built upwards of 900 years before Christ. But this appears improbable; for the inhabitants of Britain had in those days scarcely any buildings. They lived in huts, much in the same manner as the Aborigine natives of North America do now. Nor had they more clothes to cover them than the American Indians have at present. It was a place of some importance in the time of the Romans, who called it *Durovernum*, and *Davernum*: this appears by the itinerary of Antoninus. Vortigern, king of the Britons, resided here after the Romans, and yielded this city to the Saxons, in whose time the chief magistrate was called a *Præfect*, afterwards a portreeve, and in 1011 the king's provost of Canterbury. During the heptarchy, it was the capital city of the kingdom of Kent, and the seat of their kings, although it was not built by them; for Hengist long before kept his court here, as did also his successors, until Ethelbert,

bert, becoming a christian by the preaching of Augustine the monk, gave him not only his palace, but the royalty, with the city and its territories. And when that monk was created archbishop, he made it the place of his residence, as his successors, the archbishops, did long afterwards.

THIS city suffered greatly during the Saxon and Danish wars, and yet rose again with greater beauty. It appears at the time of the conquest, that the jurisdictions of the kings and archbishop were intermixed ; and that although the latter had a mint and some other considerable privileges, yet the king had the supreme royalty, until Rufus gave the city, without any reservation, to bishop Anselm. This city sent members *ab origine*.

CORPORATION.—It is governed by a mayor, a recorder, 12 aldermen, a sheriff, 24 common-council men, a sword-bearer, and four serjeants at mace. A court is held every Monday in the Guildhall, for civil and criminal causes ; and every other Thursday, for the government of the city. It is divided into six wards. At the beginning
of

of Hen. III. it was governed by bailiffs ; but in the 26th of Hen. VI. it was changed into the above mayoralty anno 1449, which may be seen in Sommer's history of this city.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. Is vested in the freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—1000.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Sheriff.

MAIDSTONE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough was formerly at the disposal of the earl of Ailesford, but it has emancipated itself from that influence, and has since been divided in two parties, the one attempting to compliment the minister with the nomination of its members, the other equally zealous in maintaining the independence of its constitutional rights.

Mr. Brenchly, a brewer of this town, and one of the partners in the Southwark bank, who is lately deceased, was at the head of the former party, and Mr. Taylor, an eminent paper-manufacturer,

manufacturer, and one of its present representatives, takes the lead of the latter.

THE death of Mr. Brenchly has considerably weakened the ministerial interest, and it is not improbable, but at another election, it may shake off the trammels of government dictation entirely.

THE manor, which extends over the whole Hundred of Maidstone, belongs to lord Romney, who has a seat near this borough.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION.—
Maidstone was a Roman station, and was anciently reckoned among the third of the principal cities in Britain. It was then called *Caer-Medwag*, which is thought to signify the meadows upon the river Vaga, which are here very beautiful. Its Roman name was *Madaviacis*, or *Vagniacis*, which was probably derived from the British.

THE town of Maidstone was anciently governed by a portreeve and 12 brethren, and continued so till king Edward VI, by his let. pat. July 4, in his 3d year, newly incorporated the
TOWN

town, by the style and title of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty, of the town of Maidstone, in the county of Kent.

THESE privileges were not long afterwards forfeited by the rebellion, first began in this town by Sir Thomas Wyatt, knight, and other principal gentleman of it, in the 1st year of queen Mary.

IN this state of disfranchisement the town remained till queen Elizabeth, by her let. pat. Dec. 4, in her 2d year, again incorporated it with the like style as before, and some other additional privileges, among which was a confirmation of their ancient prescriptive right of sending two burgesses to parliament, the granting to the mayor the authority of a justice of the peace, and the exempting of the townsmen from foreign sessions.

SOME years after which several doubts arising, concerning the validity and meaning of the different parts of the last-mentioned letters patent, a third charter of incorporation was granted to this town by king James I, by let. pat. dated Dec. 31, in his 2d year, anno 1684, by the name
and

and style of "the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the king's town and parish of Maidstone," wherein all the privileges of the former were confirmed, and new ones granted by it. After which a fourth charter was likewise granted by the same king, in his 17th year, anno 1619. King Charles II, by let. pat. in his 34th year, anno 1682, incorporated this town anew, by the like style and title as the former; which charter was made use of in the government of this place till the revolution in 1688, after which it was entirely laid aside

In the reign of king George II, this corporation being dissolved by judgement of *ouster* against its principal members, upon informations of *quo warranto*, a new charter was granted by that king, by let. pat. dated at Westminster, June 17, in his 21st year, anno 1748; in which it is recited, that divers disputes having arisen of late within this town and corporation, and informations in nature of *quo warranto* having been prosecuted in the King's Bench, and judgment of *ouster* obtained against all the acting jurats, so that the corporation was then dissolved, and the town incapable of enjoying their liberties and

franchises, therefore the king, for divers causes therein mentioned, upon the petition of the freemen, freeholders, and other inhabitants of the king's town and parish of Maidstone, granted that the town and parish should be a free town and parish of itself; and that the inhabitants of the same should be one body politic and corporate, by the name of "the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the king's town and parish of Maidstone, in the county of Kent," and by that name to have perpetual succession, and to acquire and hold lands &c. and to alien the same, and by the aforementioned name to plead and be impleaded; and that they and their successors might have a common seal, and might break, change, and new make the same at their liking; and that the said town and parish, and the liberties and precincts thereof, should extend according to the former ancient boundaries thereof; and that there should be thirteen inhabitants of the said town and parish, who should be chosen jurats of the same, one of whom should be chosen mayor of the King's Town and parish of Maidstone, which jurats, not being in the office of mayor, should be assistants to him in every thing; and that there should be forty of the remaining principal inhabitants

bitants chosen common councilmen of the same, all of whom, viz. mayor, jurats, and common councilmen, should have power, upon public summons, to make bye laws; and that the jurats should be elected by the mayor, jurats, and common councilmen duly assembled, and the common councilmen in like manner, with a fine at the discretion of the said mayor, &c. for their refusal of those offices, any of whom should be removed by the mayor, &c. duly assembled, for any sufficient crime or notorious offence; and that the jurats should assemble on the 2d day of Nov. yearly, within the said town, and then nominate two men, then being jurats, for the rest of the jurats and commonalty then present to elect one out of the two to be mayor; and that the person so chosen should take an oath before the then last mayor, or in his absence the two senior jurats then present, for the due execution of his office; and in case of his death, that a successor should be chosen in like manner; and that the mayor, in case of sickness or absence, should appoint one of the jurats a deputy mayor for the time aforesaid; and that the mayor and jurats should elect a recorder, to hold his office during their pleasure; and that he should have

power to make a deputy recorder during his pleasure; and that the mayor, jurats, and common council should appoint one or two serjeants at mace, who should bear one or two gilt or silver maces, engraved with the king's arms, every where within the said town and parish before the mayor. And whereas queen Elizabeth, by her let. pat. December 4, in her second year, granted to the said mayor, &c. one market within the said town on a Thursday, weekly, with all tolls, customs, and other profits; and also four fairs in the said town, viz. one from noon on April 30th to noon on May 2d, another at noon on the eve of the feast of St. Edmund the king and martyr to noon on the morrow after the said feast, another at noon on the eve of the feast of St. Faith until the noon on the morrow of the said feast, and the other on the noon of the feast of the Purification until the noon of the morrow of the said feast, with all tolls, tributes, profits, &c. and a Pye-powder court to be held in the same fairs and markets. And whereas king James, by his let. pat. December 31, in his second year, regranted and confirmed the markets and fairs, and other liberties and privileges granted as aforesaid; and by other let. pat. July

28,

28, in his seventeenth year, did ratify and confirm the said markets, fairs, courts of pye-powder, tributes, customs, tolls, &c. and further granted, that it should be lawful for the said mayor to extend the market beyond the place called the market-place, or to hold it in any other place within the same town.

THEREFORE the king, being willing to shew further grace and favour to the mayor, &c. ratified and confirmed the said markets, fairs, courts, &c. and granted them to the mayor, &c. and their successors *de novo*; and that the mayor, jurats, and commonalty, should nominate, elect, and admit any person or persons, being inhabitants of the town and parish, freemen of the same; and that the recorder, deputy recorder, jurats, common councilmen, and freemen, should severally make oath before the mayor and jurats for the due execution of their office, as had been accustomed.

AND whereas queen Elizabeth, by her let. pat. did grant to the mayor and jurats and commonalty, full power to hold a court before the mayor in the said town, from fourteen days to
fourteen

fourteen days, on a Tuesday, for pleas, as well of assise of *novel disseisin*, as other pleas, actions, suits, &c. concerning lands, &c. in the said town and parish, although they should or should not exceed the sum of 40s. and did grant that the said town and parish, and the liberties of the same should extend themselves by the water of Medway from East Farleigh Bridge unto Hawkwood, as in the said let. pat. more fully appeared; and whereas the water of Medway, between the said bridge and Hawkwood flowed by and through the said town and parish of Maidstone, and by and through the several towns of East Farleigh, Barming, Loze, Boxley, Allington, and by certain streets called Milhale, and Newhythe, in the parish of East Malling, in the county of Kent: and the town and parish of Maidstone, extending itself promiscuously in, by, and through the town of Loze and Linton, and beyond, and also by the said towns of East Farleigh, Barming, and Boxley, and by the town of Otham, according to certain information given.

THE king, intending to put into certainty, and to limit into what parish, towns, hamlets, &c.
and

and how far the liberties and jurisdictions of the mayor, &c. of the said town and parish should reach and extend, as to the hearing and determining pleas in the said court, granted and declared, that the liberties of the same, and the jurisdiction of the mayor, &c. should extend, only as to the cognizance and determination of actions and replevins, and to no other intent and purpose, into, by, and through the said towns and parishes of East Barming, Loze, Boxley, Allington, Milhale, Newhythe, Linton, and Otham; and that for the better executing the said actions, they might make and execute all attachments and legal processses into and through all the said parishes, streets, &c. And whereas queen Elizabeth granted that the inhabitants of the said town and parish should be exempted from serving on juries and inquisitions, except in the town of Maidstone; the king therefore granted and confirmed, that the said inhabitants should not be impanneled on any juries or inquisitions whatsoever, without the said town and parish; and that the mayor and recorder, and three senior jurats, during their offices, should be justices of the peace within the said town and parish; and that no justice of the county should

In anywise intermeddle within the said town and parish; which mayor, recorder, and three jurats aforefaid should take an oath before the rest of the jurats for the due execution of their office; and the mayor, recorder, and three jurats, as aforefaid, or any three of them, of whom the mayor and recorder to be two, should hear and determine all trespaffes and misdemeanors within the town and parish, as the justices of the county were used to do, or any two or more of them can or may do, as well in and out of their sessions, by the king's commission, so that they nevertheless in no wise pretended to the determining of any treason or felony, or any other offence touching the loss of life or member, without the king's special mandate in that behalf,

AND that the mayor, jurats, and commonalty should receive all fines, forfeitures, and issue of jurors for non-appearance, and the like for trespaffes, &c. before the said justices within the said town and parish; and that the mayor for the time being should be coroner within the said town and parish, and should make oath before the last mayor, or on his death, &c. before two
or

or more of the jurats, of the due execution of his office, and that no coroner for the county enter within the said town and parish, &c.

AND he granted to the said mayor, &c. all waifs, estreats, fines, forfeitures, goods and chattels of felons and fugitives, &c. before granted by the said let. pat. of queen Elizabeth, and to the said mayor all return of writs, &c. within the said town and parish; so that the sheriff, coroner, or escheator, or other the king's ministers, in no wise intermeddle within the said town and parish. And that the mayor, jurats, and commonalty should have and enjoy to their own proper use all wharfage, anchorage, and groundage of ships and vessels coming to the said town and parish, and reasonable fees and wages for lading and unlading of merchandizes, goods, and chattels in the said ships and vessels there to be laded and unladed into or out of the same; and that they should have through the water as aforesaid, from East Farleigh Bridge to Hawkwood, the privilege of keeping and preserving swans and signets, and a swan-mark, and the same to alter at their pleasure, and also all swans and signets through the said waters, within the bounds and
limits

limits aforefaid and the banks and ground of the fame, building nefts, breeding or frequenting, and not legally marked with the fwan-mark aforefaid, and full power to purfue, retake, and bring back the fwans and fignets aforefaid, fwimming or wandering by water and land out of the limits aforefaid, without hindrance of the king, his officers or minifters, or other persons whatfoever.

AND that the faid mayor, &c. for the better fupport of the charges of the town and parifh aforefaid, or for other reasonable caufes, or for the public good and benefit of the faid town and parifh, and of the inhabitants thereof, fhould from time to time make and affefs reasonable taxes and affeffments upon themfelves and every inhabitant there, and levy the fame by diftreffs, or any other legal manner, as they have hitherto-fore been ufed and accuftomed; and he likewise confirmed to them all lands, goods, liberties and franchifes, as they had ever heretofore held, ufed and enjoyed the fame, with a *non obftante* to all omiffions, or other matter whatfoever; and that they fhould have the fame fealed with the great feal, without fee or reward, &c.

By

By the above charter the corporation act at this time, their exclusive jurisdiction as such extending over the town and parish of Maidstone, and on the river Medway, from East Farleigh Bridge to a piece of land called Hawkwood in Burham, in all matters whatsoever as within the same; and for the cognizance and determination of actions and replevins to the further extent of the towns and parishes of East Farleigh, Barming, Loze, Boxley, Allington, Linton, and Otham, and the hamlets of Mithale in Aylesford, and Newhythe in the parish of East Malling.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—Is in the freemen not receiving alms or charity, 7 Feb. 1701. 8 Dec. 1702.

NUMBER OF VOTERS. 600.

RETURNING OFFICER. The Mayor.

CASE OF BRIBERY.

Dec. 8, 1702. *Resolved*, That the late election of burgeses for the said borough of Maidstone, is a void election.

Resolved,

Resolved, That no warrant do issue during this session of parliament, for the making out a new writ for the electing burgessees for the said borough of Maidstone.

Resolved, That Gervas Hely is guilty of indirect and corrupt practices, in order to the procuring members to be elected to serve in parliament for the said borough of Maidstone.

Ordered, That the said Gervas Hely be, for his said offence, taken into custody.

VEXATIOUS PETITION.

Feb. 7, 1701. Resolved, That Tho. Colepeper, Esq. who was one of the instruments in promoting and presenting a scandalous, insolent, and seditious petition, commonly called *the Kentish petition*, to the house of commons, hath been guilty of corrupt, scandalous, and indirect practices, in endeavouring to procure himself to be elected a burgesse to serve in this present parliament for the borough of Maidstone.

There is another resolution, That he is guilty of aspersing the last house of commons.

Or-

Ordered, That the said Tho. Colepepper, Esq. be, for his said offence, committed to Newgate.

QUEENBOROUGH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough has been very justly considered for many years as a government borough ; for there has been no instance, since 1727, although there has been many contested elections, of any member being returned in opposition to administration. From 1727 to 1754, the elections were carried on by the united interests of government and Capt. Evans, who resided in this place, and had the lead for many years in the corporation. From 1754, until the present time, the interest has been divided between the boards of ordnance and admiralty ; each has constantly carried a member ; and for the last sixteen years, by the mere power of office, in opposition to the corporation, and to the influence of the Evans's family.

THE systematic application of the patronage of the board of ordnance to the purposes of acquiring an influence in this borough, has been attended with a progressive increase of their establishment on the Thames and Medway, and a very large
large

large addition to the expence of carrying on the service by veffels employed on those rivers. It appears from official documents laid before the house of commons, that it amounted in 1754 to 742l. But it now amounts (exclusive of the ^{weat} ~~expence~~ of veffels the property of government), to 2190l. 8s. 3d. How far the real exigencies of the public service may require and justify fo considerable an augmentation, we cannot pretend to decide ; as those who are most competent have fo widely differed in their opinions on the subject. On the conclusion of the last war, Lord Townshend, the master general of the ordnance, ordered the establishment (the expence of which was then 250l. *per annum* less than at present), to be reduced. But it has since, by his successor the duke of Richmond, been thought necessary to be encreased.

ANCIENT STATE AND REPRESENTATION. This town, which is the most principal in the Isle of Shepey, has the greatest claim to antiquity. Its castle was erected so early as Edw. III. who is said, likewise, to have built the town in honour of his queen. The castle appears to have been erected not only for defence, but as a place of refuge whenever the inhabitants were invaded.

The

The castle becoming ruinous, was repaired by Hen. VIII. who, at the same time, caused block-houses to be erected along the sea coast. This town seems to have been one of those that were not suffered to exercise the first right of citizens, that of sending representatives to parliament, until royalty chose to extend to them the privilege. And this essential franchise to the liberty of the subject was not allowed to the inhabitants until the 12th Eliz.

CORPORATION. The burgessees were first incorporated by Edw. III. who granted to them the privilege of choosing, annually, a mayor and two bailiffs. The present corporation was established by a charter of Charles I. and consists of a mayor, four jurats, and two bailiffs, a constable, town-serjeant, and a water-bailiff. It has likewise the cognizance of pleas.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. The right of election has never been disputed in parliament. But in 1729, it was agreed to be in the mayor, jurats, bailiffs, and burgessees.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRONS—Ordnance and Admiralty.

NUMBER

NUMBER OF VOTERS. Before Mr. Crewe's bill, there were 152; but 21 being disqualified by that bill, there are only 131. At present, out of 131 persons entitled to vote for this borough, 23 hold places under the ordnance, and 11 under the admiralty, of whose situations and emoluments we have here annexed a correct account. There are also 7 officers in the navy, 1 in the artillery, and 14 or 15 ordnance labourers on the gun-wharfs at Sheerness and Purfleet. In time of war the ordnance interest is considerably encreased by the employment of Queenborough boats, and extra draft for carrying stores.

LIST

LIST OF PLACES

Under the *Ordnance* and *Navy Boards*, held by Freemen of QUEENBOROUGH, with their Annual Salaries, and the Number of Freemen holding them respectively under the *Ordnance*.

No of Freemen.	Names of Places.	Ann. Salaries.		
		£.	s.	d.
1	Purveyor of Shipping — —	170	0	0
1	Storekeeper at Sheerneys 100 0 0			
1	And Barrack Master, at 3 s. per day - - - 54 12 0			
		154	12	0
1	Clerk of the Survey at Woolwich	100	0	0
1	Clerk of the Checque at Sheerneys	80	0	0
1	Clerk of the Survey at Chatham	130	0	0
1	Clerk in the Clerk of the Checque's office, at Sheerneys - - -	50	0	0
1	Overfeer of Labourers at Sheerneys, at 3s. 6d. per day - - -	63	14	0
2	Sluice Masters, at 2 s. per day each - - - - -	72	16	0
1	Wharf-man at the Tower, at 2 s. per day - - - - -	36	8	0
1	Gunner at Sheerneys - - - -	21	0	0
1	Master of a Gun-Hoy at 160 l. per ann. for himself, and to find three men when on service - -	160	0	0
	Carried over - - -	938	10	0

man military ways that enter it, one from Westmoreland, and the other from Yorkshire. Under the Saxon heptarchy it became subject to the kings of Northumberland. King Edward III. made it a county palatine, in favour of his son John of Gaunt, and it has still a court, which sits in the duchy chamber at Westminster, and takes cognizance of all causes that any way concern the revenue belonging to that duchy; the chief judge of which is the chancellor of the duchy, who is assisted and attended by the attorney-general, the receiver-general, the auditor of the north and south parts of the duchy, the king's serjeant and council, the secretary, deputy-clerk and register, an usher, deputy usher, and messenger; as also a court of chancery, appointed to hear and determine all causes, according to some peculiar customs used among themselves, which is held at Preston. The chancellor is chief judge of this court also, and has proper officers under him, such as a vice-chancellor, an attorney-general, chief clerk, register and examiner; five attorneys and clerks, a prothonotary and his deputy, and clerks of the crown and peace.

FROM the time that Lancashire was made a county palatine, the town of Lancaster gave the
title

title of duke to a branch of the royal family, till the union of the houses of York and Lancaster, by the marriage of king Hen. VII. of the Lancaster line, with Elizabeth, heiress of the house of York.

THIS county is divided into six hundreds, has no city, and only twenty-seven market towns. It lies in the province of York and diocese of Chester, and contains sixty-three parishes, which are, in general, much larger than those of any other county in England, and very populous; for which reason there are many chapels in the county, several of which are as large as parish churches. It sends fourteen members to parliament, two knights of the shire, and two representatives for each of the following boroughs. Lancaster, Liverpool, Preston, Newton, Wigan, and Clithero,

LANCASTER,

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The earl of Londale has attempted, for these three last parliaments, to bring this town within the vortex of his parliamentary interest, but he has been always foiled by a great majority. It contains, at this time,
about

about 1160 houses, and somewhere about 1600 families. At the last election 1800 voted, 700 of whom only live in Lancaster. By the charter, freemen only have a vote; but the most glaring corruption lies in making those freemen. A freeman's son, or a freeman's apprentice, within the borough, is entitled to take up his freedom whenever he pleases, on paying into the hands of the mayor or bailiff 1l. 7s. 6d. This sum is most generally paid by the opposing candidates, and the greatest number of freemen, thus made, turns the scale of the election. Hence, as ship-building and the cabinet business are the only manufactories there, he who has most ships to build or repair, or he who will lay out a few hundreds in mahogany furniture, is most likely to carry his election. The journeymen are at the command of their masters; they get intoxicated during the canvas, and having 5s. to eat and drink on the day of election, they give a shout, and go quietly to work again. The revenue officers are about twenty-five, but many of them are not freemen, and therefore had no votes. The numbers at the last election on the poll were, for

Sir G. Warren, Bart.	1015
John Dent, Esq.	1012
Richard Penn, Esq.	453

AN-

ANCIENT STATE. Lancaster town derived its name from the river Lon, or Lun, on which it is seated, it being called by the inhabitants Loncafter. It is situated near eight miles to the north of Garstang, eighty-nine miles west of York, sixty-eight south of Carlisle, and two hundred and thirty-two north-north-west of London. It was a Roman station, and is the ancient Longovicum mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus, where the Roman lieutenant of Britain kept in garrison a company called the Longovici. Several utensils used in sacrifice, and a variety of Roman coins, have been dug up here; and on the steepest side of the hill, near the church, hangs a piece of an old Roman wall, now called Werywall. The ancient town indeed was not exactly upon the same spot on which Lancaster now stands; for the old Longovicum being destroyed by the Scots in the year 1322, the new town was built nearer the river, and is in a fine situation, having a prospect over the harbour and country. The castle is thought to be one of the finest monuments of antiquity that this kingdom can boast of; for the ditch was made by the command of the emperor Adrian, in the year 124, and a garrison was placed here by him; who, for their better

ter security, erected a tower towards the west. In the year 305, Constantine Chlorus, father of Constantine the Great, built another handsome tower facing the town, both of which are now standing. After the Norman conquest, this castle was considerably enlarged; and John, earl of Moreton and Lancaster, contributed the most to its grandeur, by erecting the beautiful tower, now called the Gatehouse. Afterwards, when he was king, he gave audience in it to the French ambassadors, and also here received homage from Alexander, king of the Scots, whom he had vanquished. It is at present the county jail, and the assizes have been held in it near five hundred years. On the top of this castle there is a square tower, called John of Gaunt's chair, where there is a beautiful and extensive prospect of the adjacent country, and of the sea. Here is but one church, which is a handsome structure with a square tower, and stands on the very top of the castle hill. Here are also a custom-house, and a stone bridge of five arches over the river Lon; but the port is so choaked with sand, that it will not admit of ships of any considerable burden. It has, however, some trade to America, in which vessels of seventy tons burden are employed, and the inhabitants

bitants export thither hardware and woollen manufacture; but they would probably have more trade, if the country about it was not so thinly peopled, on account of its barrenness, which occasions the demand for sugars and other commodities brought back from America to be but small. Camden informs us, that, in his time, the town was not populous, and that the inhabitants were all husbandmen; but at present the case is much altered, it being well inhabited, and a thriving place.

It is worthy of remark, that earl Rogers, of Poitiers, in the year 1094, gave the church of St. Mary at Lancaster, with some lands here, to the abbey of St. Martin de Sagio, or Sees, in Normandy; upon which a prior and five benedictine monks from thence were placed at Lancaster, who with three priests, two clerks and servants, made up a small monastery, subordinate to the foreign house, which was endowed with the yearly revenue of about 80 l. After the dissolution of alien priories, this, with the lands belonging to it, was annexed by Henry V. to Sion abbey in Middlesex. There was a Franciscan convent
near

near the bridge, but we are not informed of any particulars concerning it,

HERE was likewise a house of Dominican, or Black friars, founded by Sir Hugh Harrington, knight, about the fourth year of king Henry III. and also an hospital dedicated to St. Leonard, for a master, chaplain, and nine poor persons, three of whom were to be lepers. This was founded by king John while he was earl of Morton; but Henry duke of Lancaster, in about the thirtieth year of the reign of Edw. III. annexed it to the punnery of Seton in Cumberland.

THIS borough, which was so made in the 4th of Richard I. having sent members the 23d, 26th, 33d, and 35th of Edw. I.; 8th and 19th of Edw. II.; and 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th of Edw. III.; ceased sending till Edw. Vith's. time, when it was restored, with Preston, Wigan, and Liverpool.

CORPORATION. Consists of a mayor, a recorder, twelve aldermen, two bailiffs, 12 capital burgeses, 12 common burgeses, a town clerk, and two serjeants at mace,

KING

KING John confirmed to the burgessees all the liberties he had granted to those of the city of Bristol; and king Edw. III. granted to the mayor and bailiffs, the privilege of having the pleas and sessions held here, and no where else in the country. This town has given the title of duke to many branches of the royal family.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—by the charter, is in the freemen,

NUMBER OF VOTERS. 1800.

RETURNING OFFICER. The Mayor and two bailiffs.

P R E S T O N,

POLITICAL CHARACTER. A question has been at issue for near a century and a half, Whether the right of election for this borough was in the in-burgessees of the last guild, and those admitted since by copy of court-roll, or in the inhabitants pot-wallers?

This question has come twice before the house of commons, previous to the passing of the Grenville

vile act, first on the 18th of December, 1661; secondly, on the 29th of November, 1768; and twice more since the passing of that act. First, upon the petition of John Fenton Cawthorne, Esq. against lieutenant general Burgoyne, and Sir H. Hoghton, in 1780; and again upon the petition of Michael Angelo Taylor, Esq. against the same sitting members, in 1784; in all of which cases it was determined, that the right of election was in the inhabitants at large.

THIS is a large and populous town. The earl of Derby has a very handsome house here, and has sufficient influence to return one of its members; the other seat is generally carried by the dissenting interest.

ANCIENT STATE, Preston, which is an abbreviation of Priest-town, was so called from its being inhabited by a great number of religious, and is a large handsome borough, seated on a delightful eminence on the north side of the river Ribble, over which is a fine stone bridge, and was incorporated by king Henry II. It rose out of the ruins of Ribchester, now a village, but anciently a very considerable city in the neighbourhood, and is a place of residence for the officers belonging

belonging to the chancery of the county palatine. The duke of Hamilton was routed here, when he brought an army from Scotland to assist king Cha. I. as were likewise the English rebels in the year 1715, who had taken arms against king George I. when the forces belonging to the king were obliged to set fire to the houses in order to dislodge the rebels, who fired on them from the roofs and windows; but the town was afterwards amply recompensed by the government for the damage the inhabitants had sustained: after which the town rose more beautiful than before. This happened on the 12th of November, 1715, on the very day that the Scotch rebels were routed in Scotland.

THIS borough, which was so made by Hen. II. having sent members to parliament in the 23d, 26th, 33d, and 35th of Edw. I. and in the 1st of Edw. II. intermitted sending till Edward VI. when it was restored.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, aldermen, four under aldermen, seventeen common council-men, and a town-clerk.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.

1661, 18th December. All the inhabitants have voices in the election.

1768, 29th November. Not to admit counsel to produce evidence, in order to shew that the right of election for the said borough was in all the inhabitants, according to the last determination of the house, or that the words, "all the inhabitants," mentioned in the said determination of the house, mean only, "such in-burgessees of the last guild, or those admitted since by copy of court-roll, as are inhabitants of the place," but all the inhabitants at large.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—600.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The mayor and two bailiffs.

PATRON—The earl of Derby.

LIVERPOOL, LEVERPOOL, OR LIRPOOL.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This great commercial town is entirely free, both from aristocratical and ministerial influence. Previous to the reign of Charles II. the freemen at large

exercised the right of chusing their own mayor, aldermen, and common council, as in the city of London, but since that time the body corporate have assumed the power of filling up all vacancies, without their will and approbation. They have now, however, resumed their right, which had been so arbitrarily and illegally withheld from them, and have, on St. Luke's day last, chosen their own mayor. At the last general election, administration and opposition united their forces in the persons of lord Penrhyn and Mr. Bamber Gascoigne, but the independent freemen beheld this unnatural union with that detestation which it deserved, and resolved instantly to crush this monstrous production at its birth. The gallant colonel Tarleton was, in his absence, proposed by them as a proper person to support their own dignity and real consequence, and to withstand the formidable junction; and the success which he met with at the poll, shewed him not unworthy of the distinguished honor they intended him:

The numbers on the poll were, for

Banastre Tarleton, Esq.	1257
Bamber Gascoigne	887
Lord Penrhyn	716

HENRY

HENRY BLÜNDEL, Esq. the present mayor, who was elected to that office by the freemen at large, has taken possession of the town treasury, and thereby prevented the corporation from supporting their assumed claims at the expence of the public chamber. The legal decision of this question is of the first importance to every corporate city and town in the kingdom, as it will determine whether a large community is to be governed by a self-elected junto, or by a magistracy, who are to derive their authority from the voice of the people.

ANCIENT STATE. This town, which is seated on the east bank of the river Mersey, and seems to have been very inconsiderable in former times, is scarce mentioned in history, except when prince Rupert took it by storm in the great rebellion, as he was marching to the relief of that illustrious heroine the countess of Derby, then besieged in Latham-house by the parliament forces. But within these fifty years, it hath increased so prodigiously in trade, that it is now said to be the greatest sea-port in England, except London, it being thought to exceed even Bristol. The merchants here trade to all parts,

parts, except Turkey and the East-Indies; but their most beneficial trade is to Guinea and the West-Indies, by which many have raised great fortunes. The increase of its trade for a century past cannot be better ascertained, than by a view of the great number of ships belonging to the town, or which have been cleared out at the port, for any two years at some considerable distance of time. In 1565, the trade of the place seems to have been carried on solely by their own ships and boats, of which they had twelve, that in the whole amounted to no more than two hundred and twenty-three tons, and employed but seventy-five seamen.

THE Exchange, which cost 30,000 l. is erected on the spot where the town-house stood, at the top of Water-street, and is a grand edifice of white stone, built in the form of a square, round which are piazzas for the merchants to walk in. Above stairs are the mayor's offices, the sessions-hall, the council-chamber, and two elegant ball-rooms.

THE custom-house is a neat building of brick and stone, situated at the head of one of the docks. There are three large and commodious

docks, secured by iron gates, through which ships sail, on their coming to the town. In these docks they lie close to the shore, and land their goods with the greatest facility; and the gates being shut, they are secured from winter storms. There is also a new playhouse in Drury-lane, where players perform in the summer season.

THIS town, which contains four livings, was once in the parish of Walton, but is now separated from it by act of parliament, notwithstanding which it pays to the rector forty shillings *per annum*; two of these livings are in the gift of the corporation, and the chaplains have each 120 l. a year; the other two are a joint rectory, also in the gift of the corporation, with two rectors, who have each 150 l. *per annum*, and officiate at them alternately; they have likewise surplice fees of the whole town; fees are also paid to the ministers who do the duty of the other churches. An act was passed a few years ago, to enable the inhabitants to build two churches more, one of which was soon after begun near the Ladies Walks, a very pleasant place, which commands a fine view of the river and the Cheshire shore.

THIS

· THIS town sent members 23 and 35 Edward I. but made no other return till the reign of Edward VI.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, annually chosen on St. Luke's day, a recorder, and common council of forty-one, including the mayor, recorder, and town clerk.

· **WHOEVER** has borne the office of mayor is afterwards styled an alderman.

· **RIGHT OF ELECTION**—1729, 5th March. Was agreed by the counsel on both sides to be in the mayor, bailiffs, and freemen of the said borough, and not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—2400.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The mayor and two bailiffs.

CLITHEROE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. A resolution of the house of commons having vested the right of election for this borough in a peculiar kind of burgage tenure, the real number of which is

O 2

not

not more than forty-two, a contest has subsisted for many years between Thomas Lister, Esq. who is in the interest of opposition, and Asheton Curzon, Esq. who espouses that of administration; the former was successful at the elections of 1780 and 1784, but the parties have since found it convenient to compromise their interests, and each to send one member.

ANCIENT STATE.—This borough, which is ancient by prescription, is situated on the river Ribble, not far from its source, at the foot of Pendle-hill, which rises to a great height. It had formerly a castle at the bottom of Pendle-hill, built about the year 1178, by Robert de Lacy, lord of the honour of Pontefract, and the fourth descendant from Ilbert, who came in with William the Conqueror.

THE first return for this place was 1 Elizabeth.

THE electors of this borough have the name of burgesses, though it has no corporation.

RIGHT

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1661, 4th February, is in such freeholders only, as have estates for life, or in fee.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—42.

RETURNING OFFICERS—Two bailiffs.

PATRONS—Thomas Lister, Esq. and Asheton Curzon, Esq.

WIGAN.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The rector of this parish is always lord of the manor. There is no determination of the house respecting the right of election, but it is understood to be prescriptively in the free burgesses. It has two charters, one given it by queen Elizabeth, and the other by Charles II. which empowers it to choose a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, and two bailiffs, and to appoint a sword and mace bearer. The influence at present is in Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bart. and the Rev. Mr. Cotes, rector of the parish. Insignificant as this borough may appear, (the number of voters not exceeding 200) it cost the late George Byng, Esq. 20,000 l. in opposing the interest of the earl
of

of Lonsdale, whose candidate at that time was Sir Fletcher Norton, afterwards lord Grantley.

ANCIENT STATE. WIGAN, which is pleasantly seated near the source of the river Douglas, was erected into a corporation by charters granted by queen Elizabeth and king Charles II.

THIS place having sent to parliament 23 and 35 Edw. I. made no other return till 1 Edw. VI.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, two bailiffs, and a sword and mace-bearer. By charter of 27 Eliz. and 18 Charles II.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. There is no resolution of the house respecting the right of election, but it is supposed to be in the free burgesses.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 200.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRONS—Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bart. and the Rev. Mr. Cotes.

NEWTON,

NEWTON.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this borough is in the steward of the lord of the manor, the bailiff and burgesfes, who derive their privileges from prescription. The lord of the manor is Thomas Peter Legh, Esq. of Lyme, in this county, who has the absolute control of these electors, as well as the appointment of the returning officer.

ANCIENT STATE. NEWTON is an ancient borough by prescription; the first return of members being in 1 Elizabeth.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a steward, bailiffs and burgesfes.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—There is no resolution of the house respecting the right of election, but it is supposed to be in the free burgesfes.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 36.

RETURNING OFFICERS—Steward of the lord of the manor, and the bailiff.

PATRON—Thomas Peter Legh, Esq.

LEICESTER.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THE duke of Rutland, from his landed property, and personal connections in this county, returns one of its members.--His grace attempted to bring in both, but in this he was defeated by the independent party, who at that election succeeded in the choice of their own representative. The duke's interest returned one of the members, and that of the independent party the other, at the last general election.

ANCIENT STATE. This county, which was called by the Saxons *Ledcesterscyre*, received its name from Leicester, the county town, and was anciently inhabited by the *Coritani*, who were likewise possessed of Northamptonshire and Rutlandshire, and separated from Warwickshire by the old military way, called *Watling-street*. In the time of the Saxons it formed a part of the kingdom of *Mercia*, but after the dissolution of the heptarchy, it became a county of itself.

LEICESTER

LEICESTER TOWN.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This town having derived great advantages from the success of its manufactures, and the right of election being in the freemen at large, and inhabitants paying scot and lot, is therefore neither under the immediate influence of aristocracy nor administration. A violent contest happened at the last general election in 1790, in which Samuel Smith, Esq. of Nottingham, and Nathaniel Brassey Halhead, Esq. the present member for Lymington, were candidates on the court interest, and Thomas Booth Parkins, Esq. eldest son of Sir Thomas Parkins, Bart. and Lewis Montilieu, Esq. on that of opposition. After a poll of several days a coalition took place between all the parties; Mr. Halhead and Mr. Montilieu agreed to decline, that one of each party might be chosen without farther contest. Such an attempt to intrude upon them two representatives, in open violation of the freedom of election, had nearly proved fatal to the town. The populace began to commit depredations, and had it not been for the timely interference of the military, their proceedings would have

have terminated only in the destruction of the place.

ANCIENT STATE. This town received its name from its being seated upon the Leir, the ancient name of the river, now called Soar, the word Cester signifying a town or castle. It is generally allowed to have been the Ratae of Antoninus, and the Ragæ of Ptolemy. It stands upon a branch of Watling-street, called the Fofs Way, and the traces of a Roman wall quite round, may in some places be still discovered. The Roman town was two thousand five hundred feet in length, and two thousand feet in breadth. It appears, in the time of the Romans, to have been a place of considerable note, from the multitude of bones of various beasts, which are supposed to have been offered in sacrifice, and dug up in a part of the town still called Holy Bones, where there are some ruins of a Roman building, commonly called the Temple of Janus.

UNDER the Saxon heptarchy, it was the chief city of the kingdom of Mercia, and was then the see of a bishop; but the see being removed,
after

after the succession of eight prelates, it fell to decay; however, in the year 914, it was repaired and fortified with new walls, after which it became a populous and wealthy town; but rebelling against king Henry II. it was besieged and taken, when the castle was dismantled, and the walls thrown down. It is said that king Richard III. who was slain in the battle of Bosworth, in this county, was interred in it, and that his stone coffin was afterwards converted into a horse trough, belonging to the White Horse inn in this town, where it remained till a few years ago, but is now destroyed by time. Before the conquest, there was a collegiate church within the castle; but, during the wars of William I, it was demolished, together with the city and castle, and rebuilt in the year 1107, by Robert earl of Mellent and Leicester, for a dean and twelve prebendaries, and dedicated, as the old church was, to St. Mary. Most of the lands and tithes of this church were alienated by Robert Bossu, earl of Leicester, and annexed to his new abbey, in a meadow at the other end of the town, and called St. Mary de Pratis, or Prez, *i. e.* St. Mary of the Meadow. However, here continued a dean and seven prebendaries, whose house was called

called the College of St. Mary the Less; but their revenues at the general dissolution were only valued at 24 l. 13 s. 11 d. a year.

THE above abbey, named St. Mary de Prez, and still called Leicester abbey, was founded in 1143, for black canons, in honour of the assumption of the Virgin Mary; and at the suppression of religious houses was endowed, according to Dugdale, with 95 l. 14 s. 5 d. a year, and, according to Speed, with 1062 l.

IN the doomsday book this town is styled a city, and had the title of mayor given to its chief magistrate 1248, 32 Henry III. Edward IV. in the 4th year of his reign 1464, appointed it a recorder.

IT had its charter from king John, and its freemen are toll-free at all fairs and markets in England.

CORPORATION.—It is governed by a mayor, recorder, steward, bailiff, 24 aldermen, 48 common councilmen, a town clerk, and other officers.

RIGHT

RIGHT OF ELECTION, 1705, 8th Feb. Such Freemen as were made free at the charge of any of the candidates, had not a right to vote at the last election of burgeses to serve in parliament for the borough of Leicester.

AGREED to be in the freemen, not receiving alms, and in the inhabitants, paying scot and lot, but persons living in the borough of Leicester, by certificate, not having gained a settlement by renting ten pounds *per annum*, or serving in an annual office, are not entitled, by paying scot and lot, to vote.

NUMBER OF VOTERS on the poll at the last election :

For Thomas B. Parkins, Esq.	986
Samuel Smith, Esq.	803
N. B. Halhead, Esq.	551

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

LINCOLN COUNTY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS county, ranking with Devonshire, in point of extent, opulence, and territory, is not to be influenced by any individual. The observations which we have made with respect to that, will, in all its points, be applicable to this. We shall therefore refer the reader to the political character which we have given of that county.

ANCIENT STATE. This is a large maritime county, which received its name from the city of Lincoln, its capital. It was called by the Saxons, Lincollscyre, and by the Normans, on their first arrival, Nicolshire.

IN the time of the ancient Britons and Romans, this was part of the country inhabited by the Coritani, and from the remains of antiquity found here, it appears to have been no inconsiderable place in the time of the Romans; there being still evident traces of a Roman highway extending through the county from south to north. Under the Saxons, Lincolnshire belonged to the kingdom of Mercia.

LINCOLN CITY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. THE only influence which prevails in this city, and that not absolute, is that of lord Delaval, who has a seat in the neighbourhood, and his lordship's son-in-law, John Fenton Cawthorne, Esq. the present recorder, and one of the representatives.

CORRUPTION.

THE anxiety of candidates to obtain the writs for election, is sometimes so great, that large sums of money have been given for them, and the best bidder has been generally the first possessor. A gentleman in office, of great character and integrity, and on whose credit we have the firmest reliance, informed us, that he was present when 1000 guineas were given at the dissolution of the last parliament, for the writ for this city. This infamous traffic is become so notorious, that the interference of the legislature has lately been demanded by some independent gentlemen in the house of commons. We therefore hope that an effectual stop will be put to it, and that this species of commodity, sold by auction, will no more be heard of.

ANCIENT

ANCIENT STATE. This city was called by the ancient Britons, Lindcoit; by Ptolemy and Antoninus, Lindum; by the Saxons, Lyndo-Collyne, and Lyndo-Cyllanceaster, and by the Normans, Nichol: from these names, which are supposed to have originally signified a colony or town, seated on a hill, the present name is certainly derived.

It was originally built in the form of a large square; the southern wall stood upon the precipice or ridge of the heath, where it wanted no other fortification. Round the other three sides was a deep trench, which still remains, except on the south-east angle. This city was then divided into four equal parts by two cross streets, that ran quite through upon the cardinal points. The two southern quarters were taken up, one by the castle, and the other by the church, afterwards built by Remigius. But when Alexander the bishop projected a structure of much larger dimensions, the sacred inclosure was carried beyond the eastern bounds of the city, and a new wall built farther that way, as it now is, with towers and battlements. One of the Roman gates, now called Newport-gate,
is

is still entire, and is the noblest piece of antiquity of the kind in Britain.

THERE was a castle, with many forts, built here by the Romans, and repaired by the Saxons and Normans, in succeeding ages, as they stood in need, from the various sieges they sustained. The castle was, in particular, repaired by king William I. after his conquest over king Harold.

JOHN of Gaunt's palace, below the hill, was built by John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, and earl of Lincoln, Leicester, and Derby, in the reign of Richard III. The above castle was his; but being much exposed to cold winds, and being appropriated to the public service, and frequently garrisoned, that prince, probably, built this place below the hill for warmth, and for the use of his family and domestics, while he resided in this ancient city, where, and at Bullingbroke, a castle of his highness's in this county, he spent great part of his latter days; he having married the lady Catharine Swinford, the widow of a Lincolnshire knight.

IN the reign of Edward the Confessor, the city is said to have had one thousand and seventy houses, and in the time of the Normans, was one of the most populous cities in England, and a mart for goods of every kind, which gave occasion to the following prophecy, as they call it,

Lincoln was, London is, and York shall be
The fairest city of the three.

This they suppose to have been fulfilled after the fire of London, in 1666.

KING Edward III. made it a staple for wool, leather, lead, and other commodities. But afterwards it suffered many calamities. It was once burnt; once besieged by king Stephen, who was here defeated and taken prisoner, and once taken by Henry III. from his rebellious barons.

THIS city had summons, with London and York, to send members to parliament 49 H. III.

CORPORATION.—It is governed by a mayor, twelve aldermen, two sheriffs, a recorder, four chamberlains, a sword-bearer, a coroner, and forty-eight common councilmen.

THIS

THIS city is a county of itself, and has a vicountial jurisdiction twenty miles round, a privilege enjoyed by no other city in England; and gives the title of earl to the family of Clinton.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. There is no resolution of the house respecting the right of election, but it is conceived to be in the freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 1100.

RETURNING OFFICERS.—The mayor and sheriffs.

GRANTHAM.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This place is of the middling size, neither coming under the description of a populous town, nor degenerating into a rotten borough. The influence over it is however complete. The duke of Rutland and lord Brownlow, from their property in the town, the contiguity of their seats, and their personal interest, have the entire command of its representation.

ANCIENT STATE. This town, which is situated on the river Witham, is rich, neat and populous,

and had, in the year 1290, a house of Franciscan or Grey Friars. It is of a very ancient date. The alderman and burgeses have all power to act as justices of the peace for the corporation, and soake of Grantham.

THIS borough never returned to parliament till Edward IV's time, who granted it all its privileges in the year 1463.

CORPORATION—It is governed by an ancient corporation, consisting of an alderman, recorder, twelve common burgeses, a coroner, an escheator, and twelve constables to attend on the court.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1730, 11 *Jan.* Is in the freemen of the said borough, not receiving alms or charity.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—400.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Alderman.

PATRONS—Duke of Rutland and lord Brownlow.

STAMFORD, OR STANFORD.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This town, although possessing chartered privileges, superior to any other

other place in the kingdom, the city of London only excepted, is not free from control in the exercise of its political franchise. The earl of Exeter, who possesses the venerable and magnificent seat of his ancestors, at Burleigh, near this town, is looked up to by the corporation and inhabitants as their patron. We must however caution our readers not to confound the influence which prevails in counties, and popular cities and towns, with that which dictates in limited corporations and burgage tenures, which are all private property, and what are termed rotten boroughs, with only ten or twelve houses in each. The influence of the first description is only derived from extensive property, eminent personal qualities, or from good neighbourhood and hospitality. The latter is of the authoritative kind, and is maintained by corruption, persecution, and tyranny, and is carried to market as a saleable commodity, with as little secrecy and caution as an estate is carried to the hammer at a public auction.

ANCIENT STATE.—This town is thus called, from its ancient Saxon name Steanford. It is seated on the river Welland, near the foot of the
North

North Heath, on the borders of Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Rutlandshire, and gives the title of earl to the noble family of Grey. Its first charter was before the reign of Edward IV, and it had others from Charles II. and James II. but these last being only temporary, are expired.

THE inhabitants of this town have very extraordinary privileges, particularly a freedom from the jurisdiction of the sheriff of the county, and from being impannelled on juries out of the town: they are exempted from the government of all lord lieutenants; are entitled to have the returns of all writs, and claim the privilege of having the militia of the town commanded by their own officers; in short, the mayor being the king's lord lieutenant, and immediately under his majesty's command, he is esteemed, within the liberties and jurisdiction of the town, the second man in the kingdom.

HERE was fought the first battle between the Britons and Saxons, in which the former were entirely routed, and left their enemies in the possession of the field. In the reign of king Stephen there stood a castle in the middle of the town,

town, the foundation plot of which is said to be still visible: and here the custom of borough English still subsists, by which the youngest son is his father's heir.

IN the reign of king Richard I. the inhabitants of this town, influenced by superstition, fell upon the many Jews who then lived there, and barbarously murdered them.

THIS town having sent members 23, 26, 28, 30, 33, and 34 Edw. I. and 15 Edw. II. and to a council 11 Edw. III. made no other return till Edward IV's reign, who incorporated it anno regni, 1, 1461, under the government of an alderman, which was by king Charles II. anno 1664, changed into a mayor.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor a recorder, twelve aldermen, a town clerk, twenty-four capital burgessees, and two serjeants at mace.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1735, 8 March, is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 500.

RETURNING OFFICER.—The Mayor.

PATRON—The earl of Exeter.

GREAT

GREAT GRIMSBY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough is entirely under the control of Charles Anderson Pelham, Esq. member for the county. A strong opposition was made at the last general election, in 1790, by the Hon. William Wesley Pole, brother to the earl of Mornington, one of the lords of the Treasury, and Robert Wood, Esq. aided by the weight of government influence, which proved ineffectual. The candidates in Mr. Pelham's interest were returned, a petition was presented by Mr. Pole and Mr. Wood, which is now before the house of commons for trial. The issue is of little consequence to the public, as the success of it would only be a transfer of influence from an individual to the treasury.

ANCIENT STATE. This place is situate within half a mile of the sea, and, in point of antiquity, is said to be the first, or at least the second corporation town in England.

IN this town was a Benedictine nunnery, founded about the year 1185, and dedicated to
St.

St. Leonard, in which, about the time of the suppression, were a prioress, and seven or eight nuns; yet its revenue, according to Dugdale, amounted only to 10l. a year; and, according to Speed, to 12l. In this town was also a house of Austin friars, about the year 1304; and likewise a convent of Franciscan, or grey friars, founded in the beginning of the reign of king Edward II. if not before. The mayor holds a court here every Tuesday, and the bailiffs every Friday. Here are several streets of good houses. It was formerly a very large town, and had two parish churches, only one of which remains; but for largeness, it is equal to most of the cathedrals in England. It had likewise a castle, and a considerable trade, the harbour being then very commodious; but it has been long choaked up, notwithstanding the road before it is a good station for ships, that wait for a wind to get to sea.

THIS town first sent members to parliament 23 Edward I. and was a mayor town in Edward III's time.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, a high-steward, a recorder, eleven aldermen, twelve

twelve common councilmen, two coroners, two bailiffs, a town-clerk, and three serjeants at mace.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. There is no resolution of the house respecting the right of election, but it is understood to be in the freemen, being inhabitants.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—75.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—Charles Anderson Pelham, Esq.

BOSTON.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This place is remarkable for the many contradictory resolutions of the house of commons, respecting the right of election. It was first resolved to be in the commonalty, then in the mayor, aldermen, common council, and freemen, and then in the freemen paying scot and lot. It is partially under the influence of the duke of Ancafter, whose interest always brings in one of its members. The other seat is usually contested. Mr. Dalhousie

Dalhousie Watherstone, a Scotch gentleman, succeeded in 1784. A contest equally violent happened at the last general election, between general Smith and Thomas Fydell, Esq. in which the latter was successful, and the former petitioned. This petition was afterwards compromised, and Mr. Fydell admitted to keep his seat. How far the sacred right of election was violated in this compromise, we do not take upon us to determine.

ANCIENT STATE. This town, which according to Bede, was anciently called Botolph's town, from St. Botolph, a Saxon, who founded a monastery here, from which the town took its rise, is situated on the river Witham, which is navigable from hence to Lincoln, and is built on both sides of the above river, over which there is a wooden bridge, and has long been a flourishing town. It is said to have been first incorporated by king Henry VIII. and queen Elizabeth gave the corporation a court of Admiralty, whose jurisdiction extended over all the neighbouring coast. It appears to have been formerly inhabited by the Romans; for about the year 1716, a Roman foundation was dug up
a little

a little beyond the school, and near it some hewn stones formed a cavity, in which was an urn with ashes ; a little pot with an ear, and an iron key of an odd figure. Some time before was dug up in a garden, an urn lined with lead, full of red earth and bones.

ABOUT the end of the reign of Henry I. a fellow named Robert Chamberlain, at the head of some desperate villains, disguised like monks and priests, while a tournament was proclaiming at Boston fair, set the town on fire in several places, in order to plunder the inhabitants while they were removing their effects, many of them being rich merchants. Chamberlain was however taken, and confessing the fact, was executed for it, but would not discover his accomplices.

THIS town sent representatives to three national councils 11, 26, 27 Edward III. and first returned members to parliament in Edward VI's time. It was incorporated in the last year of Henry VIII's reign.

CORPORATION. This town is governed by a mayor, who is chief clerk of the market, and
admiral

admiral of the coast, a recorder, twelve aldermen, a town clerk, eighteen common-councilmen, a judge, and marshal of the admiralty, a coroner, two serjeants at mace, and other officers.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1628, 8th March. In the commonalty, and not in the mayor, aldermen, and common council.

1711, 20th March. Only in the mayor, aldermen and common council, and freemen of the said borough, resident in it, and paying scot and lot.

1719, 2d March. Only in the mayor, aldermen, common council, and freemen resident in the said borough, paying scot and lot; such freemen claiming their freedom by birth or servitude.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 200.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—Duke of Ancafter.

MIDDLE-

MIDDLESEX.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS county is remarkable for that true spirit of independence which the freeholders displayed in their contest with the house of commons, from the year 1768 to the year 1782.

THE important subject which engaged their attention, is the greatest that mankind can be employed in; and the firmness and resolution with which they supported their own rights, and those of their fellow citizens, will be handed down to posterity with that enthusiastic applause their patriotic labours of fourteen years, so richly merit, and which, being finally crowned with success, holds up a lesson to future administrations that, however venal and corrupt their adherents may be, the spirit of honest perseverance will always prevail over ministerial influence.

AT the general election in 1768, John Wilkes, Esq. who was just returned from his exile, was
1
unanimously

unanimously nominated, at a numerous meeting of the freeholders of this county, held at the assembly-room, at Mile End, on the 20th March, to represent this county in parliament. On the 28th of the same month the election came on at Brentford, when Sir William Beauchamp Proctor, Bart. and George Cooke, Esq. the late members, were candidates; Mr. Wilkes was also put in nomination, and at the close of the poll, the numbers were, for

John Wilkes, Esq.	1292
George Cooke, Esq.	827
Sir W. B. Proctor,	807

Whereupon the sheriffs, Messieurs Hallifax and Shakespeare, declared Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Cooke to be duly elected. On the 10th of May following, the parliament met, when no business of consequence was done, except choosing their speaker, &c. until their prorogation.

On the 8th of November, 1768, the parliament met again, and on the 14th of November following, a petition was presented to the house from Mr. Wilkes, then a prisoner in the King's Bench. This petition, which furnished an occasion for the memorable proceedings that followed,

lowed, contained a recapitulation of all the proceedings against Mr. Wilkes, from the time of his first apprehension, by a general warrant in April 1763, to the time of his commitment to the King's Bench prison, in 1768.

THE petition produced an order, for the proper officers to lay before the house a copy of the records of the proceedings upon the several informations in the court of King's Bench against Mr. Wilkes. After which, the journals and resolutions of the house, upon that subject, in the year 1763, being examined, a day was appointed for the hearing of the matter of the petition, and also of the proceedings in the court of King's Bench, of which notice was ordered to be given to Mr. Wilkes; a great number of persons also, who were concerned as actors or witnesses in these transactions, among whom was Mr. Webb, late secretary to the Treasury, and against whom a heavy charge was laid in the petition, were ordered to attend the house at the same time. Some persons of great weight in opposition, from the beginning, recommended to the ministry, that this petition should be passed by without notice, and very strongly pointed out the mischievous
confe-

consequences, which must attend an enquiry into that sort of matter to the house at large, and particularly to the ministers themselves. During this interval, some motions were made upon the subject, the want of success in which, seemed inductive of the disposition that prevailed within doors, in regard to the popular prisoner, whose present situation excited the greatest attention without. Among these, it was moved to address his majesty, that the auditor of the imprests should lay before the house copies of all such accounts as had been passed, declared, or received, from Philip Carteret Webb, Esq. since Midsummer, 1762, which was passed in the negative. In the mean time Mr. Webb petitioned for an opportunity to vindicate himself, at the bar of the house, from the charges that were made against him; which he was allowed to do, either by himself or his counsel, at the time of hearing the matter of the petition. Application having been made also by Mr. Wilkes for liberty to attend the house, in order to support the allegations of his petition, it was complied with, and liberty of counsel allowed him for that purpose. After these previous steps had been taken, the

time for hearing the matter of the petition, which had been originally fixed for the 2d of December, was however put off to the 12th of the same month; after which it was finally adjourned to the 27th of the following January; at which time the ministry seemed undetermined how to act; but a proceeding of Mr. Wilkes afforded a new opportunity or pretence to renew the prosecution against him. On one hand, many in administration and office were exceedingly averse to taking any step relative to this gentleman, as many inconveniences had formerly been experienced from such a conduct, and more were apprehended from a revival of it. Neither did the opposition seem willing to press the minister on that business. The very motion by which Mr. Wilkes's petition had been introduced into that house, having prayed no more than that it should lay on the table; a method, according to the custom of that assembly, of civilly passing into oblivion such matters as they do not choose to attend to, or formally to reject. It seems however that the party most animated towards the prosecution prevailed at length.

MR.

MR. WILKES, having by some means procured a copy of a letter from the secretary of state, to certain magistrates of Surry, respecting their employing the military to aid the civil power, in quelling a riot in St. George's Fields, by which Mr. Allen, a young man of exemplary character, and respectable connections, lost his life *.

THE secretary of state acknowledged himself the writer of the letter, and made a complaint in the house of lords, as a peer, of a breach of privilege; and the publishers of the newspapers having acknowledged that they received a copy of the letter from Mr. Wilkes, a complaint was made to the commons, of the conduct of their member, and a conference held upon the subject by the two houses; and the matter being agitated, during the enquiry into the merits of Mr. Wilkes's petition, he with great boldness, before the house, confessed himself the author of the prefatory remarks, as well as of having sent the whole to the news-printer.

THE matter of the petition having undergone a long examination, during which Mr. Wilkes,

Q 2

in

* A monument to commemorate this fatal catastrophe is erected in the church-yard of St. Mary, Newington.

in the custody of the marshal of the King's Bench, attended the house, it was finally resolved, " That
 " the two orders made by lord Mansfield, lord chief
 " justice of the king's bench, for the amendment of
 " the information, exhibited in the said court
 " against Mr. Wilkes, were according to law and
 " justice, and the practice of the said court:
 " that the complaint of Mr. Wilkes, in respect
 " thereof, is frivolous; and that the aspersions
 " upon the said chief justice, for making the
 " said two orders, truly conveyed, are utterly
 " groundless, and tend to prejudice the minds of
 " the people against the administration of pub-
 " lic justice." It was at the same time resolved,
 that the charge against Philip Carteret Webb,
 Esq. was not made good.

THE secretary of state's letter, and the prefa-
 tory remarks, were next day taken under confi-
 deration; when it was resolved, " That the intro-
 " duction of a letter, addressed to Daniel Ponton,
 " Esq. chairman of the quarter sessions at Lam-
 " beth, of which John Wilkes, Esq. a member
 " of the house, had confessed himself the author
 " and publisher, was an insolent, scandalous, and
 " malicious libel, tending to inflame the minds
 " of

“of his majesty's subjects to sedition, and to a total subversion of all good order and legal government.”

THESE resolutions were immediately, after long and violent debates, followed by expulsion; in the vote of which, his former crimes, for which he was now suffering punishment, were complicated with the present charge; and a new writ was accordingly issued for the election of a member in his room.

THE next day, at a very numerous meeting of the freeholders of Middlesex, held at the Mile-end assembly-room, George Bellas, Esq. was called to the chair, when James Townshend, Esq. member of parliament for Westlooe, in Cornwall, and afterwards alderman of London, recommended the resolution of re-electing Mr. Wilkes in a very elegant and animated speech, in which he observed, that he had never seen nor spoken to Mr. Wilkes before his late expulsion; that he regarded his cause solely as the cause of the people, divested of every personal consideration or connection; that the oppression and injuries Mr. Wilkes had suffered, were sufficient to rouse
the

the indignation of every man, who had one generous sentiment in his breast, or the least sense of freedom and regard for the constitution; and that he would assert the right of the freeholders to the choice of their representatives, by going to give his vote for Mr. Wilkes, in case of future expulsion, as long as he should have a shilling left, or one leg to hop down to Brentford.

JOHN SAWBRIDGE, Esq. member for Hithe, in Kent, seconded this motion with great spirit, concluding with the words of Mr. Wilkes's address, "That if once the ministry shall be permitted to say whom the freeholders shall *not* chuse, the next step will be to tell them whom *they shall* chuse."

MR. HORNE, Samuel Vaughan, Esq. Sir Francis Blake Delaval, — Eyre, Esq. — Jones, Esq. and many other gentlemen of property and character, spoke to the same effect.

MR. WILKES was re-elected at Brentford on the 16th, member for the county, by the unanimous voice of above two thousand of the most respectable

respectable freeholders, who, notwithstanding it proved a very wet day, attended at their own expence, early in the morning, to support this re-election, lest any candidate in the opposite interest, should have been, by a party, attempted to be surpris'd upon the county at the hustings. Every thing was conducted with the most strict and singular good order. He was put up by James Townshend, Esq. member for Westlooe, and when the re-election was declared, they all around testified their joy by the most loud and unanimous shouts of applause. It may be truly said, that this re-election did not cost Mr. Wilkes a single shilling, so unanimous and so hearty were the people in his favour.

THE next day, the 17th of February, 1769, the return of the previous day having been made to the house, it was resolv'd, that Mr. Wilkes having been expelled this session, was, and is, incapable of being elected a member of the present parliament. This second election was declared void, and a new writ ordered to be issued accordingly.

ON the 16th of March, a third election was held at Brentford, for an election of a knight of the
the

the shire, when Charles Dingley made an offer to oppose this popular candidate; but being very roughly handled by the populace, he thought it most prudent to decline, upon which Mr. Wilkes was again re-elected without opposition.

It appears, that at the above election, Mr. Dingley had not properly considered how far his natural fortitude was equal to the arduous task of opposing the predominant spirit of a free people; if he had stood the poll only for one hour, it was the determination of ministry, as they had declared in the circle of their private friends, to get him seated by a special vote of the house, as they afterwards did in the case of colonel Luttrell. The reception, however, that he met with, and the countenance of the freeholders, had such an effect upon him, that he was glad to retire with his life, not having been able to find a man in the county that was hardy enough to put him in nomination. This election, as well as the former, was declared void, and near another month was suffered to elapse before the time was fixed for a new one. It was now thought that this mode of electing and declaring void, would have been carried on to the end of the session;
and

and that it would then have lain over to the next meeting, in which time the minds of men might have cooled, or some impediment might have been found to change the nature of the discussion; and many thought, that in the present circumstances, it would have been the most prudent conduct that could have been pursued; for though great debates arose concerning the resolution of incapacitation, and the subsequent ones of voiding the election, yet the public did not think themselves so much interested in them, nor their rights in any degree so materially affected, as by the succeeding measure,

A DIFFERENT conduct was however adopted; a gentleman in a military character, and of considerable connexions, though of no fortune or interest immediately in the county, was hardy enough to vacate his seat in parliament, by the acceptance of a nominal place, and to encounter the whole weight of popular odium, by declaring himself a candidate for the county of Middlesex; a measure at that time supposed to be attended with so much danger, that policies were said to have been opened upon his life at some of the insurance offices in the city.

THIS

THIS danger however proved to be only imaginary ; for though some riots happened upon the road, the election was conducted with great order ; the fear of giving any handle to dispute its validity, having proved superior to every other consideration with the freeholders. Though the whole weight of court interest was thrown into the scale in this gentleman's favour, yet a majority of near four to one appeared against him upon the election ; the numbers being, on the poll,

For John Wilkes, Esq.	1143
For Colonel Luttrell, only	296
	<hr/>
Majority in favour of the } cause of liberty,	847

Two days after this election, a resolution was carried in the house, by a majority of 221 to 139, that Colonel Luttrell ought to have been returned a knight of the shire for the county of Middlesex ; and the deputy clerk of the crown was ordered to amend the return, by raising out the name of Mr. Wilkes, and inserting that of Colonel Luttrell in its place. Fourteen days having been allowed for a petition against this decision,

decision, one was accordingly presented, signed by several freeholders, which was again brought into very warm and serious debate; when, however, upon a division, the former resolution was confirmed by a majority.

As no public measure, since the accession of the present royal family, had incited so general an alarm, or caused so universal a discontent as the present, so was no other ever opposed with more firmness, or debated with greater ability; nor has any other political subject been so ably discussed without doors, or productive of so many matterly writings.

MR. COOKE, the other member for Middlesex, died in October, 1768. On the 8th of November following, the election came on at Brentford, for a knight of the shire in his room, when Sir William Beauchamp Proctor, the late member, who had been ousted by Mr. Wilkes, became a candidate in the ministerial interest, and John Glynn, Esq. serjeant at law, was proposed by the friends of liberty. About two of the clock, Mr. Serjeant Glynn having polled a great majority over his opponent, a desperate riot broke
out

out on a sudden, the mob mounted the hustings, attempted to seize the poll-books, and entirely put a stop to the election. Great numbers of freeholders were hurt in trying to get away, and the remainder of the day was a scene of riot and confusion. The election was continued by various adjournments, until the 14th of the same month, when the poll was finally closed; the numbers being,

For Mr. Serjeant Glynn,	1542
For Sir W. B. Proctor,	1278

Majority for Mr. Serjeant Glynn, 264

Whereupon that gentleman was declared duly elected. The numbers polled at this election exceeded by forty-two the greatest number polled upon any preceding occasion.

THE riot on the 8th instant, by the friends of Sir W. B. Proctor having the label "Proctor and liberty" in their hats, was productive of most serious consequences. Mr. George Clarke, a young gentleman, was murdered by one of those miscreants, as he stood at the hustings, during the time of polling. The body was taken

to the White-Hart, Welbeck-street, where the coroner's inquest was taken, before Edward Umfreville, Esq. one of the coroners of the county of Middlesex, and a very respectable jury, when it appeared, from very clear and positive evidence, that his death was occasioned by a blow given him by a stick or bludgeon, by some of the mob concerned in the riot, during the election on the 8th instant. The jury, very prudently, desired to have the assistance and opinion of a surgeon; when a very eminent one was sent for, who after opening the head of the deceased, and examining him in a very particular manner, gave his opinion, that the said blow was the cause of his death. The jury, without the least hesitation, gave in their verdict, "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

LAURENCE BALF, and Edward Macquirk, were afterwards apprehended for the above murder, and took their trial at the Old Bailey, on the 14th of January, 1769, when it appeared, that the prisoners were hired, with others, previous to the day of election, for the purpose of keeping the peace, and assisting the friends of Sir W. B. Proctor; that for some time the poll
went

went on with the greatest regularity, and without the least interruption; that all at once the prisoners, with others, began in a most outrageous manner to strike and knock down, indiscriminately, all who came in their way; and that the deceased was one of the unhappy persons who was thus violently attacked. They were both, upon the clearest evidence, found guilty. The recorder then passed sentence of death, and in his speech observed, that the procurers, however dignified, as well as the procured, were not exempt, by our laws, from equal punishment.

THE trial lasted fourteen hours, and was attended by the fullest court ever known.

THESE men, as well as those concerned in the murder of Mr. Allen, afterwards received his majesty's free pardon.

ALTHOUGH Colonel Luttrell continued to keep his seat, in consequence of the unconstitutional decision of the house of commons, until the close of that parliament in 1774, he was never acknowledged by the electors of Middlesex, or by the people at large, as one of their representatives;

representatives; and whenever an order was made for a call of the house, the sheriffs of Middlesex always summoned John Wilkes, Esq. and John Glynn, Esq. to attend their duty in parliament, as the legal representatives of the county.

AT the ensuing general election in 1774, Mr. Wilkes, and Mr. Serjeant Glynn, were unanimously re-elected, and the house of commons feeling themselves so unequal to the opposing the sense of a whole nation, suffered Mr. Wilkes to take his seat without any further opposition.

THIS county unfortunately losing Mr. Serjeant Glynn in the year 1779, who died in the month of September, the minister, aided by the late duke of Northumberland, again attempted to obtrude a representative upon the county, and Colonel Tuffnell accordingly vacated his seat for Beverley, to become a candidate upon that interest. The late George Byng, Esq. who was at that time member for Wigan, in the county of Lancaster, was put in nomination by the patriotic party, but the minister refusing to give the Chiltern Hundreds to this gentleman, as he had done to colonel Tuffnell, prevented his

being in a capacity, at that time, to accept of the honour intended him. The independent gentlemen of the county then prevailed upon Mr. Wood, of Littleton, to become their representative for the remainder of that parliament, when Mr. Byng's incapacity would be removed by its dissolution.

UPON Mr. Wood's coinciding with the wishes of the freeholders, colonel Tuffnell, being convinced that he had no chance of succeeding, declined the contest, and Mr. Wood was unanimously elected.

AT the general election in 1780, Mr. Byng was unanimously elected, together with Mr. Wilkes, who received that honour from his constituents the sixth time.

ON the third of May, 1782, the motion which had been annually made for twelve years, for expunging from the journals of the house of commons the famous resolution of the 17th of February, 1769, for the expulsion of Mr. Wilkes, after so long a succession of defeats, now terminated, by a majority of 68; the numbers, on the

the division being, ayes 115, noes 47. It was afterwards resolved unanimously, that the said expulsion was illegal and unconstitutional.

THE coalition taking place the following year, was productive of exactly the same consequences between the representatives of this county, as with the members for Westminster. Mr. Mainwaring was proposed as a candidate, in opposition to Mr. Byng, and was elected by a considerable majority, in conjunction with Mr. Wilkes, at the dissolution of the parliament which took place in 1784.

AT the last general election, in 1790, Mr. Wilkes declined the honour of sitting in parliament, and was succeeded by George Byng, Esq. son of the late member, and Mr. Mainwaring was re-chosen.

ANCIENT STATE. This county, which is bounded on the east by Essex, on the south by Surry and Kent, on the west by Buckinghamshire, and on the north by Hertfordshire, derives its name from having been the abode of the middle Saxons, who were so called from

their being situated in the centre of the three kingdoms of the east, west, and south Saxons. It is nearly in the centre of the principal part of the kingdom, in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of London; and gives the title of earl to the family of Sackville.

THIS county, and that of Essex, were formerly inhabited by the Trinobantes; and, according to the Saxon division, Middlesex, Essex, and the eastern part of Hertfordshire, constituted the kingdom of the East Saxons.

MIDDLESEX is divided into six hundreds, and two liberties; has nearly two hundred parishes, exclusive of those in London and Westminster; it is twenty-three miles long, about fourteen broad, and about a hundred and fifteen miles in circuit; it has seven market towns, and contains two hundred and forty square miles, or two hundred and seventeen thousand six hundred acres.

THOUGH this is reckoned one of the smallest counties, in point of extent, in the kingdom, yet on account of London and Westminster, it pays,
eighty

eighty parts out of five hundred and thirteen of the land-tax. It sends 1600 men to the national militia, exclusive of London, and the Tower Hamlets. Its principal river is the Thames, which is navigable 138 miles inland, from London-bridge to Lechlade, at which place it is continued by a canal to the Stroud-water canal, and through it to the Severn, which was opened November 18, 1789, at the expence of £.200,000. By means of this inland navigation, the internal trade of the country may be carried on in time of war without the interruption of our enemies.

THIS county has been long famous for being the residence of the king and his court, as also of the nobility, courts of justice, &c. Here likewise are situate the houses of lords and commons, and several royal palaces, together with a great number of superb buildings, a description of which does not come within the limits of our plan.

THE two sheriffs of the city of London are also the sheriff of this county, annually chosen at Guildhall by the livery, and are afterwards presented before the barons of Exchequer for approbation.

LONDON.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city, which is the first in magnitude, population, commerce, and opulence, in Europe, has no more weight in the legislative representation of the country, than the united boroughs of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, which are the property of an individual. Its members are not the representatives of the inhabitant housekeepers, resident and paying taxes within the city, but of a corporate franchise, derived under ancient charters, limited and confirmed by an act of parliament 11 George I. chap. 18, sect. 1. to the liverymen of the said city. In order to be possessed of this elective right, a man must have obtained his freedom of one of the trading companies, and likewise of the city of London, either by birth, as the son of a freeman born after his father became free, by servitude, as having served seven years apprenticeship to a freeman, by gift of the corporation, or by purchase, and afterwards, by being admitted to the livery of one of the companies. This last qualification

lification was not always necessary, the right of election anciently having been in the freemen at large, which was the subject of many contests, until II George I. gave a peremptory right to the livery only. The present number is under 8000; but if the right were in the freemen at large, the electors would be nearly ten times that number; or, if it were in the inhabitant housekeepers, agreeable to our ancient free constitution, the number would be 22,000.

THE civil government of this city is the first and best in this country, both with regard to the respectability of its officers, and their integrity in the administration of justice. The magistrates, chosen by the freemen of each respective ward, are popular in their organization, unshackled by court influence, independent in their offices, and accountable to their fellow-citizens for the impartial discharge of the duties of their function. Their future elevation to the offices of sheriff, mayor, and member of parliament, depending on the exemplary discharge of their municipal power.

WHAT

WHAT a beautiful contrast do these judicial officers form, who derive their power from the election of the people, with the magistrates of an adjoining city and county, who are branded with the epithet of trading justices, hold their commissions under a courtly lord lieutenant, their *dedimus potestatem* under the chancellor, and are removable at the pleasure of the crown. To rectify these abuses, an act is this moment depending in parliament to regenerate their power, and, if possible, to correct the evil in future. We are at a loss to discover the necessity or policy of establishing a pensioned magistracy, when the city of London has given them an example in practice, of the pure and disinterested administration of justice, arising from the people's discrimination in the choice of their magistrates. We cannot but conclude, that a similar institution would be productive of similar effects.

THIS city is governed by a lord mayor, recorder, 26 aldermen, 2 sheriffs, and 236 common council. The lord mayor is chosen out of the 26 aldermen by the livery, on Michaelmas day, who return two to the court of aldermen,

men, out of whom the court makes choice of one to serve that important office. The sheriffs are likewise chosen by the livery in common hall, and may either be selected from the court of aldermen, or from among the freemen at large. The aldermen and common council are chosen by the inhabitant housekeepers, being freemen of the respective wards, of Aldersgate, Aldgate, Bassishaw, Billingsgate, Bishopsgate, Bread Street, Bridge Without, or Southwark, Bridge Within, Broad Street, Candlewick, Castle Baynard, Cheap, Coleman Street, Cordwainer, Cornhill, Cripplegate, Dowgate, Farringdon Without, Farringdon Within, Langborn, Lime Street, Portoken, Queenhithe, Tower, Vintry, and Walbrook. The aldermen hold their offices for life, but the common council are elected annually, on St. Thomas's day. The recorder is chosen by the court of aldermen, and holds his office for life. The other city officers of importance are, the chamberlain, common serjeant, town clerk, comptroller, collector of the city dues, two judges of the sheriff's court, four city counsel, two secondaries of the Comptroller, a remembrancer, and solicitor.

THE lord mayor has four esquires of his household, a sword-bearer, a mace-bearer or crier, the water-bailiff, and the common hunt; six gentlemen of ditto, two city marshals, and six marshal's men.

THIS city has had the honour of sending to parliament some of the most distinguished patriots that have adorned the page of British history; among whom may be named Sir John Bernard, Sir Stephen Theodore Janssen, and the late William Beckford, Esq. but how does the political virtue of a great people degenerate, when a pensioner and a contractor can obtain a succession to the representative trust of such characters.

IN this metropolis ministerial and aristocratical influence have no operation; artificial dignity is unknown; equality exists in its native purity; and no superiority is acknowledged, but that which arises from ability and merit. In the exercise of the first privilege of a freeman, the delegation of legislative power to the representatives, they are neither awed by the tyranny of control, nor influenced by the incitement of corruption.

ANCIENT

ANCIENT STATE. Camden supposes London derived its name from the British words Llhun, a wood, and Dinas, a city or town, signifying a city in a wood; both Cæsar and Strabo assert, that the ancient Britons lived in fenced woods and groves. It has likewise been supposed, that the name London was derived from the British words Lohng Dinas, a harbour for ships. On account of its being the metropolis of the British dominions, this city is the meridian, from which all British geographers compute the measures of longitude.

THE antiquity of London is undoubtedly very great; it probably existed in the time of the ancient Britons, before the art of writing was brought into England; but it was neither built by Brute, nor king Lud, as some fabulous authors pretend. It had no buildings, either of brick or stone, till they were erected by the Romans; the dwellings of the Britons being only huts, formed of twigs wattled together; yet Tacitus observes, that it was a place of considerable trade in the reign of Nero, about the year 26, when it was famous for the multitude of its merchants; but soon after, Suetonius abandoned

abandoned the city to the fury of Boadicea, on account of its being too large to be defended by his army of ten thousand Romans; whence it appears, that it was then of considerable extent. That exasperated princess, however, burnt the city, and put all its inhabitants to the sword. From this great catastrophe London soon recovered; so that Herodian, in the life of the emperor Severus, calls it a great and wealthy city; and, about that time, it changed its name of Londinum, for that of Augusta; but some time afterwards recovered its ancient name. It must be observed, that Ptolemy, and some other writers of great antiquity, as also some moderns, among whom is the Rev. Dr. Gale, dean of York, have endeavoured to prove, that it was originally a Roman station in St. George's-fields, to secure their conquests on that side of the river; many Roman coins, bricks and checker'd pavements, having been found there. Besides, three Roman ways, from Kent, Surry and Middlesex, intersected each other in that place; and, about a century ago, an urn filled with bones was dug up there. Hence it was supposed to be the original Londinum; but that after the Romans had subdued the Trinobantes, they

they fettled on the north fide of the Thames. Mr. Maitland, however, has opposed this opinion with great strength of argument, and observes, that the Romans were too wife to make use of fo unhealthy a fituation as St. George's-fields then was, they being constantly overflowed by every spring tide, till the river was confined by artificial banks; and, that if the antiquities discovered are any proof, above twenty times the quantity of Roman antiquities have been found on the north than on the south fide of the river.

By whom this city was first walled is uncertain; some ascribing it to Constantine the Great, and others to his mother Helena; but it is most probable, the wall was erected by the emperor Valentinian the First, about the year 368, and quite surrounded the city, to secure it from being invaded by water, as well as by land. The extent of the wall, was three miles in compass, fortified on the land fide by fifteen lofty towers. In the reign of king Henry II. it was considerably raised, but in that of Rich. I. part of it was demolished, to make room for the ditch round the Tower; being much decayed in
the

the reign of king Henry III. he obliged the citizens to repair it at a great expence. In the reign of king John, the city was fortified by drawing a deep moat round the wall; and afterwards the crown usually granted the magistrates of London a duty on certain goods, to defray the expence of cleaning the ditch, and repairing the wall. In the reign of Edward V. great part of the city wall was rebuilt at the expence of the city companies.

THE original gates of the city, erected at the same time with the wall, are supposed to have been four: Newgate, Cripplegate, Aldgate, and Dowgate. These gates were erected over the three great Roman military ways in this part of Britain: the Roman road, called Watling-street, intersecting the Thames, entered London through Dowgate, and, crossing the city, passed through Newgate. The military way, called Ermine-street, is supposed to have pointed to Cripplegate, and the vicinal way to have run through Aldgate. In king Henry II's reign, the wall had the seven following gates: Aldgate, Bishopsgate, Cripplegate, Aldersgate, Newgate, Ludgate, and a postern near the Tower; but that part

part of the wall next the Tower being demolished in the reign of Richard I. the postern fell down. All the six remaining gates, with Moor-gate, which was afterwards built, have been since demolished to make way for new buildings, whereby the city is much improved, both in appearance and healthiness.

THIS city had summons sent to return members to parliament so early as in the reign of 49 Henry III. and were, 6 Edward II. increased to four, which it sent very often in this reign, and has ever since 43 Edward III. constantly returned four members to parliament.

CORPORATION. Consists of a lord mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, 26 aldermen, and 236 common councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—By act of parliament 11 Geo. II. in the livery only.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—7000.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The Sheriffs.

WESTMIN-

WESTMINSTER.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city could never boast of that virtue or independence which has dignified her eldest sister the city of London. Her representatives have generally been selected from the eldest sons of the nobility, who were highest in court favour, or from placemen in the superior departments of office; and, though the right of election is popular and free, it is not at all surprising, when we recollect that this is the seat of royalty, the residence of administration, and that all the offices of government are held within its limits.

As an evidence, however, that the people, wherever they have the exercise of that power, which nature and a free constitution gives, will exercise it in defiance of controul, the electors of Westminster, upon a vacancy which happened in 1769, by the present lord Sandys succeeding to the peerage, feeling a just resentment at the unconstitutional measures, adopted in respect to the Middlesex election, and which were repro-
bated

bated by the whole kingdom, they returned the late Sir Robert Bernard to parliament, who had distinguished himself in support of the rights of the freeholders of Middlesex, against all the influence and intrigue of the administration of that day.

At the following election, in 1774, lord viscount Mahon, now earl Stanhope, and lord viscount Mountmorres, were candidates on the independent interest of this city, and earl Percy, now duke of Northumberland, in conjunction with the earl of Lincoln, son of the duke of Newcastle, were supported by the united interest of the aristocracy and administration; the two latter succeeded against the former by a majority of nearly two to one.

From this period, to the general election of 1780, the city of Westminster was ranked, in the public opinion, with the most obsequious boroughs. The duke of Newcastle and the duke of Northumberland being considered as its political rulers, and so completely did their ascendancy appear to be established, that upon the accession of earl Percy to the peerage, on the death of his

his mother, their nomination of lord Maiden, son of the earl of Essex, was submitted to with scarcely the shew of an opposition, although Sir Watkin Lewes was proposed by several independent electors, who virtuously offered to defray the legal and necessary expences of a poll.

At the general election, in 1780, the city of Westminster effectually burst the chains of aristocratical influence. The inhabitants having formed an association for the purpose of effecting a parliamentary reform, correcting the expediture of the public revenue, and putting an end to the ruinous American war; and that association having appointed a committee, composed of gentlemen of the first ability, patriotism and integrity, the emancipation of this populous city was soon effected by their united exertions.

THE ministry, feeling the vigorous arm of associated independence too powerful for the feeble resistance of aristocracy, contented themselves with attempting to carry *one member*, in the person of lord Lincoln, uniting with him the popularity of Sir George (now lord) Rodney, who

who was proposed by the association, in conjunction with their illustrious chairman, the Right Honourable Charles James Fox.

THE event, however, demonstrated that this partial effort was only the expiring struggle of undue influence, for, after a poll of one-and-twenty days, Mr. Fox was elected by a majority of six hundred and twenty-six votes, in conjunction with Sir George Rodney, against whom there was no opposition.

IN 1782, Sir George Rodney vacated his seat by accepting a peerage, when Sir Cecil Wray, Bart. was invited by the committee of the association to become a candidate, and was unanimously approved and elected by the constituent body.

THE unpopular coalition which took place the ensuing year, and which divided the people from the parliament, the supporters of liberty from the cause itself, and the advocates of public men from one another, created a division between the great assertor of this city's independence, and his virtuous colleague Sir Cecil Wray ; men

whose integrity was inviolable, whose patriotism was unshaken, and in whom the genuine principles of freedom were congenial.

THE aristocracy did not fail to improve this mischievous opportunity, but in alliance with the new-fangled administration of the moment, who compose the motley group of the present day, and whose heterogeneous combination exceeds by far the political deformity of the coalition, took the advantage of popular resentment and disunion, to introduce Lord Hood to the representation at the ensuing general election in 1784. His lordship, however, vacating his seat in 1788, on being appointed one of the lords of the admiralty, the independence of the city again manifested itself in the rejection of a placeman, and in the choice of lord John Townshend, by a majority equal to that which was obtained by Mr. Fox on his first election.

THIS victory was, however, said to be obtained at the expence of fifty thousand pounds, a tax so enormous and severe upon the freedom of election, as to obliterate even the name, unless the virtue and good sense of the nation shall
teach

teach them to despise the gross arts that are practised upon the most disgraceful of the human passions, to intoxicate them into a surrender of their birth-right for a mess of pottage, or to make their own imbecility the instrument of their degradation.

WE trust, however, the period is not very distant, when a perfect system of representation shall be established, when the whole nation shall be exhibited at the same hour employed in exercising the important right of electing their representatives, without the possibility of incurring expence. When each individual shall deposit his suffrage in the parish where he resides, instead of travelling at the expence of a candidate, from London to Berwick, or from Yorkshire to Cornwall, as is at present the practice; and when such regulations shall prevent the worst abuses of the best institutions that can impart happiness to a people.

A DISGRACEFUL compromise has been the consequence of these unlimited expences, in which the dignity of the city, its independence, and right to a perfect representation, are sacrific-

ced ; for whatever public measure has the sanction of one member, in the present division of party, must be opposed by the other ; and the the most populous city in the empire is, of course, deprived of its voice in all the national concerns.

MR. HORNE TOOKE, made a formidable opposition to this unconstitutional coalition ; and we lament, with every friend to liberty, it was not a successful one. The decided and determined detestation of coalitions to destroy the freedom of election, which was shewn by the freemen of Liverpool, upon the late union of lord Penryhn, and Mr. Bamber Gascoigne, if once generally adopted, would effectually check this conspiracy of parties, and restore the electors to the legal and constitutional exercise of their franchise.

PETITIONS.

A PETITION was presented to the house of commons in the year 1774, by lord Mahon, now earl Stanhope, and lord Mountmorres, against the
the

the return of earl Percy, now duke of Northumberland, and the earl of Lincoln; in which it was stated, That divers peers and lords of parliament publicly canvassed, and otherwise unduly interfered in the election, contrary to several express resolutions of the house; and that they allowed to the electors, and several persons who had, or claimed a right to vote, money, meat, drink, entertainment, or provision; and that by those and other undue means a majority was procured,

A LETTER was proved to have been sent from the earl of Exeter's *steward* in the country, to his lordship's *porter* in town, directing him to ask certain votes for the sitting members.

IT was also proved, that the duke of Northumberland *had called* on several of the lower class of voters.

THE committee determined that the sitting members were duly elected.

ANOTHER petition was presented to the house by Sir Cecil Wray, and certain electors in his
interest,

interest, against the return of Mr. Fox in 1784; but the merits of it were not finally entered into.

A THIRD petition was presented by lord Hood, against the return of lord John Townshend in 1788, when, after an investigation of the *right of election* within the said city, the petitioner gave up his claim, and left his opponent in possession of his seat.

IN determining the above question, the committee resolved, that the inhabitants of the liberty of St. Martin's-le-Grand, which is in the centre of the city of London, *had a right to vote*, and that the inhabitants of the liberty of the Savoy, alias St. John the Baptist, which is in the centre of the city of Westminster, *had not a right to vote* in the election of members to serve in parliament for the said city.

By this resolution, near three hundred electors were disfranchised. An appeal against this decision was, however, made by certain electors within the year, as the act of the 28th of Geo.

III. chap. 52, directs, which is still undetermined.

CORRUPTION AND TREASURY INTERFERENCE.

A COMPLAINT having been made to the house of commons by Mr. Thompson, member for Heydon, and seconded by Mr. Lambton, member for Durham, against George Rose, Esq. a member of that house, and secretary to the treasury, for improper interference in the election of 1788, when there was a contest between lord John Townshend and lord Hood, and a motion being made, that a committee be appointed to take the same into consideration, it passed in the negative, by a majority of nearly three to one; the numbers for the question being 84, against it 231.

A MEETING of the electors of Westminster was convened, in consequence of the above decision, when the following resolutions were adopted :

March.

March 20, 1792.

WESTMINSTER MEETING.

At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Independent Electors of the City and Liberty of WESTMINSTER, held at the *Crown and Anchor Tavern*, this day,

HARRY HOUSE, Esq. in the Chair,

THE following resolutions were unanimously agreed to ;

I. That it appears to this meeting that a motion was made on Tuesday the 13th of March, 1792, in the house of commons, for “ An enquiry
“ into all abuses committed by persons in office
“ at the election of a member to serve in parliament for the city of Westminster, in the month
“ of July 1788, as far as the same related to penalties incurred under the excise law and lottery act;” which motion was rejected,

II. That it appears to this meeting, that George Smith, a publican in Westminster, was in the year 1788 convicted, on the prosecution of
the

the attorney general, in the sum of fifty pounds, for brewing beer for sale without a licence, and that the prosecution was officially conducted by John Vivian, Esq. solicitor to the board of excise.

III. That in the month of October, 1788, the said George Smith was employed by George Rose, Esq. secretary to the treasury, as an emissary and agent in favour of lord Hood, one of the lords of the admiralty, at that time prosecuting a petition in parliament against lord John Townshend, the successful candidate at the election for Westminster in 1788; and that the said petition was tried before a committee of the house of commons, in the months of April May, and June, 1789.

IV. That in the month of January 1789, Geo. Smith applied to the said George Rose, Esq. stating the particular circumstances of his case in a petition, and praying to have the penalty he had incurred, remitted; That the said George Rose, Esq. did forward the said petition to the chairman of the board of excise, and did afterwards send a letter to the secretary, desiring as a
favour,

favour, that all proceedings on Smith's penalty might be stopped, till the chairman, who was at that time absent, returned to town.

V. That on the 8th of April 1789, the said George Rose, Esq. did write to the said George Smith, in these words ; " Mr. Rose desires Mr. Smith will call on him in Old Palace-yard, to-morrow morning at eight o'clock, as Mr. Vivian will then be there."

VI. That it appears to this meeting, that the secretary of the treasury, in thus procuring a secret interview early in the morning, at his own house, between the solicitor to the board of excise, and the convicted defendant, acted in a manner highly suspicious.

VII. That from the nature of the transaction, it is difficult to know what passed at such a clandestine meeting ; but it appears by a receipt from the excise office, signed " John Vivian," that no part of the penalty incurred by the said George Smith was levied before the 14th of May, 1790, being a respite of above thirteen months, from the time of the private interview at Mr. Rose's house.

VIII. That

VIII. That during the first part of these thirteen months, the said George Smith was extremely useful to the treasury in forwarding the interests of lord Hood, the unsuccessful candidate, and during the latter part of the period extremely troublesome to the treasury, in demanding to be paid for his services—That the excise penalty appears to have slept, while he was an election agent, and only became active, when he shewed himself in the shape of an unsatisfied creditor.

IX. That the said George Smith, being unable to procure from the secretary of the treasury payment of his bill for his said election services, as his agent, brought an action against him to recover the amount.

X. That this action was tried in the month of July, 1791, before the lord chief justice of the court of king's bench, by a special jury, who, by giving a verdict for the whole demand of the plaintiff, did thereby declare themselves satisfied that Smith had performed election services against lord John Townshend, at the request of the secretary of the treasury, That the said action was defended by the solicitors to the treasury.

XI. That

XI. That in the course of the trial of this action, the following material evidence was given upon oath by the solicitor for lord Hood, viz. " That Mr. Rose had, while the petition against lord John Townshend was depending, assured him he might trust Smith, because there was a prosecution going on against him in the excise; and as a mark of the trust and confidence they had in him, they had interfered and stepped in to serve him,"

XII. That this evidence was uncontroverted upon the trial, and has since been circulated in a printed statement for above eight months, without refutation,

XIII. That the abovementioned proceedings do appear to this meeting to warrant an opinion, that Mr. Rose, by using that influence with the board of excise and its solicitor, which his situation as secretary to the treasury afforded him, has endeavoured, as far as in him lay, to apply the penalties provided by act of parliament for the punishment of frauds upon the revenue, to the corrupt purpose of establishing an undue influence in the election of a member of parliament,

XIV. That

XIV. That this meeting, considering the great and increasing extension of the excise laws, and the number of individuals subject to their operation, cannot but entertain the most alarming apprehensions of danger to the freedom of election, should the influence, which administration must necessarily have in the execution of those laws, be made use of for the purpose of corrupting or intimidating the minds of the electors of this kingdom.

XV. That John Hoskins having been arrested on the affidavit of the solicitor of the lottery, and then being a prisoner in the king's bench prison, for penalties to the amount of 700*l.* incurred under the lottery act, did offer to the said solicitor, who at the time did also act as agent to lord Hood, to procure sixty votes for the said lord Hood, in consideration of his release from prison.

XVI. That the solicitor of the lottery declined complying with the said proposition until he had consulted higher authority, and that, after a short interval of time, the proposal was accepted; and on Hoskins having procured sixty persons to vote
for

for lord Hood, he was actually discharged from prison, on bail notoriously insufficient.

XVII. That the expence attending the putting in and justifying such bail, so notoriously insufficient, was in part defrayed by lord Hood, a candidate at the said election, and one of the lords of the admiralty.

XVIII. That there is reason to believe that this transaction would have been traced to persons of higher authority, and that other instances of equal enormity on the part of the servants of the crown in the said election, would have been proved, had an enquiry been granted.

XIX. That the electors of Westminster, taking into their consideration the above circumstances, anxious to maintain the freedom of election thus daringly invaded, to prevent a misapplication of the public money, and to preserve from abuse powers which, even in the purest exercise of them, must be considered as dangerous, but which, if misapplied, would become absolutely destructive to the liberties of the people, do consider a parliamentary enquiry as necessary

to secure the constituent body of this kingdom in the free enjoyment of their constitutional privileges, and to preserve the independence of the house of commons.

XX. Resolved, That a petition be presented to the house of commons, praying them to take the above matter into their most serious consideration, and to institute a sincere and solemn enquiry, as the best means of correcting the abuses that have been complained of.

XXI. That a committee be appointed to draw up a petition according to the tenor of the above resolutions; and that copies of the same be left for signature at the Crown and Anchor, the Shakespeare, St. Alban's, and King's Arms Taverns, and such other places as the committee may appoint.

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the chairman, for his able and independent conduct this day.

HARRY HOUSE, *Chairman.*

At the above meeting Mr. Francis, member for Bletchingly, after lamenting the audacity with which corruption was now practised, and the indifference with which it was suffered to go unpunished, said, he had an opportunity as a member of parliament since the year 1784, to have been a constant observer of the conduct of the present ministers of the crown, almost from their outset; and he could take upon himself to say, that not one session had passed without one or more acts having passed, openly or insidiously attacking the rights of the people of this country—and he was sorry to be obliged to say, that what had been impudently and violently attempted by the minister, had been stupidly and blindly acquiesced in by the country. He was no flatterer. He took upon him to speak from personal observation, and he repeated—the ministers had from year to year, gone forward in their attacks on the liberties of the people with daring impudence—the people had submitted to these progressive abridgments with blind stupidity. Acts have been tacitly submitted to, that, thirty years ago, would have exposed any minister to contemptuous ridicule, even for suggesting.—He would have been laughed at as a fool,
for

for thinking it possible that such things could be borne. Revenue was made the pretext for all these harsh, grinding oppressions; and these horrible summary laws were defended by saying, that our necessities demanded their utmost and most rigorous stretch—an argument that would gain strength as it went on, and as the miserable system of cabinets involved us as heretofore in wars and armaments, and expences. In every way they were grievous.—First, as checks on the industry—the skill—the improvements in our manufactures—as burthens from their own enormous amount—as vexatious from the uncontrollable power which they gave to the officers who collect, and to the boards who summarily convict. But, as if all these were not sufficient—as if it were not enough, by the endless augmentation of these severe laws and penalties, to have brought every description of men in the kingdom, one way or other, under their rigour, so that even (what on the comparison was a very small, though it was an irksome thing) no man could remove a single dozen of wine from his house in town to his house in the country without licences. Not content with all this, and with depriving the subject of his trial by jury, it was

now proved, that government had other purposes to which these oppressive laws were applied, than what they dared to avow. They were not merely for revenue—they were made the instruments of the worst corruption, and of the basest debauchery,—they were made to intimidate some—to favour others—and to assist a plan for corrupting the whole mass of the constituent and representative bodies. When they came to look at these things—when they saw that such things were practised, not only with impunity, but with boast—when ministers, trusting to the majority which these very practices gave them, disdained even to give a reason—and to answer enquiries that were demanded; there was no remedy but in themselves. It were in vain that a few independent places remained firm to their true interests, and elected persons who had no private interests; in vain even was the incomparable talents and the incorruptible virtue of Mr. Fox himself against the weight of that steady, determined host, whom the minister had bound to his service by personal gratifications. Argument, reason, truth—all were vain against this overbearing majority; and therefore, if the people did not rouse from the fatal lethargy that seemed

seemed to possess them, he saw no end to the encroachments that were daily making on our dearest rights.—The few men in the house of commons, who had no personal interests to stand in the way of their public duty, would be tired out, or would be melted away by the course of time; and it was not to be imagined that men would enter into a conflict in which the people themselves took no part, and about which they were so careless. He thought, however, that this torpor was to be accounted for, only by the people's not being generally acquainted with the corruptions that had been practised. He thought so, because he would fairly say, that if, in his mind, the country at large knew the late practices as well as the people of Westminster, where they had been chiefly transacted, he should despair of remedy, and should indeed think them not worth preserving.—A people that could tamely see use made of these abominable laws, must be lost to every feeling of freemen: but he thought it likely that they were ignorant, and therefore he was of opinion that the electors of Westminster call on their fellow electors, in every corner of the kingdom, should explain to them the circumstances of the late application to the house

of commons—and the manner in which the majority of the minister had stepped in to prevent all enquiry from being made. They should state these particulars of what for the moment was their case, but what to-morrow might be their own.—And as a most direct attack was made through their sides on the privilege of election, they should determine on some broad, legal, constitutional remedy for the evil—A reform in the representation was the only effectual one; and to accomplish this object they should form associations throughout the whole kingdom—they should enlighten one another by means of these associations, and by united petitions—by instructions to their representatives, force them to redress these evils—he said force them, because, against the just representations of an united country, no man would dare to stand out. He recommended this course, for there was no other—He was sure that a reform of the representation would never come from within. The only one instance in which, on a public question, he had voted against the great and shining man whom the electors of Westminster had, so much to their honour, elected so often as their representative, was on this very question of a reform.

He

He was proud, and ready to acknowledge his error and his fault; when this question came on, he owned that he was induced, from the reasoning and persuasion of some particular friends, to vote against the proposition of Mr. Fox. Every day's experience had since convinced him of his error. He had seen such gross infringements on constitutional principles made every year with more and more audacity, that he was convinced nothing but a fundamental reform would relieve the people; and he therefore pledged himself that he should support whatever motion for a reform might be made by Mr. Fox in future, convinced, as he was, that none could be *so bad* as the present system.

A PICTURE of the present state of corruption in this country, so ably drawn, by a gentleman so deservedly respectable, and whose situation enables him to be in the fullest possession of the facts to which he speaks, supercedes the necessity of animadversion from us, who have neither the ability nor opportunity that comes within his compass, of making such accurate and discriminating observations.

ANCIENT

ANCIENT STATE. Westminster had its name from the abbey or minster, situated to the westward of the city of London, to distinguish it from St. Paul's church in the city, which was anciently called Eastminster. In early times this noble part of the metropolis, was a little, mean, unhealthy place, with nothing worthy of notice, but its minster or abbey; though it is called a distinct city, it is not even incorporated, nor is it the see of a bishop.

TILL the general dissolution of religious houses, Westminster, and all the buildings it contained, were subject to the arbitrary rule of its abbot and monks; but in 1541, king Henry the Eighth, upon the surrender of William Benson, its last abbot, made it the see of a bishop, with a dean and twelve prebendaries, and appointed all the county of Middlesex, except Fulham, which belonged to the bishop of London, for its diocese. Upon this occasion, Westminster became a city; but as it had never more than one bishop, the bishopric being, soon after its institution, dissolved by Edward the Sixth, it could no longer be strictly termed a city, though, by the public courtesy, it has retained that distinction, except in
acts

acts of parliament, and other public deeds, where it is styled the city or borough of Westminster.

It is governed by the dean and chapter of Westminster, both in civil and ecclesiastical affairs, and their authority likewise extends, not only to the precinct of St. Martin's-le-Grand, and to some towns in Essex, but to some towns that are exempted from the jurisdiction of the bishop of London, and the archbishop of Canterbury. The civil administration is in the hands of laymen elected by the dean and chapter. The principal magistrate is the high-steward, who is commonly one of the greatest peers of the kingdom, and is chosen for life; a deputy-steward, who is nominated by the high-steward, and confirmed by the dean; an high-bailiff, nominated by the dean and chapter, and confirmed by the high-steward. These enjoy their places for life. Besides these officers there are also sixteen burgeses, and as many assistants, a high-constable chosen by the burgeses at the court-leet, which is held by the deputy of the high-steward. The high-bailiff is always supposed to be conversant in the law. He has the power of a sheriff, summons juries, presides over the constables of the city

city and liberties, superintends elections for members of parliament, and in the court-leet sits next to the deputy-steward, where he receives all the fines and forfeitures to his own use: but the business of this office is commonly executed by a deputy well versed in the laws. Out of the sixteen burgeses, two chief burgeses are chosen, one for the city, and the other for the liberties; and each of the others has his proper ward under his jurisdiction. There is also a high constable, who is likewise chosen by the court-leet, and has all the other constables under his command.

THE first return of members of parliament for this city was in 1 Edw. VI.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1680, 15th November. The king's menial servants, not having proper houses of their own within the city of Westminster, have not a right to give voices in the election of citizens to serve in parliament for the said city.

1789, 11th May. The right of election for the city and liberty of Westminster, is in the inhabitant householders, paying scot and lot, within
in

in the united parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, and the several parishes of St. Paul, Covent Garden, St. Anne's, St. James, St. George, Hanover Square, in the liberty of St. Martin-le-Grand, in the county of Middlesex, and in so much of the parishes of St. Martin in the Fields, St. Clement Danes, and St. Mary le Strand, as are not within any of the four wards of the liberty of the Duchy of Lancaster.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 17,000, but not more than 13,000 have ever polled.

RETURNING OFFICER—The High Bailiff,

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THE chief influence that prevails here is that of the duke of Beaufort and John Morgan, Esq. of Tredegar, in this county; the former of whom returns one of the members, and the latter has

has sufficient interest to procure a return for himself.

THE duke, however, when Mr. Morgan was first proposed, made an attempt to bring in both the members, and set up Valentine Morris, Esq. of Persfield, a candidate to oppose his interest; but the spirited exertions of Mr. Morgan's friends, united with those of the independent gentlemen, finally prevailed, and their own member was accordingly seated.

ANCIENT STATE. This was formerly a Welch county, and was called by the Britons Gwent, from an ancient city of that name, and is at present called Monmouthshire from the county town. In the time of the Romans, it was a part of the country inhabited by the Silures; and long after the inhabitants were cruelly harassed by the lords of the marches, to whom the kings of England granted all the lands they could conquer from them. Indeed, this county was originally considered as a part of Wales, and thus continued till near the end of the reign of king Charles II. when it began to be reckoned an English county, because the judges then began

gan to keep the affizes here, in the Oxford circuit.

This county is seated in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Landaff, and contains one hundred and twenty-seven parishes. It is divided into six hundreds, and has seven market towns, Monmouth, Abergavenny, Caerleon, Chepstow, Usk, Pontipole, and Newport.

MONMOUTH TOWN.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough, in conjunction with those of Uske and Newport, both in this county, sends but one member to parliament. The duke of Beaufort is considered the patron and leader of this town, and his interest always procures the return of the member.

ANCIENT STATE. This town, which took its name from its situation on the river Mynow, is called by the Welch MYNWY, and is situated between the rivers Wye and Mynow, which encompass great part of the town. It has a bridge

‡

over

over each river; and also a third bridge over the little river Trophy, which falls into the Wye, almost close to the mouth of the Mynow. It is a very large handsome town, seated on the road to Gloucester, a hundred and twenty-seven miles to the westward of London, thirty-two north by west of Bristol, nineteen south of Hereford, and twenty-two south by west of Gloucester. It had a castle, which was a stately edifice, but is now in ruins, said to be erected by John Baron of Monmouth, from whom it came to the house of Lancaster, and was the birth-place of king Henry V. The town was formerly encompassed by a wall and ditch, and has been considerable ever since the conquest. Wihenoc de Monmouth, in the reign of Henry I. founded here a convent for some Black monks, which he brought from St. Florence in France. This alien priory was made denizen, and continued till the general suppression, when it was valued at 56l. 1s. 11d. per annum; and about the year 1240, John of Monmouth, knight, founded here the hospital of the Holy Trinity, and that of St. John.

THIS

THIS borough was first imprivileged to send members to parliament by Hen. VIII.—Edw. VI. is said to have incorporated it, anno regni 3, 1550; but the present charter was granted anno 19 Charles I.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, 2 bailiffs, and 15 common councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1680, 26th Nov. Doth not belong to the burgeses inhabitants of the borough of Monmouth only.

THE burgeses inhabitants of the boroughs of Newport and Uske in the county of Monmouth, have a right to vote in the election of a burges to serve in parliament for the said borough of Monmouth.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 800.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The Mayor and bailiffs.

PATRON—The duke of Beaufort.

NORFOLK.

N O R F O L K.

P O L I T I C A L C H A R A C T E R .

THIS county, in point of opulence, may be classed with some of the first in the kingdom. The nobility reside here in great numbers, but they have not, when united, sufficient power to influence effectually the freeholders in the choice of their own representatives. Thomas William Coke, Esq. one of the richest commoners in England, and their representative in the parliament before last, became so unpopular, on account of the support which he gave the coalition, that the independent gentlemen made such an opposition against the weight of interest which supported him, that they at length finally triumphed. Mr. Coke was ousted, and Sir John Woodhouse, Bart. was elected in his room.

A N C I E N T S T A T E . Norfolk, which signifies Northfolk, received its name from its situation with respect to Suffolk, and was intended to express

press the northern people of the east Angles. It is bounded on the north and east by the sea and part of Suffolk; on the south by Suffolk; and on the west by Cambridgeshire, and an arm of the German sea, called the Wash, which separates it from a part of Lincolnshire. This county is in some sense an island, the river Ouse separating it from Cambridgeshire, and the rivers Waveny and Little Ouse from Suffolk; while the other parts are washed by the sea. It extends fifty-seven miles in length, from east to west, and thirty-five in breadth, from Thetford in the south, to Wells in the north; and is one hundred and forty miles in circumference. East Derham, which is a considerable market town near the centre of the county, is at the distance of ninety-seven miles north-east of London.

THE inhabitants of this county, in the time of the Romans, were named the Iceni, and during the heptarchy it formed the north part of the kingdom of the East Angles.

NORWICH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city, in point of opulence, commerce, manufactures, and number of inhabitants, is the second in the kingdom. It is entirely free and independent in its representation, and is only influenced in the election of its members, by integrity, virtue, and eminent abilities. It forms a striking contrast with some rotten boroughs, and burgage tenures, the property of individuals, where the few electors which they contain, can consider only the will and command of their lordly master. Here the right of delegating this important trust, is placed as it ought to be, and where our constitution, pure and free from alloy, vested it in so large a body of the people, that the dictatorial authority of those who call themselves the *great*, has no effect.

ANCIENT STATE. This city, which is the capital of the county, is seated upon the side of a hill, encompassed by a wall and deep ditch. By the Saxons it was called *Norwic*, *nor* signifying north,

north, and *was* a bay, station, or castle; for it may be considered as seated on a bay of the river Yare; and it received the appellation of north, from its situation with respect to a very ancient fortified town, about three miles distant, called Caſter, from the ruins of which Norwich is generally ſuppoſed to have riſen. It is ſeated near the confluence of the rivers Venſer, or Windſer, and the Yare.

It was plundered and burnt by Sweno, king of Denmark; but ſoon recovering itſelf, it had, in the reign of Edward the Confefſor, one thouſand three hundred and twenty burgeſſes. It ſuffered greatly by the inſurrection of Ralph, earl of the Eaſt Angles, againſt William the Conqueror, in whoſe reign it was beſieged, and reduced by famine.

AFTER this it remained in a ſtate of quiet for ſome time, and the biſhop's ſee was removed from Thetford hither; when Herbert Loſinga, being accuſed of ſimony in obtaining the epiſcopal ſee of Thetford, endeavoured to atone for this ſin by building a very handſome cathedral at Norwich, to which he removed the ſee, and ac-

cordingly the first stone was laid in 1096. On the south side of it he founded a monastery, which he very liberally endowed. He also built two parish churches, and erected a palace for himself and his successors.

AFTER this Norwich became remarkable for merchandize, and the great number of its inhabitants, who were increased by the many Jews that flocked thereto. In the 17th year of king Stephen, this city was in a manner built anew, and made a corporation, which that monarch granted to William, his third son; but Henry II. took it from him. However, his son Henry, to engage Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk, to assist him in his endeavours to wrest the crown from his father, promised him this city, and put him in possession of the castle, where he fortified himself, and received many French and Flemings. But the king soon vanquished him, and not only took this, but all other castles from him, and forced him to pay a fine of a thousand marks; by this means, however, the city received a great deal of damage. After this Lewis of France, assisting the barons against king John, and his son Henry III. soon took it by siege
plundered

plundered the citizens, and again reduced it to a poor condition.

IN the next age it flourished again, and the inhabitants petitioned the king in parliament, that they might have liberty to wall the city round; which they accordingly did upon leave granted.

IN the reign of Henry IV, instead of bailiffs and coroners, they began to be governed by a mayor and two sheriffs; and in the heart of the city, near the market-cross, they built a beautiful town-house. In the year 1348, they were visited by the pestilence, which about that time was spread, not only over England, but almost over all Europe. It swept away in this city, in about six or seven months, fifty-seven thousand three hundred and seventy-four people, besides Mendicants and Dominicans; which may serve to shew how well it was inhabited. Norwich underwent other misfortunes at different times; but it would be too tedious to insist upon them particularly; only we shall take notice, that in 1507, it was almost entirely consumed by fire; and that it was plundered in the time of Ket's rebellion. Since that time it has enjoyed almost continual

peace, and is now one of the most considerable towns in this island, if we consider the number and wealth of the citizens, its extent, its manufactures, and its commerce. King Henry IV. made this city a county of itself, and empowered the inhabitants to choose a mayor and two sheriffs, instead of bailiffs, by whom they had till then been governed, according the charter they had obtained from king Stephen.

THIS city had a mayor and two sheriffs appointed to it anno 1403, by Hen. IV.

NORWICH appears to have been, in ancient times, much more populous than it is at present, since it formerly contained fifty-eight parochial churches and chapels, which are now reduced to thirty-six churches, besides the cathedral, and a church in the suburbs; and some of these are very mean buildings. The cathedral is a large structure, whose roof and cloisters are admired for their workmanship. It is not that which was built by Herbert Lofinga, for that was burnt down by an accidental fire. After which John of Oxford, bishop of this see, restored it to its former splendor.

HERE

HERE is the ancient palace of the duke of Norfolk, which was formerly a noble and magnificent structure, reputed the largest house in England. The castle is seated on a high hill, and surrounded by a very deep ditch, over which is a strong bridge, with an arch of an extraordinary size. The Saxons are supposed to have been the founders of this castle, which was afterwards repaired by Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk; but it is now the common jail of the county. There is a beautiful town-house in the market-place, and a Guildhall in St. Andrew's parish, which was formerly the monastery church of the Black Friars. The house of correction, called Bridewell, is close by St. Andrew's church, and built with square flint stones, so curiously joined together, that no mortar can be seen. The market-cross is built with free-stone, and is very lofty; it is erected in the manner of a piazza, and is very beautiful and commodious. The king's school was anciently a chapel, subject to the prior and convent of the cathedral church; but after the dissolution, it was turned into a grammar-school, by Edward VI. and was endowed with the lands, tenements, and possessions of the said chapel, for the maintenance of a school-master
and

and usher, since which time the salary has been enlarged. The scholars are nominated by the mayor for the time being, with the majority of the aldermen. As for the houses, they are generally very handsome and lofty, especially about the market-place; in the lanes and lesser streets, indeed, there are some thatched houses, but not very contemptible, but these in time will disappear, as all new houses are to be tiled. Some authors call Norwich an orchard in a city, or a city in an orchard, on account of the variety of gardens, and trees in a particular part, near the walls.

In the city are twelve charity schools, where two hundred and ten boys, and one hundred and forty-four girls, are taught, clothed and supplied with books. Here are also four hospitals, one of which, called St. Helen's, was originally founded for the entertainment of strangers, by king Henry VIII. but is now appropriated to the use of the poor of the city; in it are maintained a master, a chaplain, and eighty poor men and women, clothed in grey; these must be sixty years of age before they can be admitted. Another of the hospitals, called Doughty's, consists of a master, sixteen poor men, and eight women, all clothed in purple. The other two
hospitals

hospitals are, one for boys, and the other for girls ; the former contains thirty poor boys, who are taught to read and write, and, at a proper age, put out apprentices ; and the latter is for the like number of girls, who are provided for in the same manner. Each of these hospitals was founded by a mayor of this city.

CORPORATION. A mayor, a recorder, two sheriffs, twenty-three aldermen, and sixty common-councilmen. The mayor is nominated by the freemen, who return two aldermen to their court, one of whom is elected. The mayor, recorder, and the steward for the time being, are justices of the peace, and of the quorum, in the city and its liberties ; the mayor, after his mayoralty expires, is justice of the peace for life. One of the sheriffs is annually elected by the aldermen, and the other by the freemen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1701, March 12. Is in the freeholders, and such freemen only of the said city as are entered in the books, and do not receive alms or charity.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—about 3000.

RETURNING OFFICERS—the sheriffs.

YAR.

YARMOUTH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This large town is independent in its political situation; for, altho' the families of Townshend of Honingham, and Walpole, have some interest here, yet it is not in such a degree as to be termed an influence. Sir John Jarvis and Mr. Beaufoy carried their election in 1774, against the united efforts of the above gentlemen.

ANCIENT STATE. This place is called Great Yarmouth, to distinguish it from a small village in its neighbourhood, called Little Yarmouth. It took its name from its situation at the mouth of the river Yare, and is a hundred and twenty-two miles north-east of London. This town was generally thought to have been built out of the ruins of an ancient Roman city, named Garinaonum, where the Sablefian horse lay in garrison against the ancient Britons; but the scite of the ancient Garinaonum was, according to Camden, at Burgh castle, on the other side of the
Yare,

Yare, about two miles from Yarmouth. This town was anciently one of the Cinque-ports. It had a provost granted it by king Hen. I. and was made a borough by king John. In the reign of Edw. I. it began to send members to parliament, and was encompassed by a wall and ditch in the reign of Henry III. in the same reign a pestilence raged here, which carried off seven thousand of the inhabitants. In the time of Edw. III. the inhabitants sent forty-three ships, and 1075 seamen to the siege of Calais. Rich. II. granted the inhabitants permission to build a quay, after which they had great quarrels with the Cinque-ports, for being excluded out of their number, and consequently deprived of their privileges. King Hen. III. granted the city a charter, by which it was governed by two bailiffs and a recorder, who were justices of the peace. At the accession of James I. the inhabitants, who amounted to about 5000, were incorporated by the name of a bailiff, aldermen and common-council; but Charles II. granted them a new charter.

THE seamen employed here, by the merchants, are esteemed the best in England; and though

Yar-

Yarmouth is not so large as Norwich, it is generally reckoned, in proportion to its extent, superior in trade and wealth; for upwards of half a century ago, above 1100 vessels belonged to this port, besides the ships which the merchants of this town were owners of, or concerned in, at other ports. Its situation, indeed, is exceedingly commodious for trade, being seated on the German ocean, at the mouth of the Yare, which is navigable from hence to Norwich; besides which, there is a navigation from this town by the Waveny, to the south parts of Norfolk, and the north of Suffolk, while the inhabitants trade to the north part of the county, by means of another river called the Thyrne. This port is the chief rendezvous of the colliers between Newcastle and London; for, though there are some dangerous banks of sand in the neighbourhood, the roads on the east side of the town are so safe, that they are much frequented by vessels which pass and repass, and the inhabitants are at the expence of between 2 and 3000 l. a year, to keep the harbour clean. Yarmouth carries on a great trade, both to France, Holland, the North and East seas, and exports such immense quantities of corn and malt, that many years ago, these
articles

articles are said to have amounted to 220,000 quarters a year. This town has the whole herring fishery of the coast, in which the inhabitants employ 150 vessels, and between 40 and 50 sail in the exportation: 50,000 barrels of herrings, which some magnify to 40,000 lasts, containing 40,000,000 of herrings, are generally taken and cured here in a year. These herrings are chiefly exported by the merchants of Yarmouth, and the rest, by those of London, to Spain, Portugal, and Italy, which, with the crapes, camlets, and other Norwich stuffs, occasion much business, and employ a great number of hands and shipping.

By a charter granted by Hen. III. the town is bound to send every year to the sheriffs of Norwich a hundred herrings, baked in twenty-four pasties, which the sheriffs are to deliver to the lord of the manor of East Carleton, a village near New Buckenham: he gives the sheriffs his receipt for them, and by his tenure, is obliged to present them to the king, wherever he is.

THIS town was governed by two bailiffs in the reign of Hen. III. King James I. anno regni 6,

incorporated it by the name of bailiff and aldermen. It sent members to parliament in the reign of Edw. I. as early as Lynn and Norwich did.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, seventeen aldermen, a recorder, and thirty-six common-councilmen,

The corporation has particular and extensive privileges, it having both a court of record, and an admiralty; in the court of record, civil causes are tried for unlimited sums; and in the court of admiralty, they can, in some cases, try, condemn, and execute, without waiting for a warrant.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. In the burghesses at large.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—787.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

THETFORD.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this borough being in the corporation, consisting of a mayor, recorder, ten aldermen, and twenty common-council, exclusive of the
inhab-

inhabitants, this select junto, like all others, whom "accident or intrigue" have invested with the delegating powers of a nation, are under the control of a patron. They have, indeed, for some time manifested a strong disposition to become refractory; but in so doing, they only add to their political delinquency the crime of ingratitude, as most of these select member-makers have, at a former period, experienced unlimited favours from the munificence of their leader.

ANCIENT STATE. This borough took its name from its being seated on a small river called the Thet. It is divided by the Little-Ouse, which here separates it from the county of Suffolk, and stands in a pleasant open country, at the distance of eighty miles from London. It is generally supposed to have arisen from the ruins of the ancient Sitomagus, a Roman city, which was destroyed by the Danes: but Dr. Gale, and others, place that city at Woolpit. However, here are still many marks of antiquity; particularly a large mount, called Castle-hill, thrown up to a great height, and fortified by a double rampart. According to tradition, it had
walls,

walls, though now there is no appearance of them; it is likewise supposed to have been a Danish camp. This town was once the metropolis of the kingdom of the East-Angles; and in 672, the archbishop of Canterbury held a synod here. In the year 870, it was ravaged by the Danes; during the reign of king Edmund. Some years after they returned again, took Thetford, and set it on fire; but for want of provisions, were forced to return back to their ships. In the year 1099, they came again, when they burnt Thetford and Cambridge; and rifled all the abbeys and churches in their way, gaining a great deal of plunder, with which they returned to their ships. After Canute the Dane became king, Thetford began to recover, and was so prosperous in the reign of Edward the Confessor, that there were nine hundred and forty-seven burgeses; and in the time of William the Conqueror, it had seven hundred and twenty mansions, and the chief magistrate was styled consul. It was a bishop's see for some time; when Herbert Losinga, being made bishop of Thetford by William Rufus, removed the see to Norwich, where it has continued ever since. In the reign of Henry VIII. Thetford was a place of such consequence, as to be made a suffra-

suffragan see to Norwich; but it continued so only during that reign.

THETFORD, in its flourishing state, had eight monasteries. In the church of St. Mary's, at Thetford, was a society of religious so early as the reign of King Edward the Confessor, if not before; and hither Arfastus, bishop of the East-Angles, removed his episcopal seat from North Elmham in 1075; but it continued here only nineteen or twenty years before it was translated to Norwich: after which, about the year 1104, a monastery for Cluniac monks was built here by Roger Bigod, or Bigot, and made subordinate to the abbey of Cluny in France; but the place being found inconvenient, they began a more stately monastery without the town, on the other side the river. This was finished in 1114, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was made denizen in the fiftieth year of the reign of Edward III. Upon the dissolution of religious houses, its revenues, according to Dugdale, amounted to 312 l. 14 s. 4 d. a year; but according to Speed to 418 l. 6 s. 3 d. A priory of regular canons, of the order of the Holy Sepulchre, or the Cross, was founded here by William, earl of Warren, in the reign of king Stephen, which, at the time of the
 sup-

suppression, had six religious, whose annual revenue amounted to 39 l. 6 s. 8 d. On the Suffolk side of the town was an ancient house of regular canons, dedicated to St. George ; but becoming ruinous and forsaken, abbot Hugh de Narwold, and the convent of St. Edmundsbury in Suffolk, placed nuns here ; at the dissolution of which there was a prioress and ten nuns, whose revenue amounted to 40 l. 11 s. 2 d. per ann. Towards the beginning of the reign of Edw. III. a house of friars is said to have been founded in the town by Henry, earl, afterwards duke of Lancaster. Without the town was an hospital, dedicated to St. Mary, endowed at the suppression with only 1 l. 13 s. 6 d. per ann. Here was an hospital called God's-house, before the 24th of Edw. I. In the reign of Richard II. here was a house of Augustine friars, founded by John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster ; and here was likewise a college, dedicated to St. Mary, consisting of a master and fellows, which, at the suppression, was valued at 109 l. per annum.

THETFORD had likewise formerly a mint ; it has been honoured with the presence of many of our sovereigns, particularly Hen. I. and Hen. II.
Queen

Queen Elizabeth and James I. made it one of their hunting seats, and the latter had a palace here, which is still called the King's House.

It is still of considerable extent, though far from being so populous as it was in the reign of Edw. III. when it had twenty churches, and the above-mentioned religious houses.

It sent to parliament the 1st of Edw. IV.

CORPORATION. It was incorporated the 16th of Elizabeth, and consists of a mayor, recorder, ten aldermen, and twenty common councilmen.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE RIGHT OF ELECTION.

3d of May, 1685. THE charter of the 16th of Elizabeth, granted to the borough of Thetford, was not duly nor legally surrendered.

7 June, 1685. Is in the mayor, ten aldermen, and twenty common council.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—31.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—The Duke of Grafton.

CASTLE RISING.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough forms the most striking contrast with the city of Norwich. The burgesses here formerly were about fifty in number, but since this town was become the joint property of the earl of Orford, and countess dowager of Suffolk, they have thought it convenient to reduce this number to *two* only. The election of a mayor, who is also the returning officer, must be made annually, out of this numerous body, consisting of the clergyman and the farmer, who elect each other alternately into this great and respectable situation, and who have the honour to return to the house of representatives as many members as their constituent body consists of. Nothing can hold out the farcical representation of this country in more glaring colours than this as also the immediate necessity of some kind of reformation.

ANCIENT STATE. This borough obtained its name from an old castle, which, together with the town, is situated on a lofty eminence. This castle was built by William d'Albini, earl of Arundel and Suffex, in the time of king Hen. I.
There

There were in the walls of it three towers, which the lords Hunstanton, Wotton, and Ridon, were bound to defend and maintain; and to support their men, they had a power given them by a statute of the 3d of Edward I. to take provision of the circumjacent villages, paying for it within forty days. From king Hen. I. to the 27th of Hen. III. the Albines, earls of Arundel and Suffex, held this castle, by which tenure they enjoyed a third part of the customs of the port of Lynne, till the people of Lynne besieged one of the earls in the castle, and so streightened him, that he was forced to release his right to them, and swear never to attempt the recovery.

CASTLE-RISING is ninety-seven miles distant from London, and is an ancient borough by prescription. It was formerly a considerable place; but the harbour being choaked up with sand, it is in a manner deserted, and has lost its trade and most of its inhabitants. Here is, however, an hospital for twelve poor men, and an almshouse for twenty-four poor widows, both founded by the family of the Howards. In the neighbourhood of the town is a large chase, with the privileges of a forest. This town, and some of the neighbouring

bouring parishes, retain the old Norman custom, by which all wills must be proved before the parson of the parish.

THIS borough never sent members to parliament till the last year of king Philip and queen Mary, 1558.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, who is returning officer.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. In the free burgessees

NUMBER OF VOTERS—TWO.

PATRONS—Countess of Suffolk, and earl of Orford.

L Y N N.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough was always attached to the Walpole family, under whose influence it continues at this time. Sir Robert Walpole was member for this place at the time of his famous expulsion, in 1711, for alienating five hundred pounds of the public money; the words of his expulsion being "for breach of trust, and notorious corruption when secretary at war." And it was resolved "that he was, and

“and is, incapable of being elected a member to
 “serve in parliament.” The electors of Lynn,
 however, chose him again, although opposed by a
 Mr. Taylor. The unsuccessful candidate petition-
 ed the house against the re-election of Sir Robert
 Walpole; but the house had the modesty to refuse
 Mr. Taylor, on account of his having only a mi-
 nority of votes, and declared the election void.
 In this case the commons acted constitutionally;
 but in seating Mr. Luttrell for the county of
 Middlesex, instead of Mr. Wilkes, their conduct
 was certainly the reverse. Their conviction of
 the proceedings upon that head being improper,
 is manifested in their expunging those resolutions
 which had passed formerly, relative to that business,
 declaring them illegal and unconstitutional.

ANCIENT STATE. Lynn-Regis, or King's-
 Lynn, is thus named, by way of distinction from
 three villages in the county, called West-Lynn,
 North-Lynn, and Old-Lynn. The learned au-
 thor of the additions to Camden observes, that its
 original name was Len, which, in the Saxon
 tongue, signifies a farm or tenure in fee. It was
 formerly called Bishop's-Lynn, from its belong-
 ing to the bishop of Norwich; but coming by
 † exchange

exchange into the hands of Henry VIII. it obtained its present name. The greatest part of it is surrounded with a wall and a deep trench, and through it runs four small rivers, over which there are about fifteen bridges. From the ruins of the works demolished in the civil wars, it appears to have been a place of great strength. It extends along the east side of the Ouse, which, upon a high spring tide, is said to rise twenty feet perpendicular, and is about the breadth of the Thames above London bridge.

At the north end of the town is a fortress, commonly called St. Anne's fort, with a platform of twelve large guns, which command all ships that go in and out of the harbour. Besides the wall, it is defended by regular bastions; and the ditch lies almost in the form of a semicircle. The principal church is dedicated St. Margaret, and is built in the Gothic taste. It is accounted by some, one of the largest parish-churches in England.

KING'S-LYNN was a borough by prescription before the reign of king John, who, on account of its adhering to him against the barons, made it

it a free borough, with large privileges, appointing the town a provost, and giving it a silver cup of about eighty ounces, double gilt and enamelled, with four large silver maces, that are carried before the mayor: king Henry VIIIth's sword, which he gave to the town, on its coming into his possession, by exchange, with the bishop of Norwich, is likewise carried before the mayor. King Hen. III. made it a mayor town, on account of the inhabitants serving him against the barons; and in the late civil wars it held out for Charles I, and sustained a siege against upwards of 18,000 men, for above three weeks; but, for want of relief, was at length obliged to surrender, and to pay ten shillings a head for every inhabitant, with a month's pay to the soldiers, to prevent its being plundered. This town has had fifteen royal charters. It was made a borough in the 5th year of the reign of king John, 1204. Here was a mayor in the time of Edw. IV.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, an high-steward, an under-steward, a recorder, twelve aldermen, eighteen common-councilmen, with other inferior officers.

EVERY

EVERY first Monday in the month, the mayor, aldermen, magistrates, and preachers meet, to determine all controversies in an amicable manner between the inhabitants, in order to prevent law-suits. This excellent custom was established in 1558, and is called the feast of reconciliation.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 300.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor,

PATRON—Lord Walpole.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THE balance between aristocracy and independence is nearly even in this county. The interest of the duke of Northumberland is so powerful, as to return one of the members, but in 1774, he attempted to bring in both; in this he was opposed by Sir William Middleton, one of the present representatives, who, assisted by the independent yeomen and gentlemen, finally obtained a victory, and was accordingly seated.

AN-

ANCIENT STATE. This is the old Saxon name of the county, which was written Northan-Humber-lond, signifying the land or country north of the Humber. It being formerly not only a district of larger extent than it is at present, comprehending Yorkshire, Durham, Lancaster, Westmoreland and Cumberland, as well as Northumberland, but was a distinct kingdom of the Saxon heptarchy. It is a maritime county, extending farther north than any of the others, bordering on Berwick-upon-Tweed and Scotland.

THIS, with some of the adjacent counties, was, in the time of the Romans, inhabited by the Ot-tadini, Ottadeni, or Ottatini, a people supposed to have been thus called from their situation upon the river Tyne. These people, being uneasy under the Roman government, conspired with the Caledonians, in the reign of the emperor Severus, and threw off the yoke; at which that prince was so provoked, that having assembled his army, in order to reduce them, he had the cruelty to order his soldiers to give them no quarter; but his death prevented the execution of this inhuman command, and the Britons were left masters of
this

this province, till Theodosius, landing in England, recovered it out of their hands.

AFTER the Romans had withdrawn their forces, the Britons, who had been exhausted by the bravest of their youth having been sent abroad to fight the battles of the Romans, were obliged to call in the Saxons to assist them against the Scots and Picts; but when the Saxons had vanquished their enemies, they settled here themselves, and divided the south part of the island into seven kingdoms, of which Northumberland was one of the chief. It was first brought under the Saxon yoke by Offa, the brother of Hengist, and his son Jebusa.

THIS county lying on the borders of Scotland, whose inhabitants often made inroads into it, partly for conquest, and partly for pillage, it was at length found necessary to constitute particular governors to guard and defend the borders; and these were called lords of the East, West, and Middle Marches. At the same time, every man who possessed great wealth, found himself obliged to provide a castle for his own safety and defence.

NORTH

NORTHUMBERLAND is situated in the province of York, and diocese of Durham, has four hundred and sixty parishes, and is divided into six wards, in which are twelve market-towns, Alnwick, Beleford, Berwick, Ellesdon, Haltwesel, Hexham, Laermouth, Morpeth, Newcastle, Rothbury, Warkworth, and Woller. It sends eight members to parliament, that is, two knights of the shire for the county, and two representatives for each of the three following towns, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Morpeth, and Berwick-upon-Tweed.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The freedom of this town, to which the right of election is annexed, is not partial, like Retford and other places, in its descent to the eldest son, or, like Durham, to the youngest sons of freemen, but extends to all the sons born after the father became free.

The number is too extensive to submit to control. The contests for the representation of this town have been numerous; but none of them

them have been attended with any circumstances of novelty which would arrest the attention of of the public.

THE ancestors of Mr. Brandling, one of the present members, have represented the place so long since as the reign of Edw. VI. and in several parliaments from that period to the present time.

ANCIENT STATE. This town, which, from its situation, is called Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to distinguish it from Newcastle-under-Line, in Staffordshire, had its name from a castle built here by Robert, the eldest son of William the Conqueror, to defend the country against the Scots. In the time of the Saxons it was called Moncafter, from the monks that were here, who all fled when it was depopulated by the Danes. This is the principal town of the county. It is seated on the north bank of the river Tyne, at the distance of 276 miles north by west of London, 14 miles north of Durham, and 84 north by west of York. It has been a borough, at least ever since the reign of Richard II. who granted the mayor the honour of having a sword carried before him; and

and Hen. VI. made it a town and county of itself, independent of Northumberland.

NEWCASTLE had several religious houses erected since the time of the conquest ; particularly an hospital dedicated to the Virgin Mary, supposed to have been founded in the reign of Edward I. but enlarged and endowed by one Affelack, about the end of the reign of Hen. II. and annexed to St. Mary of Westgate. Near Westgate was another hospital dedicated to the Virgin Mary, as old as the time of Hen. III. consisting of a master and six brethren, whose revenues, at the time of the suppression, annually amounted to 26 l. 13s. 4d. In the time of Hen. III. here was a priory of brethren de Pœnitentia Jesu Christi, seated in a part of the town called Constable-Garth. Between Westgate and Newgate was a house of Black-friars, founded about the year 1260, by Sir Peter Scot, and his son Nicholas : and near Pandon-gate, stood a house of Grey friars, founded before the year 1300. Near the town was a small Benedictine nunnery, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, as old as the time of William the Conqueror, which, at the dissolution, had ten nuns, and a revenue amounting to 36 l. a year. Without
the

the walls of the town was likewise a priory, or hospital, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, of a master and brethren, founded by king Henry I. This hospital is still in being, and consists of a master, and three poor brethren, each of whom has 3l. 6s. a year.

THIS town was made a county of itself by Henry VIII.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, aldermen, and a sheriff.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. There is no resolution of the house of commons respecting the right of election, but it is admitted to be in the corporation and free burgeses, resident and non-resident.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—2500.

RETURNING OFFICER—The sheriff.

MORPETH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough is under the immediate and absolute controul of the earl of Carlisle. Several attempts have been made

made by the electors to surmount this influence, but they have never been attended with success.

At the general election in 1774, Francis Eyre, Esq. and Thomas Charles Bigge, Esq. were candidates in opposition to the Hon. William Byron, who was cousin, and Peter Delme, Esq, who was brother-in-law, to the earl of Carlisle, On the day of election, and after the close of the poll, these gentlemen having the majority of votes, agreeable to the poll taken by the bailiffs, the populace, by threats and violence, compelled the returning officers to sign a return of Mr. Eyre, instead of the Hon. William Byron, under a pretence that they had rejected many legal votes for Mr. Eyre, which would have given him a majority upon the poll. On the 6th of December following, Mr. Byron, and certain electors in his interest, presented two petitions to the house of commons, complaining of the undue return of Mr. Eyre. A committee was chosen to try the same on the 24th of January following, and on the 27th of the same month, reported to the house,

“ THAT the honourable William Byron, the
 “ petitioner, ought to have been returned a bur-
 “ gess

“ gets to serve in this present parliament for the
“ borough of Morpeth.”

AT the same time an order was made,

“ THAT Francis Eyre, and the freemen and
“ electors of the borough of Morpeth, in the
“ county of Northumberland, be at liberty to
“ petition this house, to question the election of
“ the honourable William Byron, within four-
“ teen days next, if they think fit.”

AND, on Wednesday the 8th of February, a petition of Mr. Eyre was presented to the house, charging Mr. Byron and Mr. Delme directly with bribery, by themselves and agents; and that, by the partiality of the returning officers, in rejecting the petitioner's votes, and by other corrupt and illegal practices, an apparent majority was procured for the fitting members.

A SIMILAR petition had previously been prepared by Mr. Bigge, and another by several aldermen and free burgesses of Morpeth, containing the same allegations.

THESE petitions were all ordered to be taken into consideration on the 12th of July.

THE

THE house being prorogued before that day, and the petitions not being renewed at the ensuing meeting of parliament, no examination of their merits took place.

ANCIENT STATE. This borough, which is seated upon a small river, called the Wentbeck, is an ancient borough by prescription. It has a bridge over the Wentbeck, which runs almost through the centre of the town. Being a post town, and having a great thoroughfare to the north, it has several good inns, and an elegant town-house, built by a late earl of Carlisle.

It never sent to parliament till the first of Queen Mary, 1553.

CORPORATION. It is governed by two bailiffs and seven aldermen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1694, March 9th—Is only in the bailiffs and free burgesses of the said borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—200.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The two bailiffs.

PATRON—Earl of Carlisle.

BERWICK UPON TWEED.

THE influence prevailing in this town, is that of the earl of Lisburne and lord Delaval; each of these noblemen having a sufficient weight of interest, at present, to return one member.

ANECDOTE.

IN the year 1768, Sir John Hufsey Delaval, and Robert Paris Taylor, Esq. were candidates to represent this town in parliament, and had been fortunate enough to secure the major part of the resident freemen in their interest, some time previous to the election. The candidates, however, who were in opposition, canvassed, and obtained the promise of the votes of a great number of the non-resident freemen, who then lived in London, and agreed with a master of a ship, that he should hire another vessel, besides his own, and convey these men down to Berwick by water. Upon covenanting to do this, the commodore of the convoy received two hundred pounds.

MR.

MR. TAYLOR, by whom we were favoured with this account, was then in town, and, by accident, heard of the transaction; upon which he immediately went in search of the admiral of this election cargo, whom he found. He soon perceived that this son of Neptune might, for a valuable consideration, be induced, not only to change his side, but also his course; and, for twice the sum which had been given him to land his troops at Berwick, he arrived safe, and deposited them on Norwegian territories. By this manœuvre, lord Delaval and Mr. Taylor took possession of their seats without farther expence.

ANCIENT STATE. This town was originally called Abtewick, signifying, in the ancient British language, a fort at the mouth of a river: but according to others, it was called by the Saxons Beornicawic, which signifies the town of the Bernicians, this part of the country being anciently called Bernicia; others again derive the name from Berwica, which signifies a corn-farm, there being great plenty of grain in the adjacent country. It is pleasantly situated on the south side of an easy declivity, on the north coast of the river Tweed; it is not properly in this county,

or even in England; for in acts of parliament, and in briefs, it is always distinguished from England, as a town separate, both from this kingdom and from Scotland. It formerly belonged to Scotland, and was the chief town of a county in that kingdom, still called Berwickshire, and was one of the four towns in which the convention of the royal boroughs of Scotland were held. It was first taken from the Scots by king Edward I. and has been ever since in the possession of the English. The language and laws of its inhabitants are, however, a mixture of Scotch and English. It has had several charters, some of which are as ancient as the reign of Henry V.

BERWICK, which is a town and county of itself, had a castle, which is now in ruins; but has still a wall round it built by order of queen Elizabeth; and is farther strengthened by its situation, it being almost encompassed by the river and the sea.

SIR John Grey founded a convent of White friars at Berwick in 1270; and there was a house of preaching friars before the year 1291. An

hospital, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen in this town, is mentioned in the reign of king Edward I. and the master and brethren of God's-house are mentioned as being settled in this town about the second year of Edward III. Here was likewise a house of the order of the Trinity, which being destroyed by Anthony Beck, bishop of Durham, another house of the same order was built by William and Laurence Acton; but the religious were afterwards removed to Newcastle. At South Berwick, near Berwick upon Tweed, David, king of Scotland, founded, in the twelfth century, a Benedictine nunnery. And at Tweedmouth, which is considered as a suburb to Berwick, was an hospital, the mastership of which was in the bishop of Durham.

THIS town was summoned to return members to parliament in the reign of Henry VIII.

CORPORATION.—By a charter granted by king James I. in the year 1602, it is governed by a mayor, recorder, one alderman, and four bailiffs, all of them chosen annually out of the burghesses of the town.

RIGHT

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—1695, March 9th—In the freemen resident and non-resident.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—600.

RETURNING OFFICERS—Mayor and four Bailiffs.

PATRONS—Earl of Lisburne and lord Delaval.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS county presents us with the most violent contest, for aristocratic pre-eminence, that has happened for many years in this country. It arose between the late earl of Halifax and the present earl of Northampton, in opposition to the late earl Spencer.

THE effects of this struggle were of such a tendency to the parties embarked in it, as to cause the estates of the earl of Halifax to be sold soon after his death for the benefit of his creditors; the earl of Northampton to live out of his native country; and

and the fortune of earl Spencer to be so much hurt, as not yet to be entirely recovered. The final issue of this business however, was, that each party at that time, brought in one member; and the enormous expences with which this paroxysm for power was accompanied, have since permitted the independent party to exercise their rights in the election of their representatives.

ANCIENT STATE. Northamptonshire took its name from Northampton, the county town. It is seated in about the middle of England, and extending in a long narrow tract to the north-east, borders on more counties than any other in this part of Britain. On the east it is bounded by Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire; on the south, by part of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire; on the west, by Oxfordshire and Warwickshire, and on the north, by Leicestershire, Rutlandshire and Lincolnshire.

IN the time of the Romans this county made a part of the territory inhabited by the Coritani; and under the Saxons it belonged to the kingdom of Mercia. There are Roman remains in
several

several parts of the county, such as camps, foundations of buildings, Roman urns, coins, and many other antiquities. There are likewise two Roman roads which cross it, the one where it is broadest, and the other where it is narrowest. The first is generally allowed to be Watling-street, and the other only a vicinal way. However, it must have been a road of some consequence, because it branches out into two, before it leaves the county, the one road running north-east, and the other north. The traces of many houses and villas are to be found upon the military way, that were used by the Romans for pleasure or retirement.

THIS county is divided into twenty hundreds, containing the city of Peterborough, and eleven market towns, viz. Brackley, Daventry, Higham-Ferrers, Kettering, Northampton, Oundle, Rockingham, Thrapston, Towcester, and Wellingborough. It lies in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Peterborough, and has three hundred and thirty parishes. It sends nine members to parliament; viz. two knights of the shire for the county, two citizens

citizens for Peterborough, two burgesſes for Northampton, two for Brackley, and one for Higham-Ferrers.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this town being in the inhabitant houſe-holders, ſuch of them as receive an annual donation diſtributed at Chriſtmas, are, by a ſpecial reſolution of the houſe, diſqualified from voting. This reſolution is not only repugnant to the ſpirit of what may be called the preſent common law of the committees, but expreſſy contrary to the deciſion on the Bedford petitions in 1775, and 1792; when it was determined, that perſons receiving *charity* were not thereby diſabled from voting, but that receiving *alms* was a diſqualification. By this we are to underſtand, that the word *alms* and *charity* are not ſynonymous.

CONTRARY DETERMINATIONS.

In the caſe of Ayleſbury, 28 January 1698-9, it was reſolved, that all perſons receiving *alms* within the borough of Ayleſbury, purſuant to the

the

the will of Mr. Bedford, or any other persons receiving *any other charity annually distributed* within the said town, are, in respect thereof, disabled to vote in the election of burgessees to serve in parliament.

Dec. 4, 1708. In the case of the borough of Reading, it was resolved, That such persons as have, within *two years* last, received *Kendrick's charity*, or any other *annual charity*, have no right to vote in the election of burgessees to serve in parliament,

In the Coventry case, February 24, 1701-2, It was resolved, that the freemen of Coventry, receiving *alms* or *charity*, have no right to vote in the election of citizens to serve in parliament.

In 1690, the house of commons resolved, That *alms* meant only parish relief; and in the case of Sandwich, the 31st of October the same year, it was especially agreed by the committee, that the freemen of the Port of Sandwich inhabiting within the said Port, *although they receive alms*, have a right to vote. To reconcile these contradictory resolutions, no other remedy

can

can be adopted but that of a plain and simple *parliamentary reform!* Every question of election right, being, under the *present form* of representation, equally inexplicable, the removal of which will employ the committees of the house of commons to the end of time, without any other consequence than that of involving it in greater complication and intricacy. The necessity of recurring to the plain and simple constitution of our Saxon ancestors becomes every day more evident, when every master of a family, or, in the modern acceptation of the form, every inhabitant housekeeper, throughout Great Britain, shall be admitted to the free exercise of his franchise. The questions then respecting residence and non-residence, freemen obtaining their exclusive rights by private favor or purchase, and the endless train of abuses and impositions to which the house of commons and the public are at present liable, would be removed.

THE corporation of this town is in the interest of the earl of Northampton, who is their recorder, and has the influence of nominating one of their members.

ANCIENT

ANCIENT STATE. This town, according to Camden, was so called from its northern situation on the river Nen, upon whose banks it is seated, and where another river, named North Fandon, falls into it on the Western side of the town: others maintain, that it was anciently called Hamtun in the Saxon annals, and that north was prefixed to it soon after the conquest, to distinguish it from Southampton, which was also before that time only known by the name of Hamtun. It is seated sixty-six miles north-west of London, and appears to have been an obscure place till after the conquest; yet it is thought to have been very ancient, though no mention is made of it during the Saxon heptarchy; but Henry of Huntingdon observes, that it was burnt down to the ground by the Danes, yet was soon after rebuilt by the assistance of king Canute; and we find in doomsday-book, that in the reign of Edward the Confessor, there were in this town sixty burghesses, who had as many mansions here. It has sent members to parliament ever since the reign of Edward I. and as it lies in the heart of the kingdom, several parliaments have been held there. The barons began their rebellion against king Henry III. in
this

this town, and that prince took it by assault. About the end of that reign some discontented scholars retired thither from Oxford and Cambridge, and, with the king's leave, prosecuted their studies during three years, and formed a college here; so that there appeared to be an university in Northampton, till this society was suppressed by a special prohibition, as being injurious to both universities.

In the time of Leland it was encompassed with a wall, and had four gates, named East, West, North and South Gate; it had also a great castle, which stood near the West Gate, and had a large keep. There were likewise seven parish churches within the walls, of which Allhallows was the principal, and stood in the heart of the town. In the suburbs were two parish churches; thus this town had nine churches, besides St. Catharine's chapel, which stood in a church-yard within the walls, and the ruins of a large chapel without the North Gate. Besides these churches, there were here many religious foundations: the priory of St. Andrew for Black friars stood in the north part of the town near the North Gate: it was founded in the reign of
William

William the Conqueror, by Simon Scinliz, the first earl of Huntingdon, and Maud his wife. Hugh, bishop of Lincoln, confirmed the churches and tythes given to this priory, and Henry I. added his royal assent to that confirmation, and granted the monks many liberties and franchises. This priory, which was for Cluniac monks, had been subordinate to the foreign abbey of St. Mary de Caritate, but had been made denizen in the sixth of Henry IV. and afterwards, at its dissolution, its revenue was valued by Speed at 334l. a year; but by Dugdale at 263l. In the west part of the town was an abbey of Black canons, dedicated to St. James, built by William Peverell, natural son to William the Conqueror, before the year 1112, which was valued at the dissolution at 175l. 8s. 2d. a year. Within the walls of the town, a little above the South Gate, was an hospital dedicated to St. John Baptist, for poor infirm persons, founded by Walter, archdeacon of Northampton, about the year 1137, and rated, at the suppression, at 25l. 6s. 2d. per annum. The friars minors had hired an habitation in the parish of St. Giles in 1224, but afterwards fixed northward of the market place, upon ground given them by
the

the town. This house was valued at the suppression at 6l. 17s. 4d. a year. In the horse-market was a priory of friar preachers, before the year 1240, to which John Dabington was either a founder, or a considerable benefactor, which at the dissolution was valued at 5l. 7s. 10d. a year. St. Mary's was a priory of Carmelite friars, founded and endowed by Simon Montfort, earl of Leicester, in the year 1271; it was seated within the walls, and was valued at the dissolution at 10l. 10s. a year. A house of Black friars was in the street where a horse-market was kept once a week, and was endowed with great privileges; it had but few benefactors, and at the time of the dissolution was valued only at 5l. a year. In Brigg-street, near the South Gate, John Longville, in 1322, gave a messuage, with the appurtenances, for a chapel and priory of Augustine friars. On the south side of the town was an hospital dedicated to St. Leonard, for a master and leprous brethren, before the year 1240. There was also a college belonging to the church of All-Saints, which was valued at the dissolution at 2l. 13s. 4d. a year. An hospital, near the West-gate, was founded by the citizens about the year 1450; and without the walls

walls of the town was the abbey de la Pré, for Cluniac nuns, founded in the reign of king Stephen by Simon Seinliz, the second earl of Northampton, and dedicated to St. Mary. At the time of the suppression here were ten nuns, when the revenue of the house amounted to 119 l. 9 s. 7 d. a year.

In the year 1695, this town was burnt down, but was soon afterwards rebuilt, and now makes a handsome appearance.

It gives the title of earl to the family of Compton.

THIS town sent *ab origine*.

CORPORATION. It was incorporated by charter of king James I. anno 16—, and consists of a mayor, 2 bailiffs, a recorder, and 48 common councilmen, out of whom the mayor is chosen, who is ever after reputed an alderman.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1665, April 26—In the inhabitant householders, not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—900.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—Earl of Northampton, partially.

PETER—

PETERBOROUGH CITY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city is entirely independent in the exercise of its elective franchise. The inhabitants who pay scot and lot, and who are in number between four and five hundred, have all votes at elections for their members of the legislative assembly. This being a bishop's see, the dean and chapter have very great and singular privileges. They are lords of the place, and elect all the officers, and their steward has the honour of being returning officer at the time of election, there being here neither mayor, nor recorder.

ANCIENT STATE. This city, which is seated on the river Nen, seventy-six miles north by west of London, is reckoned the least city, and poorest bishopric, in England. It received its name from its ancient monastery dedicated to St. Peter. We are told by ancient writers, that in the river Nen, formerly called Avon, was a gulph of prodigious depth, named Medefwell, near which was a town, named Medefwell-

Hampstead, or Medes-Hampstead. This was said to have been seated in a very fine spot, having on one side a meer of excellent water, and on the other, many woods, meadows and pastures. Peada, the son of Penda, the first king of the Mercians, was so pleased with the place, that he determined to found a monastery here, and accordingly began it in the year 655; but he dying, or, as some say, his wife causing him to be murdered, his two brothers, Wolfere and Ethelred, and his sisters, Kinneburga and Kinneswitha, finished and endowed it. After this the monastery flourished about 200 years, and was encompassed with a wall, which was carried round the town by one of the abbots. However, when the Pagan Danes invaded this island, and pillaged all the places wherever they came, Peterborough was destroyed among the rest in 870. In that year the abbot of Crowland in Lincolnshire, and his monks, flying to this monastery for protection, were overtaken by those invaders, and murdered in a court of the abbey, called the monks church-yard, from their being all buried in it; and their effigies are still to be seen upon a tomb-stone erected over their common grave. The abbey after this lay neglected about a hundred

dreɔ years, till Ethelwold, bishop of Winchester, assisted by king Edgar, and Adulf his chancellor, rebuilt it in a more magnificent manner; and having spent his whole fortune upon it, was made the first abbot. He then cut down the woods, built manor-houses and granges, and let the lands out at certain rents, by which means it soon became filled with inhabitants, while the monastery obtained large revenues and great privileges. The abbots were called to parliament in the reign of Henry III. and had the honour of the mitre in the year 1400. At the time of the dissolution, it had about forty monks of the Benedictine order, when the revenues of the abbey were valued by Dugdale, at 1721 l. a year; and by Speed, at 1972 l. King Hen. VIII. converted it into a bishopric, and the monastery church into a cathedral, which, besides the bishop, dean, and six prebendaries, has eight petty canons, four students in divinity, one epistler, one gospeller, a sub-dean, sub-treasurer, and chanter; eight choristers, eight singing-men, two chancellors, a schoolmaster, usher, and twenty scholars; a steward, organist, and other inferior officers.

THOUGH Peterborough is an ancient city, it is not very large, having only one church, besides the cathedral. The houses, however, are well built, and the streets are regular, with a handsome market-place, in which is a good market-house, where the assizes and sessions for the hundred are kept. Its jurisdiction extends over thirty-two towns and hamlets, in which the civil magistrates, appointed by the royal commission, are vested with the same power as the judges of assize, and hold their quarterly sessions in the city.

PETERBOROUGH gives the title of earl to the family of Mordaunt.

THIS city first sent members to parliament anno 1547, 1 Edward VI.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1701, 16 June. Agreed, that the right was in the inhabitants paying scot and lot.

1728, 9 April. The execution of the precept for electing citizens to serve in parliament, and the

the making the return thereof, are in the bailiff of the said city, appointed by the dean and chapter of the cathedral church of Peterborough.

1728, 13 May. The right of electing citizens to serve in parliament for the city of Peterborough, is in the inhabitants within the precincts of the minster, being householders not receiving alms, and other the inhabitants of the said city, paying scot and lot.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—500.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Bailiff of the said city, appointed by the dean and chapter.

BRACKLEY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough is under the sole influence and patronage of the duke of Bridgewater. The number of voters being only thirty-three, and they of the body corporate, makes these men totally subservient to aristocratic greatness.

ANCIENT

ANCIENT STATE. Brackley, which is seated on a place full of brake or fern, whence it is supposed to have taken its name, is situated fifty-seven miles north-west of London, and supposed to be the third borough erected in England; it was once famous for its tilts and tournaments, and a great staple for wool; but that trade is almost lost. It is pleasantly watered by the springs of the river Ouse, which rise near the town. Here are two parish churches, and a free grammar-school. The family of the Zouches built a college here, which, though much decayed, is kept from falling to ruins by Magdalen college in Oxford. In this town Robert earl of Leicester, in the beginning of the twelfth century, gave a piece of ground for building an hospital upon, which was endowed by his son Robert, and dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen.

BRACKLEY never sent to parliament till Edward VI's reign,

CORPORATION.—It is governed by a mayor, 6 aldermen, and 26 burgessees,

RIGHT OF VOTING—1714, 20 April. Is in the persons inhabiting ancient houses, or in houses built

built on ancient foundations, paying scot and lot.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—33.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—Duke of Bridgewater.

HIGHAM-FERRERS.

POLITICAL STATE. This borough, which sends but one member to parliament, is under the sole influence, and at the entire disposal of earl Fitzwilliam; on which account a contest for the representation never happens.

ANCIENT STATE. Higham-Ferrers, or Ferris, which signifies the high house of Ferrers, derives its name from a castle on a rising ground, anciently in the possession of the family of Ferrers. It is a small town, standing on the east side of the Nen, in a clean and dry situation. The church is a handsome structure, with a lofty spire. It has a free-school, and alms-house, for twelve men and one woman. In the tenth year of Henry V. that prince granted a licence to
Henry

Henry Chicheley, archbishop of Canterbury, to found a college here, (this being the place of his birth) for eight secular chaplains, four clerks, and six choristers. It was incorporated by the name of the college of the Blessed Virgin, St. Thomas of Canterbury, and St. Edward the Confessor. The bishop endowed it with lands in his life-time, and these were increased after his death by his brothers Robert and William, aldermen of London, his executors. Its annual value, at the suppression, according to Dugdale, was 155 l. 2 s.

THIS borough was incorporated anno 2 and 3 Philip and Mary, and then impriviledged to return one burgeses to parliament.

CORPORATION.—Consists of a mayor, 7 aldermen, and 13 capital burgeses.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—1702, 28 January. Is in the mayor, aldermen, burgeses, and freemen, being householders, and not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—84.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—Earl Fitzwilliam.

NOT,

NOTTINGHAM COUNTY,

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS county is entirely under the influence of aristocracy. The duke of Portland, the duke of Newcastle, lord Middleton, and Mr. Pierrepont, have large estates in this part of the country. These four, or a majority of them, can always dictate to the county who shall be its members. If an attempt, therefore, of the few independent party, should be made to exert their own rights in the choice of their representatives, it would, we fear, be unsuccessful.

MAJOR Cartwright, who is the father of the Constitutional Society, and author of a plan of Parliamentary Reform, made an effort to restore this county to its natural independence; for which purpose he offered himself a candidate; but neither the eminent talents of this gentleman, nor the service he rendered his country, by the great number of persons which he employed in its manufactures, could avail any thing when weighed

weighed in the balance against aristocratic despotism.

ANCIENT STATE. This county takes its name from Nottingham, its capital. It is bounded on the north by Yorkshire and the Isle of Axholm, in Lincolnshire; on the east also by Lincolnshire; on the south by Leicestershire; and on the west by Derbyshire, and a small part of Yorkshire. It extends in length from north to south about forty-five miles, from east to west about twenty-four, and is one hundred and ten miles in circumference.

THE British inhabitants of this county, at the invasion of the Romans, were the Coritani. A military way, termed the Fosse-way, enters this county from Willoughby-on-the-Would, near the borders of Leicestershire, and passing in a north-east direction by Bingham and Newark, leaves Nottinghamshire at a village called Skarle, a few miles north-east of Newark, passing from thence into Lincolnshire.

WE do not find any thing memorable has been said of the county in general, in the Saxon times,
besides

besides what is mentioned in Domesday-book; namely, that in Nottinghamshire, if any person should plow, or make a ditch in the king's highway, in the road to York, or within two perches of it, he should pay eight pounds, that is, eight pounds weight of silver, two thirds of which should go to the king. This county was divided by William the Conqueror, among his captains and followers, the Saxon lords being forced to resign their possession.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE is not one of the largest counties, but, upon other accounts, yields to few in England.

It is divided into eight hundreds, or rather six wapentakes and two liberties. It lies in the province and diocese of York, and has one hundred and sixty-eight parishes, and nine market towns, which are Nottingham, Newark, Mansfield, Blith, Bingham, Worktop, Tuxford, Southwell and East Redford. It sends eight members to parliament, that is, two knights of the shire for the county, and two representatives for each of the boroughs of Nottingham, Newark, and East Redford.

NOT.

NOTTINGHAM.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This town is not under immediate influence of any kind; arising principally from the great number of inhabitants who are voters, and the increase of its commerce and manufactures. It is subject to the same inconveniences that Westminster, Bristol and Leicester are, owing to a coalition of the leading men of each party, who, to avoid the expences which would necessarily attend an opposition, agree that each should return one member. These unnatural unions, which owe their origin to avarice, and the ambition of a few, who call themselves the great men of the place, virtually deprive the people of any representation at all, because, upon every subject of importance which is debated in the senate, the members, thus constituted, always vote on opposite sides of the question. The only effectual prevention of this grievance that can be devised, is, that each district should choose either one or three representatives, by which their influence must be necessarily felt in every decision that takes place in the legislature of their country.

THE

THE right of election in this town was anciently, according to Dr. Browne Willis, in the inhabitant housekeepers paying scot and lot; but, by a resolution of the house of commons of 10 June, 1701, this right is made so complicated, and open to fraud and litigation, that every freeman of this town, by a surreptitious indenture of apprenticeship, executed in any part of the kingdom, may qualify any number of electors that may suit his convenience or his interest.

ANCIENT STATE. This place, which is the principal town in the county, was called by the Saxons Snottingaham, from the caves they found in the rocks, which are supposed to have been inhabited by the Britons before the time of their arrival, and is pleasantly seated on a rocky hill facing the south, on the north side of the Leen, and near a mile north of the Trent.

IT is undoubtedly one of the most ancient towns in Great Britain. John Rouse, a monk of Warwick, who wrote in the reign of king Henry VII. places its foundation nine hundred and eighty years before the birth of Christ;

and says, that king Ebranc built this town upon the Trent, on an eminence called Dolorous-hill, from the great slaughter of the Britons made there by king Humber, in the reign of Abbanact. Indeed, it is a general observation, that the writers of history, fond of the marvellous, have endeavoured to extend the origin of nations and cities to the most distant ages, and of involving their origin in fables. However, Dr. Stukeley observes, that Nottingham seems to be as ancient as the time of the Britons; for as soon, says he, as they had proper tools, they fell to work upon the rocks, which every where offered themselves so commodiously for affording them places of retirement and shelter; and Dr. Deering observes, that these works were probably performed long before the arrival of the Romans. Indeed, the whole town is, in a manner, undermined with caverns of an amazing depth and extent; so that it is even questioned, whether all the buildings on the surface of the rock would fill up the vacancies underneath. Hence the cellars cut in the rocks, are frequently as deep as the highest houses; and in digging for foundations of new houses there have been discovered spacious caverns, before unknown; some
of

of these are said to have been arched, in a regular manner, to have been supported by columns, and to have had a communication with each other, by passages leading to very distant parts.

It is universally allowed, that the Cornish Britons were skilled in mining, before the arrival of the Romans; but whether these subterraneous works are of so ancient a date, it is impossible to determine. Dr. Deering supposes, from the Gothic order observable in these structures, that they were formed during the heptarchy, when the Danes, who were pagans, made frequent inroads into this part of the kingdom, and intended as places of refuge, to which they might betake themselves in time of danger, and exercise their religious functions, without being exposed to the fury of those persecuting idolaters.

It does not appear that Nottingham was a Roman station, it being situated at a distance from any of their roads, and no Roman antiquities are known to have been found there; but there is no doubt of its being inhabited by the Saxons soon after their arrival, and that they very early erected fortifications there. For the Danes,
when

when they ravaged this island, came to Snottin-gaham, as it was then called, in the year 852, where they were besieged by Bethred, king of the Mercians, but without success, they having taken possession of a strong fortress placed on the rock, on which the castle was afterwards built; but in 864, Ethelred, king of the West-Saxons, and his brother Alfred, joining the above prince, marched with all their forces, invested this fortress, and obliged the Danes to enter into a capitulation, in which they promised to retire, and leave the kingdom; yet two years after they returned, and again took possession of Nottingham, where they took up their winter quarters; but they were soon obliged to leave it, and retire into the north.

KING Edward the Elder, the son of Alfred, encompassed the town with a wall, which is now entirely demolished, though one of the gates was standing in the memory of man, and the names of the rest are preserved in those of the streets, which led to them. Camden and Hollinhead affirm, that the castle was built by William the Conqueror, which is certainly true; though Dr. Thoroton, who wrote the history of
the

the county, maintains that it was built by William de Peverel, his natural son, whom that prince not only made earl of Nottingham, but gave him the custody of the castle, and of Sherwood-forest. In the reign of Henry II. his son William losing the castle, was so exasperated, that he demolished the town, which continued in a ruinous condition till his father, being peaceably settled on the throne, assisted the inhabitants in rebuilding it, and granted them a new charter.

IN the year 1194, king Richard I. called a great council, or parliament here; and king John caused twenty-eight Welch gentlemen, who had been delivered to him as hostages for the peaceable behaviour of their countrymen, to be hanged, on account of the Welch having again taken up arms against him.

IN the reign of Edward III. a great council met at this town, when the king being made sensible of the mischiefs that ensued from the vile actions of Roger Mortimer, earl of March, who was too familiar with the queen-mother, and under the shelter of her authority, was in-

flamed with such pride and arrogance, as to be guilty of the most arbitrary proceedings, thought it necessary to bring him to condign punishment. Upon this the king privately ordered Sir William Montague, constable of the castle, to take to his assistance several trusty persons, to put the advice of the council into execution. These got into the castle by a secret winding ascent, unknown to the queen and Mortimer, cut from the bottom of the rock to the top, and entered the room next the queen's lodgings, where they found the earl with Henry, bishop of Lincoln, and some others, who for some time stood on their defence; but two of their company being slain, the rest were taken prisoners. The earl of March was taken down through the above passage, and sent to London, where, at the meeting of parliament, articles of impeachment were preferred against him, and he was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered, which was executed at the common gallows, called the Elms, near Smithfield. This private passage, which is without the town and castle walls, was probably made long before, and intended to relieve the castle with men and provisions, in case the town should be in the possession

tion

tion of an enemy ; but from the above circumstance it obtained the name of Mortimer's hole, by which it is still called.

EDWARD IV. so much enlarged and adorned the castle, that it seemed in a manner new built ; and his brother Richard III. made farther improvements, and rendered it one of the completest fortresses in the kingdom. David, king of Scotland, was kept prisoner here, before he was sent to London, and during his confinement, is said to have carved the history of Christ's passion, and other curious subjects in relief, on the walls of his prison ; but as he was ill of his wounds while he continued there, these works were probably performed, if they were not done before, by one of his attendants.

THE situation of the castle on a steep rock, and the strength of its fortifications, rendered it impregnable by storm ; though in the barons wars it was taken by surprize. In the civil wars king Charles I. set up his standard here, but it became afterwards a garrison for the parliament. From the Rutland family (to which it

was given before the civil wars) it came by the mother's side to the duke of Buckingham, and he sold it to William Cavendish, marquis and afterwards duke of Newcastle, who laid the foundation of the present noble structure, which was finished in the year 1679.

THIS town was incorporated long before king Henry II. gave it a charter; for in Edward the Confessor's time it had a hundred and seventy-three burgeses. Many of our kings have in this town kept their court, and assembled here several parliaments. It was anciently governed by two bailiffs, coroners, and a common council. King Edward I. impowered them to choose a mayor annually. Henry VI. in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, made it a county of itself, changed the bailiffs into sheriffs, and appointed it to be governed by a mayor, and burgeses. The town is divided into seven wards, answering the number of aldermen, each of these having one of them committed to his care, though he is not confined to live in it; and, as a justice of peace, his power extends throughout all the liberties of the town.

CORPORA-

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, 6 aldermen, a recorder, 2 sheriffs, and 24 common councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—June 10, 1701. Agreed, that the right was in the mayor, freemen, and freeholders of forty shillings a year; and that the eldest sons of freemen by birth, and the youngest sons of freemen, who have served seven years apprenticeship, whether at Nottingham or elsewhere, and also such persons as served apprenticeships to any freemen of Nottingham, were well entitled to demand their freedom.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 1700.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The Sheriffs.

EAST RETFORD.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this borough is in the bailiffs, aldermen, and an indefinite number of freemen, in whom the qualification of *residence within the town* is not necessary. The freedom is obtained either by patrimony, as being the eldest son of a freeman
3
born

born within the borough; by servitude, in consequence of having served seven years apprenticeship to a freeman within the same limits; or by redemption, which is by gift of the bailiffs and aldermen. Those who obtain their franchise by this special favour of the junto of aldermen, must be inhabitant householders *at the time they are made free*, but may leave their habitations the next day; and by this method of qualification, a single house may, by the court of aldermen, be made the instrument of doubling the whole number of electors between one election and another, or of multiplying their own party, so as to secure the return of any candidate whose interest they may think proper to espouse. In every charter granted by the crown we find the same power has been invested in the *few*, to control the independence of the *many*, where a monopoly of the election right in the corporation does not exclude the people altogether from a share in the choice of their representatives,

THE aldermen of Retford have not, however, been under the necessity of having recourse to the exercise of this power, like their brethren at Carlisle, Durham, Seaford, and many other places,
who

who have incurred the correction of parliament, and the censure of the public, a mutual agreement between the aldermen and freemen, each to nominate a member, and a concurrence in the election of them, rendering this measure unnecessary.

THE aldermen, being in the interest of the duke of Newcastle, receive with implicit condescension his grace's instructions for regulating their political conduct; and the freemen, with a scrupulous attention to *established customs*, select some neighbouring gentleman for their representative.

IN justice to the freemen, and in conformity to that line of impartiality which it is our anxious endeavour to keep, we cannot conclude our account of this borough without relating that, under the impression of gratitude to major Cartwright, who employs upwards of six hundred of the inhabitants of this place in the manufacture of woollens, and out of respect to that estimation in which his public character and private virtues are universally held, they made him an offer of their unbiassed suffrages at the last election; but whether that gentleman conceived it inexpedient

to waste his time in mock-harangues, and dividing against decisive majorities, or whether he considered the post of honour in the present state of things to be a private station, we cannot take upon us to determine; he declined the honour they intended him, but has not abated that patriotic zeal which he has so eminently displayed in the cause of liberty.

ANCIENT STATE. This town, which is called Redford or Retford, is seated on the river Idle, about three miles to the west of the great road from London to York, and five miles south-west of Bligh. It had the name of Redford, from a ford over the river Idle, and is sometimes called East-Redford, from its situation on the east bank of that river, and to distinguish it from a village situated on the opposite bank, which is called West-Redford. It is a royal demesne; and king Edward I. granted the town in fee-farm to the burgessees, with power to choose two bailiffs for its government; this town is joined to West-Redford by a stone bridge over the Idle; however there are two distinct parishes, and West-Redford is only remarkable for its fine hospital, founded by Sir John Dorrel, doctor of physic,
in

in the year 1666, and is governed by a master and ten brethren. The master's salary is 15 l. a year, and the ten brethren have each 10 l. besides 10 s. for a load of coals every year, and six yards of cloth every other year. Twenty nobles are allowed to a steward, and fifteen shillings to a nurse. There is a garden and orchard adjoining, divided into ten shares, for the ten brethren, and also an allowance of about 10 l. a year, for the maintenance of a scholar in Exeter college, Oxford.

THIS borough never sent members to parliament till 13 queen Elizabeth, except one return which it made 9 Edward II.

CORPORATION. By a charter of 5 James I. it is governed by 2 bailiffs and 12 aldermen. The bailiffs are distinguished by the titles of senior and junior; the former of whom is chosen out of the aldermen, and the junior out of such freemen as have been chamberlains. The bailiffs and steward for the time being are justices of the peace, and of the quorum within the borough.

RIGHT

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1701, 15th April. Is as well in the burgesſes non-reſidents, as in the burgesſes reſident within the ſaid borough. Agreed to by the houſe.

1701, 17th March. The younger ſons of freemen of the borough of Eaſt-Retford, have not a right to demand their freedom of the ſaid borough.

1702, 28th November. Perſons not inhabiting the ſaid borough, are incapable of being made free of the ſame by redemption. All the ſons of freemen have a right to the freedom of the ſaid borough.

1705, 17th January. Is in ſuch freemen only as have a right to their freedom by birth, as eldeſt ſons of freemen, or by ſerving ſeven years apprenticeship, or have it by redemption, whether inhabiting or not inhabiting in the ſaid borough, at the time of their being made free.

1710, 11th January. Is in ſuch freemen only as have a right to their freedom by birth, as eldeſt ſons of freemen, or by ſerving ſeven years apprentices

apprenticeship, or have it by redemption, inhabiting in the said borough at the time of their being made free.

NUMBER OF VOTERS.—112.

RETURNING OFFICERS.—The two bailiffs.

PATRON.—Duke of Newcastle,

TOWN OF NEWARK.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. A contest has existed here above a century, between those who were taxed, and those who were not taxed; but were of sufficient ability, and of course had a right to be so, as in the cases of Leominster and Seaford,

THE house of commons, in 1699, came to a resolution, that all who paid, or *ought* to pay scot and lot, had a right to vote at elections of members of parliament; but a contrary one has since been passed in 1791, which states the right to be in the mayor, aldermen, and inhabitants paying scot and lot. In this resolution, the words "ought to pay," are omitted. The inhabitants
who

who were not rated, have appealed to this last decision, and their appeal is now before the house.

IF this last resolution should not be amended, the choice of the members of parliament will, in a great measure, depend upon the overseers, who will always be the creatures of the corporation, and who will put no persons in the poor rates, but those who are friendly to their own party. By these means a majority of the town, if inimical to their parliamentary connections, may be deprived of their legal franchise.

THE influence here is chiefly that of the duke of Newcastle and the duke of Rutland. The interest of the former arises from the great number of houses which he has in this town; and that of the latter from the estates and principal mansion which he has in its neighbourhood. The leader of the opposition to these interests is William Dickenson Rastal, Esq. who supported William Paxton, Esq. the petitioner to the house, the last year, against the return of John Sutton Manners, Esq. and William Crosbie, Esq. and was unsuccessful on account of the last resolution which we
stated

stated above. Several actions for bribery were brought, the last Lent assizes at Nottingham, against Mr. Rastal, but being unsupported by facts, a verdict was given in his favour upon each of them.

THIS borough is the last in England that received the privilege of sending members to parliament, *by charter*, granted April the 24th, 29 Charles II.

THE borough of Wenlock, in Shropshire, was the first that ever obtained the same privilege by similar authority, 29th November, 1478, in the reign of Edward IV.

ANCIENT STATE. This town, which is seated on the river Trent, a hundred and ~~thirty-eight~~ miles north-west of London, and fourteen miles north-east of Nottingham, derives its name from a castle, built in the reign of king Stephen, by Alexander, bishop of Lincoln, and called the New Work, from which it is said to have taken its name.

THIS castle was besieged by the barons; but the garrison, by their sallies, ravaged and spoiled those

those of their possessions and lands which lay near it. On the accession of Henry III. to the throne, the barons had obtained this castle ; but Henry caused it to be restored to the bishop of Lincoln. During the civil wars, it kept a strong garrison for king Charles I. till the last, nor was it ever taken till that unfortunate prince put himself into the hands of the Scots army, which lay before it, and ordered the governor to deliver it up, after which it was demolished ; a great part of the walls are however still standing.

THE river Trent, about two miles south of the town, divides into two branches, which form a small island, by uniting about two miles north of it. Newark is seated on the eastern branch, and has a bridge over each of them. The parish church is esteemed one of the finest in England, of the Gothic kind, all the windows of which being finely painted. Here are also several meeting-houses. The town was originally incorporated by king Edward VI. and was governed by an alderman, and twelve assistants. It is a handsome, flourishing, well built town, with a market-place so spacious, that lord Bellafyse drew up ten thousand men in it, when he defended the town
for

for king Charles I. against the Scots army. Here is a free-school founded by Thomas Magnus, and a charity-school for thirty-six boys, supported by voluntary contribution.

NEWARK was formerly walled round; and some have thought that it was the Roman station called Ad Pontem, in the itinerary of Antoninus; but Horsley is of opinion, that that station must be sought for two or three miles south-west of this town, though he makes no doubt of its having risen out of the ruins of Ad Pontem on one side, and those of Crocolana on the other. Some Roman coins have been found in the town, and Dr. Stukeley observes, that North Gate is somewhat like a Roman work.

By a charter of king Charles II. it was incorporated, and impriviledged to return members to parliament, April 24th, anno regni 29, on account of its loyalty to his father, king Charles I.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, twelve aldermen, and as many assistants.

RIGHT

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1676, 21st March. By virtue of a charter granted to the town of Newark upon Trent, in the county of Nottingham, the town of Newark hath a right to send burgeses to parliament.

1699-1700, 11th January. The mayor, aldermen, and all the inhabitants within the borough of Newark upon Trent, who pay, or ought to pay, scot and lot within the said borough, have a right to vote at the election of members to serve in parliament for the said borough.

1791, March 22d. The right of voting for members to serve in parliament for the borough of Newark, is in the mayor, aldermen, and all the inhabitants, paying scot and lot within the said borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—700.

RETURNING OFFICER—The mayor.

PATRONS—The duke of Rutland and duke of Newcastle.

OXFORDSHIRE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS county is entirely under the influence of aristocracy. The duke of Marlborough always returns one of the members, and the earl of Abingdon, the earl of Macclesfield, lord viscount Wenman, Sir Henry Watkin Dashwood, and Sir Gregory Page Turner, the other. The great contest, in the administration of the duke of Newcastle, in 1754, between lord viscount Parker, now earl of Macclesfield, and Sir Edward Turner, on the ministerial, and lord viscount Wenham, and Sir James Dashwood, on the side of opposition, first brought the famous Mr. Charles Jenkinson, now lord Hawkesbury, into political notice. Since that period the above noblemen have settled the members among themselves, without appealing to the freeholders. The above four candidates being returned members by the sheriff, instead of two of them, there was no fitting member for the county. Any member might have moved the house upon this,

the very first day of the session; and the sheriff might have been ordered to attend, and give an account of his proceeding; however no notice was taken of it till Nov. 18, so that the house was not legally such, till the county of Oxford was represented, though it met on the 14th, and did business. All the four candidates petitioned, viz. lord Parker, Sir Edward Turner, lord Wenham, and Sir James Dashwood.

THE friends of the two former moved, that the matter of the petitions should be heard immediately; but those on the other side insisted, that the merits of the return ought to be first heard and determined, which was certainly reasonable. They therefore moved for the previous question, whether the question upon this motion should now be put? Because, if the previous question had been carried in the negative, they would have had an opportunity to move for appointing a short day to consider of the return, and ordering the high sheriff to attend. But this the court party were against, and carried their point, that the matter of the petition should be heard on the third of December following. It was afterwards moved, by the opposition,

position, that the high sheriff, should attend on the day of hearing; but this was carried in the negative. It appeared that the sheriff had given a very unfair advantage to the court gentlemen, by allowing them to make their objections to all the voters through the whole poll, before the opposition gentlemen should object to one individual; of which it was impossible to go through half before the end of the month, when the writ was returnable. The latter therefore insisted, that they were fairly elected, because they had an acknowledged majority, which could not be set aside, by such an unfinished scrutiny, in which scrutiny besides they had not an equal chance. It was therefore incumbent on the court gentlemen's counsel to endeavour to overthrow the majority claimed by their antagonists. It was carried, that the opposition counsel should proceed to shew the general merits of their cause. They did so, and proposed to disqualify no less than 540 voters for the court gentlemen. Then witnesses were examined for proving the partiality of the sheriff, and for "proving lord Parker, and Sir Edward Turner, and their agents, guilty of bribery; for which purpose they likewise produced

letters, which they proved to be the hand-writing of the said two gentlemen. Nine days were spent in proving voters on the court side disqualified. Lord Parker, and Sir Edward Turner answered objections against the sheriff, and endeavoured to clear themselves of the accusation of bribery, which they retorted upon their antagonists. They then spent ten days more in endeavouring to clear their voters. After this they proposed to set aside 522 of the opposite voters, in which they spent eleven days. Finally the opposition counsel spent nine days in the reply. Many separate questions were debated, "most, if not all of which, were determined, by a great majority, in favour of lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner, the court gentlemen."

A MOTION was made by the opposition, that all copyholders, holding by court roll, and not at the will of the lord, have right of voting for county members. This motion was made on purpose to have a negative put upon it; but it was put aside by the previous question; when lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner were declared duly elected.

ANCIENT STATE. This is an inland county, called by the Saxons, Oxenfordscire, bounded
on

on the north-east by Northamptonshire; on the north-west by Warwickshire; on the east by Buckinghamshire; on the south by Berkshire, and on the west by Gloucestershire.

THIS county, in common with Gloucestershire, was, at the invasion of the Romans, inhabited by the Dobuni; the Anealites also, a people mentioned by Cæsar, seem to have inhabited these parts, and are generally thought to have been seated at the south end of the county. With regard to antiquities, few or none have been found that are British, except some pieces of their money, particularly some of Cunobelin, said to be king here at the time of the birth of our Saviour. It is remarkable, that all these British pieces are concave on one side, and convex on the other, and that they are all of gold, or at least of a mixture of gold and silver. Ikenild-street, one of the four Roman principal ways in England, enters Oxfordshire out of Buckinghamshire, at a village called Chinnar, and running south-west, passes the river Thames into Berkshire at Goring, about half way between Reading and Wallingford. The Akeman-street, a Roman consular way, thus called from Akemancester,

ter, the ancient name of the city of Bath, to which it leads, enters this county from Buckinghamshire, near Bicester, and running south-west through Woodstock park, crosses the rivers Charwell, Evenlode, and Windrush, and enters Gloucestershire to the south-west of Burford. There are also still the remains of one of the Roman vicinal ways, at present called Grimes-Dyke, which enters this county from Berkshire, near Wallingford, crosses the Thames, and running south-east crosses Ikenild-street, and passes the Thames a second time, near Henley in Berkshire. This road appears for the most part a high causeway or bank, and in some places divides into two causeways, with a deep trench between them. Roman coins and medals, several pavements, urns, lachrymatories, and vessels for oil, have been found in this county.

THIS county is divided into fourteen hundreds: it lies in the province of Canterbury and diocese of York, and contains two hundred and eighty parishes, one city, and twelve market towns; namely, the city of Oxford, Bampton, Burford, Banbury, Bicester, Deddington, Chipping Norton, Islip, Thame, Henley upon Thames, Woodstock, Whitney, and Watlington; and
sends

sends nine members to parliament, viz. two knights of the shire for the county, two citizens for Oxford, two representatives for that university, two burgeses for the borough of Woodstock, and one for Banbury.

OXFORD CITY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The corporation and freemen at large are almost all under the influence of the duke of Marlborough and the earl of Abingdon, each of whom has a sufficient interest to return one of the members. This city is remarkable for an act of bribery, committed by almost all the members of the corporation. In 1767 Philip Ward, Esq. then mayor, in conjunction with Thomas Robinson and John Brown, the bailiffs of the said city, and several of the aldermen, wrote a letter to Sir Thomas Stapleton, Bart. and the honourable Mr. Lee, their members, stating that they would elect them again at the next general election for a certain sum of money, stipulated in that letter, and acquainting them, that unless they complied with that condition, they certainly should not meet with their support. This letter was produced

duced in the house of commons by the honourable members who received it, when, upon being read, it was agreed, that the persons concerned in writing that letter should be taken forthwith into the custody of the serjeant at arms. They were accordingly taken and brought to the house of commons, and were by them committed to Newgate; but after a confinement of some considerable time, upon their petitioning, and setting forth to the house their hearty sorrow and sincere contrition for their offence, they were discharged, after being reprimanded on their knees, by the speaker, in the following words ;

“ PHILIP WARD, John Treacher, Sir Thomas Munday, Thomas Wife, John Nicholes, John Philips, Isaac Lawrence, Richard Tawney, Thomas Robinson, and John Brown ;

“ THE offence, of which you have been guilty, has justly brought you under the severe displeasure of this house. A more enormous crime you could not well commit, since a deeper wound could not have been given to the constitution itself, than by the open and dangerous attempt, which you have made to subvert the freedom and independence of this house. The freedom
of

of this house is the freedom of this country, which can continue no longer, than while the voices of the electors are uninfluenced by any base or venal motive. For if abilities and integrity are no recommendation to the electors, if those who bid highest for their voices are to obtain them from such detestable considerations, this house will not be the representatives of the people of Great Britain. Instead of being the guardians and protectors of their liberties, instead of redressing the grievances of the subject, this house itself will be the author of the worst of grievances; it will become the venal instrument of power to reduce this happy nation, the envy and admiration of the world, to the lowest state of misery and servitude. This is the abject condition to which you have attempted to bring your fellow citizens,

“MANY circumstances concur to aggravate your offence. The place of your residence was a singular advantage. You had at all times the example of one of the most learned and respectable bodies in Europe before your eyes. Their conduct in every instance, but especially in the choice of their representatives in parliament, was well worthy your imitation.

“YOUR

“ You are magistrates of a great city. In such a station, it was a duty peculiarly incumbent on you to watch over the morals of your fellow-citizens ; to keep yourselves pure from venality ; and to prevent, by your influence, those under your government from being tainted by this growing and pestilential vice. How have you abused this trust ? You yourselves have set the infamous example of prostitution in the most public and daring manner : surely you must have felt some remorse from the generous disdain with which your corrupt offer was rejected by your representatives. They thought, and justly thought, that a seat in this house, obtained by a free and independent choice of their constituents, was the highest honour to which a subject can aspire ; and that discharging their duty, as such representatives, was the noblest of services. Sorry I am to say, that these considerations do not appear to have had the least weight with you. However, you have at last acknowledged your guilt, and, by your petition yesterday, you seem conscious of the enormity of your offence. This house, in the terror of its judgments, always thinks upon mercy ; nor do they ever inflict punishment but for the sake of example, and to prevent

prevent others from becoming the objects of their resentment,

“THE censure passed upon you, will, they hope, have that effect. You are now the object of their mercy, and are brought to the bar to be discharged,

“MAY you be penetrated with a due sense of their justice and lenity!—May you atone for your past offence, by a constant endeavour to make a right use of the invaluable privileges which you enjoy as electors!—Consider these privileges as a sacred trust reposed in you. Discharge it with integrity. But before you rise from your present posture, I do, in obedience of the commands of this house, *Reprimand you.*

“I AM now to acquaint you, that you are discharged, paying your fees.”

ANCIENT STATE. This city, which is most delightfully situated on the banks of the Thames, at the distance of fifty-five miles from London, vies with every other place in England for antiquity; the fabulous history placing its origin a thousand

thousand years before the time of our Saviour, and ascribing its foundation to Memprick, king of the Britons, from whom it is said to have been called *Caer-Memprick*, or the city of Memprick, a name said to have been afterwards changed to *Caer-Boffa*, the city of Boffa, and again to *Rhid-Ychen*, a name of the same meaning with *Oxen-ford*, the Saxon appellation, from which its present name is supposed to be derived. This city is also said to have been called at different times *Bellofitum* and *Beaumont*, in allusion to the beauty of its situation: we are also told, that, being destroyed by the Saxons, in their first attempt upon this country, *Vortigern*, the British king, restored it to its former grandeur, whence it was called *Caer-Vortigern*.

It however appears to have been a place of no great consideration, till king Alfred re-founded an university here, in the year 886. That wise prince is generally considered as the founder of the university, though he was only the restorer of learning at this place. At his accession, all kinds of literature had suffered so much by the wars with which England had been laid waste, that very few could read English, and

scarce a single priest in the kingdom understood Latin. To remedy which inconvenience, he ordered pope Gregory the First's pastoral, containing the duty of pastors, to be translated into English, and having sent a copy of it to every bishop in his dominions, assembled several men of literature, among whom were Grymbald, and John the monk, who were distinguished for their piety and learning, whom he settled at Oxford in the year 886. That city having been before a seminary of learning, Grymbald, and the learned men who accompanied him hither, were opposed by the old scholars, on their prescribing new statutes, institutes, and instructions to the students, who upon this pleaded, that letters had long flourished there, and that there being then but few students, was owing to their having been expelled in great numbers, by the tyranny of pagans and infidels. They likewise maintained, that they were ready to prove, by the testimony of their annals, that good rules and orders had long subsisted for the government of the place; rules prescribed by Gildas, Melkin, Nennius, Kentigern, and other persons of great learning and piety, who had prosecuted their studies at that seat

seat of learning, and formed and improved the constitution of its university.

DURING Grymbald's stay at Oxford, he and St. Neot were regents and readers of divinity; Asser, a monk of extraordinary parts and knowledge, taught grammar and rhetoric. John, a monk and colleague of Grimbold, taught geometry and astronomy; and John, a monk of St. David's, logic, music, and arithmetic. The above animosities had subsisted during three years, when they were carried on with such violence, that upon Grimbold's complaint to the king, he came in person to Oxford, where he was at great pains in hearing both parties, and endeavouring to accommodate their differences: at length, having exhorted them to live in friendship, he left them, in hopes they would comply; but the students continuing their opposition, Grimbold retired to the monastery at Winchester, which had been lately founded by Alfred.

THAT excellent prince is said to have built three halls, all subject to one head, called by the names of Great University-hall, Little Univer-

ity-hall, and Less Univerfity-hall, in which he placed twenty-fix ftudents in divinity, to whom he gave annual ftipends. Others are, however, of opinion, that Alfred founded only one hall, under a three-fold diftinction, from the fciences taught in it. Such is, however, the foundation of what is now called Univerfity-college, which is allowed to be the moft ancient in Oxford. Yet fome have maintained, that this college had fcholars long before the reign of Alfred, and that St. John de Beverley, who died in the year 721, received his education there ; they alfo fuppofe, that Alfred only built the houfe, to which he gave the name of Great Univerfity-hall, and provided the ftudents with exhibitions.

IN the reign of king Ethelred, the city, together with this college, were sacked and burnt by the Danes, in the year 1002, and were fcarcely rebuilt, when king Harold, in 1036, being highly incenfed againft this place, for the murder of fome of his friends in a tumult, banifhed the fcholars ; but, by an edict of Edward the Confeffor, the fcholars were reftored to their ancient habitations and penfions.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM the Conqueror, being desirous of abolishing the English tongue, and unwilling to have the doctrines of the church any longer preached in it, was warmly opposed by the clergy and scholars; on which he stopped the stipends granted them by king Alfred, and reduced them to live on charitable contributions. The inhabitants then joining in a rebellion, William besieged the city, took it, and gave it up to be plundered, in revenge for some affront one of the inhabitants offered him from the walls. That prince is also supposed to have surrounded the city with new walls, of which the Northgate, and some scattered fragments, are still remaining.

IN the reign of king John, the magistrates of Oxford having, without trial, hanged up three priests or scholars belonging to the University, for a murder, of which they were supposed to be innocent, the students retired from Oxford, to Reading, Salisbury, Maidstone, Cambridge, and other places; by which means the town became so impoverished, that it sent deputies to the pope's legate at Westminster, who begged pardon upon their knees, and submitted to do public penance;
upon

upon which the scholars, after four or five years absence, returned.

AT what time Oxford was first dignified with the title of an University, is uncertain ; but in the year 1256, in an address from the university to the king, it is expressly called an University, and the second school of the church, after the university of Paris: and before this time, the popes, in their decretals, allowed the title of an university to none but those of Paris, Oxford, Bononia, and Salamanca.

ABOUT the year 1318, we find the Hebrew tongue began to be studied in this university, where it was taught by a Jewish convert, towards whose salary every clerk in Oxford contributed one penny out of every mark of his ecclesiastical revenue.

THIS city sent *ab origine* members to parliament, and in the reign of Hen. III. was governed by a mayor.

THE city of Oxford gives the title of earl to the family of Harley.

CORPORATION.—Consists of a mayor, recorder four aldermen, eight assistants, two bailiffs, and twenty-four common council-men. The mayor for the time being officiates at the coronation of our kings in the buttery, and has a large gilt bowl and cover for his fee. The magistracy of the city is subject to the chancellor and vice-chancellor of the university, in all affairs of moment, even in those relating to the city; and every year the vice-chancellor administers an oath to the magistrates and sheriffs, that they will maintain the privileges of the university: besides, on the 10th of February, the mayor, and sixty-two of the chief citizens, in a solemn manner, pay each one penny at St. Mary's church, in lieu of a great fine laid upon the city, in the reign of king Edward III. when sixty-two of the students were murdered by the citizens.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—1621, 19 Feb. Stated, that the right was in the mayor, fifteen more, called the magistrates, and common-council, making in all forty-eight, together with the freemen of the said city.

NUMBER OF VOTERS.—About 1000.

RETURNING OFFICERS.—The mayor and bailiffs.

PATRONS.—Duke of Marlborough and earl of Abingdon.

OXFORD

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The political principles of the members of this university are, with a few exceptions, those of toryism. They have always assisted and given shelter to royalty, whenever it was distressed by the parliament or people. So little are they, however, to be influenced in the choice of their representatives, that they do not suffer any canvas to be made, nor either of the candidates to be, at the time of election, within ten miles of the jurisdiction of the university. Their representatives are men possessing the same sentiments respecting civil and religious government that they themselves do, so that in all probability, their present members will be continued in the same honourable situation, as long as they are able to perform the duties annexed to it.

ANCIENT STATE. This university is one of the noblest in the world, both with respect to the opulence of its endowments, and the magnificence of its buildings, as well as the convenience

of its mansions for study. It consists of twenty colleges and five halls, and is a corporation governed by a chancellor, a high-steward, a vice-chancellor, two proctors, a public orator, a keeper of the archives, a register, three esquire beadles carrying, silver maces wrought and gilt, three yeomen beadles with plain silver maces, and a verger with a silver rod. The chancellor is usually one of the nobility, and is the supreme governor of the university. He is chosen by the students in convocation, and continues in his office for life. The high steward is nominated by the chancellor, but must be approved by the university. His office, which also continues for life, is to assist the chancellor in the government of the university, and to hear and determine capital causes, according to the laws of the land, and the privileges of the university. The vice-chancellor, who is always in orders, and the head of some college, is likewise appointed by the chancellor, and approved by the university. As he is the chancellor's deputy, he governs the university according to its statutes, and chooses four pro-vice-chancellors out of the heads of colleges, to officiate in his absence. The two proctors are masters of arts, chosen annually in turn, out of the several colleges

leges and halls; and their business is to keep the peace, to punish disorders, inspect weights and measures, appoint scholastic exercises, and the taking of degrees. The public orator writes letters in the name of the university, and harangues princes and other great personages who visit it. The keeper of the archives has the custody of the charters and records; and the register records all the public transactions of the university in convocation.

THE officers, fellows, and scholars, maintained by the revenues of the university, amount to about a thousand, and the number of such scholars as live at their own expence, is usually about two thousand, the whole amounting to three thousand persons; besides a great number of inferior officers and servants belonging to the several colleges and halls, which have each their statutes and rules of government, under their respective heads, fellows, and tutors.

IN this university are annually held four terms for public exercises, lectures and disputations; and set days and hours when the professors of every faculty read their lectures; and in some of the

the colleges are public lectures, to which all persons are admitted.

THIS place was first imprivileged to send members to parliament, by king James I. by diploma, dated March 12th, anno 1603.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—In the doctors and actual masters of the university.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 600.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The vice-chancellor and heads of colleges.

WOODSTOCK.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough, which is adjoining to the wall of Blenheim park, is wholly under the patronage of the duke of Marlborough. There having been no opposition to so potent an interest, the right of voting has never come under the adjudication of a committee of the house of commons, but it is admitted to be in a mayor, four aldermen, sixteen burgessees, and the freemen at large.

ANCIENT STATE. Woodstock is so called from the Saxon, Wudestoc, which signifies a woody place.

place. It has been a royal seat, and here king Alfred translated Boetius de Consolatione Philosophiæ. In the time of king Ethelred it was so considerable a place, that he called a parliament here. After the conquest, Henry I, took great delight in the palace of this town, made some additions to the buildings, and inclosed the park with a stone wall. In this palace Hen. II. resided, when Rice, prince of Wales, came in the year 1163, to do homage to that king and his son. But what renders this place most famous, is a labyrinth built by that prince, called Rosamond's Bower, with a house in it, to secrete his concubine Rosamond Clifford, from Eleanor his queen; but there are now no traces, either of the palace or bower. In this palace the princess Elizabeth, afterwards queen, was for some time kept prisoner,

THE honour and manor of the town and hundred of Woodstock were, in the reign of the late queen Anne, settled by parliament upon John Churchill, duke of Marlborough, who commanded the army of the grand alliance, formed by Great Britain, Holland, Portugal, and other powers, against France and Spain, and upon his de-

scendants

scendants male and female, as a monument of national gratitude for his bravery and conduct. A palace was also erected for him at the public expence, in a very delightful situation, about half a mile distant from Woodstock, which, to commemorate the important victory he obtained over the French and Bavarians at Blenheim, was called Blenheim house. It was built by Sir John Vanbrugh, and though a heavy building, like the rest of that architect's performances, must be acknowledged to be a magnificent structure.

THIS borough having sent to parliament, anno 30 and 33 Edward I. ceased sending till the first of queen Mary, when it having returned to her three first parliaments, again intermitted sending till 13 Elizabeth.

CORPORATION—Consists of a lord high steward, recorder, town-clerk, five aldermen, one of whom is always mayor, and seventeen common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—In the corporation and freemen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—Less than 200.

RETURNING OFFICER—The mayor.

PATRON—Duke of Marlborough.

BANBURY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough, in common with Abingdon and Higham Ferrers, which were also incorporated by queen Mary, Bewdley, which was incorporated by James I. and Monmouth which was impriviledged to send members in the reign of Henry VIII. have only the election of one member each. The right of voting in this populous town is confined, by a resolution of the house of commons, to a mayor, six aldermen, and twelve burgesfes, who, like all other corporations, are under the influence and direction of an individual.

THE number of inhabitant housekeepers in this town, who, like Bath, Winchester, Salisbury, Andover, Poole, &c. have only a nominal representation, are at least six hundred.

ANCIENT STATE. Banbury, which is seated on the river Cherwell, is a very ancient town, and was, soon after the conquest, strengthened with
with

with a castle, which was built by Alexander, then bishop of Lincoln.

IN the civil wars a garrison was placed here, or rather in the castle, by the parliament. It was going to be besieged by the king, when hearing that the earl of Essex was at Keynton, near Edgell, he resolved to go and attack him. The battle was fought the next day; but though the victory was doubtful, the king soon after took Banbury castle, in which were eight hundred foot, and a troop of horse, half of whom took arms under his banner, and from thence he marched to Oxford.

CORPORATION. This borough was first incorporated in the first year of queen Mary, and then impriviledged to return one member to parliament; by which charter it was governed by a bailiff, twelve aldermen, and twelve burgeses, In the reign of king James I. it was made a mayor town, with twelve aldermen and six capital burgeses; and it had a new charter from king George I. in the year 1718, by which it is now governed by a mayor, high steward, recorder,

order, six capital burgeses, twelve assistants, a town-clerk, and a serjeant at mace.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—In the mayor, aldermen and capital burgeses only.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—19.

RETURNING OFFICER—The mayor.

PATRON—Earl of Guildford.

RUTLAND COUNTY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS is the only county in England which has no representatives, except the two knights of the shire; and, consequently, the inhabitant housekeepers, like those of the city of Ely, and the opulent and populous towns of Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Leeds, Wolverhampton, Halifax, &c. are without any representation. Ninety-nine parts out of a hundred of the empire of Great Britain are in a similar

a similar situation ; but the observation applies with peculiar force, when these places present themselves to our view, and are compared with **Castle Rising**, or **Gatton**, which have only two houses each, or with **Old Sarum**, which has not a house remaining, or with the nominal representation of those cities and towns, where the right of election is confined to a corporation of nineteen, twenty-four, or thirty, as is the case at **Banbury**, **Andover**, and **Bath**.

To complete the deformity of this shadow of representation, the influence in this county is, like most others, in a few individuals, the earl of **Exeter**, earl of **Cardigan**, earl of **Winchelsea**, and earl of **Gainborough**.

ANCIENT STATE. This county derives its name from the ancient Saxon name **Roteland**, the etymology of which is entirely unknown. Some have derived it from **Roet**, or **Rud**, which signifies red, because, in many parts of the county, the land is of a red colour. But others object to this reason, and alledge, that there is only one part of the county, which is about **Glaiston**, that has a ruddy soil ; besides, most of the counties
in

in England have soil of the same colour; and therefore these would have it to be derived from the word Rotundalandia, from its circular figure; but its form was not round when this name, of which Rutland is supposed to be a contraction, was given to it; besides, it is not probable that the Saxons would give a Latin name to an English county.

RUTLANDSHIRE is the least of all the counties in England, it extending not quite fifteen miles in length, and scarcely thirteen in breadth, and is but forty miles in circumference. Okeham, the county town, which is seated near the middle of the county, is ninety-six miles north north-west of London.

IN the time of the Romans this county was a part of the district inhabited by the Coritani; but under the Saxons it was a part of the kingdom of Mercia. The most ancient account we have of this county is in the reign of Edward the Confessor, who, by his last will, bequeathed it to Egith, on condition, that after her death it should belong to the monastery of St. Peter's at Westminster, which it accordingly did; but William the

the Conqueror seized it, and allowed the monastery little more than the tythes, dividing the lands between his kinsmen and followers, except what he kept to himself. This county has given the title of earl ever since the reign of Rich. II. The first earl of Rutland was Edward, the eldest son of Edmund Langley, the fifth son of Edward the Third; but the first earl of the present family of the Manners, was created earl of Rutland by Henry VIII. In the reign of queen Anne, John Manners, then earl of Rutland, received from that princess the title of marquis of Granby and duke of Rutland, which his successors still enjoy.

THIS county is divided into five hundreds, but has no city, and contains only two market towns, namely, Okeham and Uppingham. It is in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Peterborough, and contains forty-eight parishes, but sends only two members to parliament, who are the knights of the shire.

SALOP

SALOP COUNTY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS county is not under any influence, which may be imputed, in some degree, to the small number of nobility who reside here. There are many gentlemen of comfortable fortunes, who reside here, and, like their ancestors of old, possess independent spirits, and have not as yet learnt to bow their neck to a yoke fabricated by despotic power.

They have, on this account, been branded by their enemies with the odious epithet of the proud Salopians; but if the definition of that pride be independence, in its fullest and completest sense, our wish is that all our fellow-citizens were in possession of it; aristocratic oppression would then cease, and cheerfulness and plenty would succeed in its room.

ANCIENT STATE. The county of Salop takes its name from Scrobbesbyrig, the Saxon name

of Shrewsbury, the county town, which is generally derived from the brush-wood and shrubs with which the ground was covered before the town was built. It is also called Salop, or the county of Salop, from the name by which the town of Shrewsbury was afterwards called by the Normans. This county is bounded on the east by Staffordshire; on the south by Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and a small part of Radnorshire; on the west by Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire; and on the north by part of Flintshire and Cheshire; it is reckoned one of the largest inland counties in England, extending upwards of forty miles in length from north to south, and thirty-five in breadth from east to west, and upwards of a hundred and sixty miles in circumference. Shrewsbury, which is nearly in the centre of the county, is one hundred and fifty-seven miles north-west of London.

THAT division of Shropshire, which extends north of the Severn, is allowed to be part of the country, which, in the time of the Romans, was inhabited by the Cornavii; but that part on the south of the Severn belonged to the Ordovices, a people who inhabited the greatest part of Wales; but

but under the Saxons this county was a district of the kingdom of Mercia. The famous Roman military way, called Watling-street, enters Shropshire from Staffordshire, at Boningale, a village on the borders of the county, to the north-east of Bridgenorth, and passes from that village north-west to Wallington, and from thence south-west through Wroxeter; where crossing the Severn at Wroxeter-ford, it runs southward through the county into Herefordshire. This road is very entire in the neighbourhood of Wroxeter, where being straight, and raised a considerable height above the level of the soil, it may be seen from thence ten or fifteen miles both to the south and north.

THERE is nothing very remarkable relating to the transactions of the Romans in this county, except the battle fought between Ostorius, the Roman general, and the brave British king, named Caractacus. Every thing was in confusion in Britain, when Ostorius, being sent hither in the room of Plautius, endeavoured to render himself formidable by his vigilance and activity; accordingly, with such forces as were next at hand, he routed some scattered parties that were placed as

garrisons upon the Avon and Severn. He afterwards advanced against the Cangians, laying waste the country with little or no opposition, as far as the Irish sea. The Iceni and Brigantes, endeavouring to stop his progress, were soon defeated; however the Silures, under their prince Caratacus, made a greater stand; and, that he might encounter the Romans with advantage, removed the seat of war into the country of the Ordovices, now North-Wales, where he was immediately joined by those, who being inspired with the love of liberty, could not bear the thought of submitting to the Roman yoke. He encamped his army on the top of an almost inaccessible hill, which Camden supposes to be that now called Cacradow; and where there was a possibility of climbing up to it, he raised heaps of stones, in the manner of a rampart; and at the bottom was a river, which the Romans were obliged to pass before they could attack him; for which reason, he placed some of his best troops to oppose their passage. Notwithstanding this, Ostorius ordered his men to pass the river, and begin the attack. The Britons annoyed them with showers of arrows, darts, and stones, by which many of the Romans were slain, and much greater numbers wounded;

wounded; but at length passing the river, they came to a close engagement, threw down the weak fortifications that had been raised against them, and defeated the Britons with great slaughter. The wife and daughter of Caractacus were taken prisoners; but he himself escaped to the queen of the Brigantes, who, contrary to her promise, delivered him up to the Romans; when he, with his wife and daughter, were carried in triumph to Rome; where, being brought before the emperor Claudius, he made so bold and animated a speech, that the emperor, admiring his courage, set him, as well as his wife and daughter, at liberty.

UNDER the Saxons, when this county constituted a part of the kingdom of Mercia, we do not find any thing remarkable relating to it, except that Edwy, the last earl of Mercia, had large possessions there; but the Norman conquest made prodigious alterations; for the Conqueror gratified his followers with large estates; and we find that Roger de Montgomery, who was created earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury, possessed the greatest part of the county.

SHROPSHIRE, being a frontier between England and Wales, was better fortified than any other county in England, having no less than thirty-two castles, besides fortified towns. The extremity of Shropshire towards Wales, from its being the limits of both countries, was called the Marches of Wales, and governed by some of the nobility of this county, who were styled Lords of the Marches. These lords, within their several jurisdictions, acted with a kind of palatinate authority, which nearly resembled sovereign power; but it being generally exercised with great influence over the inhabitants, it was, after the reduction of Wales, gradually abolished.

THIS county is seated in the province of Canterbury; that part of it which lies south of the Severn, is under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Hereford; that which lies north, is under the bishop of Coventry and Litchfield; except Oswestry, and a few other places, which are under the bishoprick of St. Asaph: the archdeacon of Shrewsbury is archdeacon for the three dioceses.

IT is divided into fifteen hundreds, containing one hundred and seventy parishes, and fifteen,
market

market towns: it sends twelve members to parliament, two knights of the shire for the county, and two burgeses for each of the following towns; viz. Shrewsbury, Bridgenorth, Bishop's Castle, Wenlock, and Ludlow.

SHREWSBURY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this town was anciently popular and free; so late as the year 1709, we find by the journals of the house of commons, the franchise extended not only to the burgeses inhabiting within the town, paying scot and lot, but also to those inhabiting six other parishes, and forty-six villis in its suburbs and neighbourhood. These were however disfranchised by a subsequent resolution of the house, on the 9th of April 1723, and the right was limited to the burgeses inhabiting the precinct of the borough only.

THE corporation afterwards attempted to confine this right still further, as will appear by the following case, on the petition of certain electors in the interest of William Pulteney, Esq.
tried

tried by a committee of the house of commons, on the 7th of March 1775.

THE question was, whether a class of men coming under the two following descriptions, who had been refused their admission to their freedom by the mayor, were entitled to vote at that election?

1st, All persons of the age of one-and-twenty, and who have served a seven years apprenticeship to one of the trades, which form fourteen ancient companies by prescription or incorporation in this borough, have a right to demand, and be admitted to, their freedom, on paying five pounds and all the usual fees.

2d, All persons born within the borough, are, at the age of one-and-twenty, entitled in like manner to demand, and be admitted to, their freedom, on payment of five pounds and the usual fees,

THE fact, that the rejected voters came under the description of one or other of those two customs, was not disputed,

It was proved, that more than a year before the election, they had tendered the fees to the persons whose province it is, by the law of the place, to admit freemen; that they had claimed to be admitted, and were refused. It was likewise proved, that they had tendered their votes at the election. But the two customs were called in question.

IN 1771, one Baxter, claiming his freedom under those customs, had brought a mandamus in the court of King's Bench, on the trial of that cause; the corporation contended, that the two customs, which the plaintiff alledged to be immemorial, were only introduced by a bye-law of 1642, which bye-law was repealed in 1733. The plaintiff maintained, that the bye-law was only declaratory of the ancient custom, which could not therefore be affected by the repeal of such a bye-law. The jury found for the plaintiff.

BAXTER, in consequence of the judgment in his favour, sued out a peremptory mandamus, and was admitted to his freedom. But the corporation, after that decision, still refused to admit

mit the other persons who claimed under the same customs.

IN the case of Baxter they had moved for a new trial, which was refused; but a second *mandamus* being obtained against them, they moved that this new cause might be tried at the bar; this was granted by the court; and, on that occasion, the judge who tried the first, said, he thought, that on the trial it had not been properly understood.

THIS second *mandamus* was depending, in the court of King's Bench, at the time of election. It was tried in Michaelmas term 19 November, 1774, and determined in like manner as the former; and there was no application for a new trial.

ON this state of facts, the counsel for the sitting member insisted, that the right of the controverted votes were still open to the discussion of the committee; that the two *mandamuses* were only conclusive amongst the parties, and that, on the trial of new *mandamuses*, the two former verdicts, although they might have
great

great weight as evidence, would not conclude the jury. They suggested, that since the last trial, and after the four days had elapsed, which the court allows for moving for a new trial, they had discovered fresh evidence, which, if laid before the committee, would overturn the customs.

THE counsel for the petitioners contended, on the contrary, that under circumstances like those of the present case, two verdicts, free from all suspicion of collusion, (the two mayors against whom both the verdicts had been found, having continued to be warm partizans of the sitting members at the election, unimpeached and not disapproved of by the judge,) would be conclusive evidence *as to the customs*, even in a court of law, because the parties to be bound by them on a new *mandamus* would be the same; viz. the corporation of Shrewsbury; that on two such verdicts, a court of equity would make a decree to establish a custom, and would not grant a third trial; but that if this were otherwise, a committee of the house of commons would never suffer two solemn verdicts, and consequent judgments of the only court competent

petent to such causes, to be called in question before them. They said, that even in the Middlesex case, nobody had ever attempted to impeach the verdict, finding Mr. Wilkes guilty of the libel.

THE counsel for the sitting members cited several cases, where courts of law had granted new trials after two concordant verdicts, and others, where courts of equity had done the same. But they were all shewn to be cases where the judge, who tried the cause, signified his disapprobation of the verdict; and besides it was said, that a verdict *before judgment*, once set aside, is considered as if it never had existed.

ON the other side, the cases of the duke of Beaufort, and of Manchester Mills, were cited among others. The latter came on in the duchy court before lord Kinnoul, assisted by lord Mansfield, who said on that occasion, that a verdict in the time of Charles I. (which was produced in the cause) was conclusive evidence of the custom. After this point had been argued, and the counsel directed to withdraw, the committee, after a short deliberation,

RESOLVED,

RESOLVED, not to admit any evidence to impeach the two verdicts, but to confides them as conclusive evidence of the customs.

THE sitting members' counsel then endeavoured to prove,

THAT the rejected voters had not applied in the proper manner, and according to the established usage, to be admitted to their freedom.

BUT it came out, from the evidence, that the mode of their application was regular.

THEY then contended, That, as the title of those men to their freedom was in suspense, and under litigation in Westminster-hall, when their votes were rejected, they could not be of any avail as to this election; for that in instances where the votes of men, who had applied for their freedom and were refused, and have been allowed, on proving their titles, the case had been always such as to satisfy the committee, or the house, that there was no just ground for refusing them, and that it was done by concert with a candidate, and in order to affect the election,

THE

THE committee however, on the same day, (Wednesday the 8th of March) informed the house, by their chairman, that they had determined, that William Pulteney, Esq. was duly elected, and ought to have been returned.

ANCIENT STATE. Shrewsbury, or Shrowsbury, receives its name from the ancient Saxon Scrobbes-Byrig, which signifies the town encompassed with shrubs, and was thus called, from the hill upon which it stands being covered with small trees or shrubs; and is still called, in the ancient British tongue, Penguerne, which signifies a brow of alders. This town is supposed by some to have risen from the ruins of an ancient Roman city, at about four miles distance, called Uriconium, now reduced to a small village, known by the name of Wroxeter. Under the Saxons Shrewsbury was a town of considerable note. In the reign of king Ethelred II. we are told, that the Danes, being grown intolerably insolent, oppressed his Saxon subjects, when that king contrived to destroy them at once; for which purpose he sent a commission to all towns and cities to fall upon the Danes on the 13th of November 1002, which was executed

cuted with great severity. Upon this the Danes were determined to take their revenge; and the next year invaded the nation under king Swain, killing the inhabitants, and burning or carrying away their goods. King Ethelred happening to be in Shrewsbury when the Danes landed in the Isle of Wight, and from thence proceeded to ravage Hampshire and Berkshire, he consulted with his council about what was best to be done, when he was advised to purchase a peace, with thirty thousand pounds weight of silver. They accepted the money, and departed for the present; but returned soon after, and never were at rest till they had set a Danish king on the throne; this was Canute, the son of Swain, just mentioned.

At the time of the Norman conquest, Shrewsbury was a well built, populous place. There were two hundred and fifty-two citizens, twelve of whom were bound to keep guard when the kings of England came thither, and as many were obliged to attend him when he went a hunting. Camden thinks this custom was first occasioned by one Edrick Sueona, a Mercian duke, but a profligate villain, who, a little before, had

way-laid and slain prince Alfhelm, as he was hunting. At this time there was another custom, according to the same author, that whenever a widow married, she should pay the king twenty shillings; but those women who had never been married before, were to pay him only ten shillings.

SHREWSBURY was given by the conqueror to Roger de Montgomery, his principal captain, kinsman and friend, who about the year 1085, built a castle upon an eminence, for which purpose he pulled down about fifty houses. It is built on a rock, on the neck of land where the Severn runs on each side; for that river almost encompasses the town. It is very strong, considering the time in which it was built, and seems not to have received any very considerable damage. William Fitz-Allan defended this castle for the empress Maud, against king Stephen, who took it by assault. Here was also a mitred abbey, founded for the Benedictines, by the same earl, about the year 1083, to the honour of St. Peter and St. Paul; and the church was dedicated to St. Gregory, or, as others say, to St. Giles. He endowed this abbey with ample possessions, to which

which Hugh, his son and heir, gave others, with a heavy curfe on the violator. The kings Henry I. and Stephen added to these, and confirmed their former estates and possessions. The walls are still standing, and shew that it was formerly a very handsome structure.

HERE are twelve incorporated trading companies, who every year, on the Monday fortnight after Whitsuntide, repair in their formalities to a place called Kingland, on the south side of the town, and on the opposite bank of the Severn, where they entertain the mayor and corporation in arbors or bowers erected for that purpose, each of which is distinguished by some motto or device, alluding to their several arts. It is said, that king Charles II. offered to erect this town into a city, but that the townsmen chose that it should remain a borough; for which they were afterwards called the proud Salopians. This town gives the title of earl to the family of Talbot.

It was incorporated by king Charles I. and sent to parliament *ab origine*.

CORPO-

BRIDGENORTH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The family of Whitmore, of Apley, a seat in the neighbourhood of this borough, have represented it in different parliaments ever since the 18th of James I. and the attachment of the people to the present representative of his ancestors' independence, is not diminished at this day.

His interest with the electors is permanent; but it is neither established by undue means, nor exercised by compulsory ones. The town gave a proof of its independence, when they displaced their old favourite representative, admiral Pigot, in 1784, for voting in support of the coalition, and electing in his room a gentleman, whose political sentiments were congenial with their own.

ANCIENT STATE. Bridgenorth, or Brugmorfe, is twenty miles south-east of Shrewsbury, and, according to Camden, ought to be called Burgmorfe, from Burg and Morfe, a forest adjoining thereto; but the annotator on Camden asserts, that he is
mistaken,

Mistaken, affirming, that Brugnorfe is a name of late use, it having been called Bridge, in ancient records, and that north was given to it on account of some bridge over the Severn to the south. This town, which is situated twenty-one miles south-east of Shrewsbury, is said to have been built in the year 582, by Ethelfleda, queen of the Mercians, and widow of king Ethelred. It was afterwards walled round by Robert de Belesme, the son of Robert de Montgomery, so often mentioned, who likewise added to the strength of the place, by building a castle. Depending on these fortifications, he afterwards rebelled against Henry I. and made a stand here; but was soon obliged to make his escape, and fly the kingdom. There was also a chapel within the castle, which, in after times was converted into a collegiate church, for a dean and six prebendaries. The town and castle being forfeited by this rebellion, came into the possession of the crown, but how long it continued so is uncertain. The castle is now demolished, and the forest of Morfe is a common.

BRIDGENORTH had several privileges granted it, by charters, from Henry II. and king John.

The grèatest part of it stands upon a rock, on the western bank of the Severn, which has here a very great fall. These two parts are called the Upper and Lower towns, which are separated by the river Severn, but united by a stone bridge of seven arches, upon which is a gate and gate-house, with several other houses.

THIS borough sent members *ab origine*.

CORPORATION.—It is governed by two bailiffs, annually elected out of twenty-four aldermen, by a jury of fourteen men, together with a recorder, forty-eight common-councilmen, a town-clerk, and other officers.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—In the burgeses and freemen, within and without the borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 700.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The bailiffs.

LUDLOW.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This town is not under the absolute controul of a patron; but lord Clive has the corporation attached to him, and
possesses

possesses an interest sufficiently powerful to secure the election of one of its members, cemented to that of Mr. Knight, the other member, who originally became a candidate on the independent interest of the town, that they might assume the dictatorial influence of patrons; but, as the burgesses are sufficiently numerous to assert their own independence, this place cannot be ranked amongst those boroughs which are at the private disposal of an individual.

ANCIENT STATE. Ludlow, which is seated at the confluence of the Temd and Corve, twenty-nine miles south of Shrewsbury, stands upon a hill, commanding an extensive prospect of the adjacent country, except towards the west, where the view is intercepted by lofty eminences. It is a very clean, well built place, and is the residence of many people of rank and fortune. The principal street is that which leads from the bridge to the town-house, an elegant structure of hewn stone; the next is, that which leads to the horse-course. It was incorporated by king Edward IV. and has the power of trying and executing criminals distinct from the county.

THE

THE town is divided into four wards, and is encompassed with walls, in which are seven gates. It has an old castle, erected by Roger de Montgomery soon after the conquest, great part of which is in ruins; some apartments are, however, entire and furnished; the battlements are very high, thick, and adorned with towers. It has a neat chapel, in which are the coats of arms of several of the Welsh gentry, and over the stable doors are those of queen Elizabeth, the earl of Pembroke, and others. The walls of the castle were originally a mile in compass, and before it was a lawn extending near two miles, a considerable part of which is now inclosed.

THE church is an ancient venerable edifice, in the upper part of the town. In the choir is an inscription relating to prince Arthur, brother to king Henry VIII. whose bowels were deposited there. In the same choir is a closet, called the Godt-house, where the priests used to keep their consecrated utensils; and to this church the earl of Powis lately gave a new organ which cost 1000*l*. Ludlow gives the title
of

of viscount to that nobleman, who has a seat at Oakley park, near the town.

When Robert of Montgomery, the son of Roger, who built the castle, and also inclosed the town with a wall, was attainted, Henry I. kept it in his own hands. This castle and town were afterwards held for the empress Maud, and besieged by king Stephen. During the siege, Henry, the son of the king of Scots, being violently plucked from his saddle by an engine, had like to have been carried over the wall into the town, if Stephen in person had not rescued him. Afterwards Henry II. gave the castle and Corvedale to Sir Fulk Fitz-Warren, called also de Dinan, from this town, it being one of the ancient British names of Ludlow. It then belonged to the Laceys of Ireland, and came by a female to Sir Geoffrey de Tenevile, from whose heirs it descended by a daughter to the Mortimers, earls of March, and from them came to the crown. Edward V. resided here when his father died, and was removed from hence to London, by his uncle the duke of Gloucester, Arthur, prince of Wales, the eldest son of Henry VII. kept his court at Ludlow castle,
and

and died there: Ludlow espoused the cause of Charles I. and was one of the places that last surrendered to the parliament. Henry VIII. contributed greatly to its emolument, by establishing in it the council of the Marches, which consisted of the lord president, counsellors at the king's pleasure, a secretary, an attorney, a solicitor, and four justices of so many counties in Wales. This continued till the reign of William III. who, after the death of the earl of Macclesfield, the last lord president, changed that title into lord lieutenant of North and South Wales, and dissolved the court entirely.

THIS TOWN was incorporated by king Edw. VI. and first sent to parliament in the twelfth year of that king's reign.

CORPORATION.—By charter anno 3 Charles I. consists of 2 bailiffs, 20 aldermen, and 48 common councilmen; but by charter of James II. it consists of 2 bailiffs, 12 aldermen, 25 common councilmen, a recorder, town clerk, steward, chamberlain, and other officers, under which it now acts.

RIGHT

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—1661, 26 February. Is in all the resident common burgesſes, as well as the twelve and twenty-five.

1690, 22 December. The new charter, granted to the town of Ludlow by the late king James, whereby the ancient method of electing burgesſes for parliament is altered, is illegal and void.

1698, 1 March. The ſons of burgesſes of Ludlow, and thoſe that marry the daughters of burgesſes, have a right to be made burgesſes of the ſaid borough.

EVERY perſon having a right to be made a burgeſs of the borough of Ludlow, ought to demand ſuch his right by petition, ſigned by the petitioner, according to the bye-law made in the year 1663, and not otherwiſe.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—Nearly 500.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The two bailiffs.

PATRON—Lord Clive, partially.

WENLOCK.

WENLOCK.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This town is also called Much-Wenlock; but from its being an ill-built dirty little place, consisting only of two ordinary streets, it is called *Muck-Wenlock* by way of derision.

THE villages of Little Wenlock and Brasely are within the limits of this borough, the whole of which are the property of Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bart. and Mr. Forrester, the present members. The advowson of the living belongs to Sir Watkin Williams Wynne.

THIS insignificant borough is the first that ever sent members to parliament, by virtue of a charter from the crown, which was granted by king Edward IV. 29th November, 1478, who, by his authority, delegated to them the power of sending *one* member to parliament.

THIS monarch was seated upon a throne, tottering with the uncertainty of its possessor, who had been obliged, in his passage to it, to wade through a sea of blood. An act committed in
that

that day of danger and perplexity, could not be a precedent sufficiently respectable, to vest future kings with an authority to grant the same privileges, when and where it should seem expedient to them, and particularly when no such power was committed to them by the constitution of this country. The act of union having limited the number of members of parliament for England to five hundred and thirteen, and that of Scotland to forty-five, has now prevented the future exercise of this extraordinary prerogative.

ANCIENT STATE. Wenlock, which is so called to distinguish it from a village in its neighbourhood, known by the name of Little Wenlock, is a borough town, which, with Brafeley and Little Wenlock, sends two members to parliament. In the reign of Richard II. it was as famous for a copper mine as it is now for quarries of limestone. It has a church, of which Sir Watkin Williams Wynne is patron.

THIS town was impriviledged by Henry IV. by charter, dated November 29th, 1478, to send one burges to parliament, which is the first precedent

precedent met with inserted in the charter of any borough.

CORPORATION. By charter, anno 7 Char. I. consists of a bailiff, recorder, two other justices, and twelve bailiff peers, or capital burgessees.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—In the burgessees.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 100.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Bailiff.

PATRONS—Sir Henry Bridgman, Bart. and Cecil Forrester, Esq.

BISHOP'S CASTLE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough is entirely under the direction of lord Clive, who is proprietor of the greatest part of it. The right of voting is in the burgessees who are inhabitants.

WENLOCK and this are the only two places which come under the description of proprietary boroughs in this county; the number of voters not exceeding one hundred in either. The rights

rights are nearly the same in each, only that residence is not a requisite qualification in a burghs of Wenlock.

ANCIENT STATE. Bishop's Castle, which is seated in the road from Ludlow to Montgomery, is an ancient borough, and took its name from having formerly belonged to the bishops of Hereford, who had probably a feat here; and, though not a large place, enjoys several privileges.

IT was taken from the fee of Hereford by queen Elizabeth, and incorporated by her in the fifteenth year of her reign, and called up to return members to her next parliament, anno regni 27.

CORPORATION—Consists of a bailiff, recorder, and fifteen aldermen, out of whom the bailiff is annually chosen, and is justice of the peace and quorum for that and the ensuing year.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—In the bailiff and all the burghesses within the said borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 50.

RETURNING OFFICER—The bailiff.

PATRON—Lord Clive.

SOMER-

SOMERSETSHIRE.**POLITICAL CHARACTER.**

THE freeholders of this county have, in their political character of electing their representatives, held out to all the people of England an example the most worthy of their imitation. At a county meeting, convened for the purpose of nominating the members, previous to the day of election, they resolved, and agreed unanimously, not to give their votes either to the brother or son of a peer of the realm, nor to any candidate supported by such an interest. By this conduct they have manifested their knowledge of the constitution of their country, and their zeal for its prosperity, in keeping the democratic part independent of, and unmixed, as it certainly ought to be, with the aristocratic. If this doctrine was universally understood, and generally practised, our representatives would be elected by, and out of, ourselves, who are better acquainted with our own interests, and necessarily more anxious to promote

note it, than those who are constitutionally separated from us, and who, from that and other circumstances, consider the people as an order of beings distinct from themselves, and value them only in proportion as they are serviceable or instrumental to their own consequence, pride, and ambition.

ANCIENT STATE. Somersetshire, is so called from the town of Somerton, which was formerly the chief town in the county; whence it has been called, by some authors, the county of Somerton. It may properly be considered as a maritime county, it being washed on the north-west by Bristol channel. It is of considerable extent, being sixty miles in length, fifty in breadth, and two hundred miles in circumference.

CAMDEN, in his *Britannia*, places this county in the territory inhabited by the Belgæ. However Tacitus, when he relates the victories of Ostorius, mentions the Iceni and Cangi, as conquered by him; and the latter, he says, dwelt hereabouts, at a small distance from the Irish sea. Hence Camden conjectures, that the Cangi, being a small people, might be comprehended under the Belgæ; but Dr. Tanner, chancellor of Norwich,

wich, who has with great industry searched into the antiquities of these parts, is of opinion, that all the northern part of Wiltshire may be allowed to have been the habitations of the Cangi, because the whole course of Ostorius's march seems to be a proof, that the Cangi lived in this part of the island; for when that general had vanquished them, and settled a colony at Camelodunum, that is Camelet, in this county, he marched to subdue the Silures, or the inhabitants of South Wales, and from thence went to the Ordoyices, or those of North Wales. Now as this might be done without harassing his soldiers, it is not to be supposed that he marched any other way thither. Besides, Lipsius conjectures, that instead of the Ceni Magni of Cæsar, we ought to read Icenii Cangi; and if this be allowed, the Icenii and Cangi must be placed in the south parts of Britain, and the Cangi, in all probability will fall to the lot of Somersetshire and the north of Wiltshire. Besides, the Bristol channel may probably be the sea which, Tacitus tells us, looks towards Ireland, near which the Cangi lived. Likewise the Avon, called Antona by Tacitus, on which Ostorius had, before the rebellion of the Britons, erected several garrisons, will very well answer the river Tacitus speaks of.

THERE

THERE is but one Roman station in this county, taken notice of by Antoninus in his Itinerary, and this he calls Equæ Solis, which is the same as Bath; but there were other Roman fortresses, and one city mentioned by Ptolemy, named Ichalis. As for the Roman roads in this county, the Fosse is the chief, if not the only one. It passes from Salfleet to Lincolnshire, through Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Gloucestershire, to Bath, from whence it passes to Ilchester, and preserves its name in the neighbourhood. Dr. Stukeley is convinced, that the pavement of black stone laid edge-way, south of this place, towards Dorsetshire, is the work of the Romans, and in its original form.

UNDER the West-Saxon kings, this county was subject to certain earls, who had the power of determining all controversies of right and wrong, and the punishing malefactors within their jurisdiction; but we find nothing remarkable in history concerning them, till William the Conqueror deprived the Saxon nobility of their honours and estates, placing Normans in their room.

SOMERSETSHIRE is remarkable for having two of the most celebrated mineral waters in the kingdom; which are, those of Bath and Bristol, besides others of different kinds.

THIS county, which is seated in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Bath and Wells, is divided into forty-two hundreds, containing three cities, thirty-two market towns, and three hundred and eighty-five parishes. It sends eighteen members to parliament, viz. two knights of the shire for the county, two citizens for each of the cities of Bristol, Bath, and Wells, and two burgeses for each of the following boroughs, viz. Taunton, Ilchester, Milbourne-port, and Minehead.

BRISTOL CITY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city was formerly considered a part of Gloucestershire. The return of its members to serve in parliament was made by the sheriff of that county; but afterwards, to dignify the county of Somerset with three cities, it was placed there before Bath and Wells,

Wells, as the first of three. In the 47th of Edward III. it was dissevered from Gloucester and Somerset, and made a county of itself. This city is certainly the second in England, with respect to the number and riches of its merchants. It is entirely free from aristocratic and ministerial controul; but it is at present represented by a coalition formed by the leaders of the two contending parties. One of its representatives votes uniformly with administration, and the other with opposition; so that the six thousand persons, to whom the right of election is supposed to be confined, have virtually no representation at all.

ANCIENT STATE. Bristol, called by the Saxons Brightstow, which signifies a celebrated place, is called in the catalogue of ancient cities *Caer-Brito*, and by the Britons *Caer-Oder-Nant-Vadon*, that is, the city of Odera in Badon valley. It is seated between the Avon, and the little river Frome, a hundred and seven miles south of Shrewsbury. The time in which this city was built is uncertain, it not being mentioned by any of our historians that treat of the Danish wars. Camden is of opinion, it was first built about the

declension of the Saxon government, because we do not find it taken notice of before the year 1063, at which time king Harold set sail for Bristol, to invade Wales. When Jeffrey, bishop of Constance, raised a rebellion against William Rufus, he chose this city for the seat of war, and fortified it with an inner wall, which is supposed in part to continue to this day. Robert, the natural son of Hen. I. and brother to the empress Matilda, possessed himself of this city upon her account, and having strengthened it with a castle, garrisoned it against king Stephen. The empress, on making her escape from the siege of Arundel castle, fled hither, and was followed by king Stephen; when hearing of his approach, she fled to Gloucester, and then to Lincoln. Stephen pursued her; but their armies joining battle, he was vanquished, and taken prisoner; on which the empress ordered him to be conveyed to the city of Bristol, and there confined. His queen did all in her power to procure his release, but without effect. Upon which she assembled all the forces she was able to procure, and having Robert, earl of Gloucester, the queen's brother, in her power, resolved to treat him with as much severity

verity as the emperors had done the king, which had a good effect; for by this means she obtained the king's liberty.

ON the 26th of February 1574, there happened in this city an earthquake, which caused the inhabitants to fly from their houses. Many chimnies were thrown down, and the dishes and books fell from the shelves.

IN the civil wars it suffered greatly, and underwent many changes, it being alternately possessed by both parties.

THE tradesmen of this city are incorporated into several companies, each of which has a hall, or a large room hired for their meeting; and by a charter of queen Elizabeth, every man that marries the daughter of a citizen of Bristol becomes free of the city. Here is a Guildhall, in which are held the assizes and sessions, with the mayor's and sheriffs courts; and adjoining to it is a spacious lofty room, called St. George's Chapel, in which the mayor and sheriffs are annually chosen. Here is also a large council-room, in which the mayor and some of the aldermen meet

meet every day, except Sundays, for the administration of justice. The Royal Exchange is a fine structure, built in the manner of that at London, and is about two-thirds as large. It is all of freestone, and the ground upon which it stands, cost the chamber of the city 20,000 l. It has four entrances to the square within, and above are rooms for shops. Behind the building is an extensive piece of ground laid out for the markets. In Wine-street is a large structure, called the Corn-market; adjoining to which is a guard-room, with barracks for soldiers.

THIS place, which was made a mayor town at the beginning of the reign of Hen. III. was, anno 47 Edw. III. dissevered from the counties of Gloucester and Somerset, and made a county of itself. It was also, anno 1452, 34 Hen. VIII. made a bishop's see and city.

It sent to parliament *ab origine*.

CORPORATION. Consists of a mayor, recorder, eleven aldermen, two sheriffs, and forty-eight common-councilmen.

RIGHT

RIGHT OF ELECTION—In the freeholders, having freeholds of forty shillings a year, and the free burgesses.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—Near 6000.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The sheriffs.

B A T H.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city, which is the most elegant, and one of the first with respect to population in the kingdom, is under the same political exclusion, as the inhabitants of Shoreham and Cricklade, who have been convicted of the grossest venality, corruption, and bribery ;] a crime, which the late Sir John Cust, when speaker of the house of commons, in reprimanding the mayor and aldermen of Oxford, calls the most enormous that men can well commit. The punishment inflicted by the house of commons on such as they have deemed it expedient to make examples of their justice, has been *disqualification from voting in the election of members of parliament*. All the inhabitants of Bath, the corporation only excepted, are exactly in the same situation, with only the mental consolation, of not having committed a similar offence against the liberty of their country to deserve it.

THE

THE representation of this city is as complete a political farce as that of Old Sarum ; for if thirty-two individuals are to elect two representatives for the people of England, it is of very little consequence whether they are chosen by that number of burgage-holders, or by the same number of aldermen and common-council. We, however trust, that we may hail them with the prospect of a speedy reform, which will restore men to their rights, and the nation to its true dignity and independence.

THE corporation of this city are not of that degraded description, who put their suffrages to public sale, or submit to the domineering insolence of a powerful individual. They have manifested an honourable attachment to the exalted virtues of their venerable recorder, earl Camden, and to the convivial hospitalities of their opulent neighbour, the marquis of Bath, whose sons are their present representatives.

ANCIENT STATE. Bath, which is a bishop's see, united to that of Wells, is one of the most celebrated cities in England, and of very great antiquity, it being the Aquæ Solis, or Waters of the
the

the Sun of Antoninus. Upon the spot where the cathedral now stands, a temple is said to have been formerly dedicated to Minerva, who was the titular deity of these springs, from thence the ancient Britons gave this city the name of *Caer Pallader*, or the city of the Waters of *Pallas*. It is seated in a great valley among hills, which encircle it in the form of an amphitheatre; and there is no doubt but the Romans were induced to fix a station here, on account of its admirable hot springs, which had even then been long famous for curing a great number of diseases. It is not known by whom this city was originally founded. Some legendary writers ascribe it to king *Bladen*, who lived long before the birth of our Saviour, and consequently before the coming of the Romans; but who he was is as much unknown; indeed it is questioned if ever there was any such king, though statues have been erected to him in several parts of the city. Bath was at length called by the Saxons *Acmanneſceafter*, which signifies the city of *Valetudinarians*; and upon *Landsdown-hill*, near this city, are still to be seen the remains of a fortification, thought to have been thrown up by the Saxons, in the year 520, when they defend-
ed

ed themselves against the victorious king Arthur. In the year 577, Ceawlin, king of the West-Saxons, drove the Britons out of several cities, and at length came to Bath, and forced that city to submit to his power. In the year 676, Ofric, a petty king, built a nunnery here, and soon after, when this city fell into the hands of the Mercians, king Offa built a church, to which king Edgar, on account of his being crowned in it, granted several immunities. They were both, however, destroyed in the Danish wars; but when peace was restored, this city recovered itself by degrees, and Elphege, archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1010, built the inhabitants a new church. In the reign of William Rufus, a body of rebels marched to this city, which they plundered and burnt; yet, in a short time, the inhabitants, by the assistance of the bishop of Wells, bought this city for five hundred pounds weight of silver; and the bishop translating his see hither, built a new cathedral. But at length it becoming ruinous, Oliver King, bishop of Bath, laid the foundation of another; but did not live to see it completed.

THE city is encompassed by a wall, which, though slight, and almost entire, is supposed to have

have been the work of the Romans, except the upper part, which seems to have been repaired with the ruins of Roman buildings; for in some places the loop-holes are left, and there are many Roman inscriptions, some of which are fawn across to fit the place the stone was to fill; likewise some of the letters are towards the city, and others on the outside; most of those mentioned by Camden, and other authors, are still left, though they are not easy to be read. The walls are somewhat in the form of a pentagon, and inclose but a small compass of ground: in these walls were four gates and a postern, which were all of them lately demolished and taken away.

THIS city sent to parliament *ab origine*.

CORPORATION.—Consists of a mayor, nine aldermen, a recorder, two bailiffs, and twenty common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1706, 26th January. In the mayor, aldermen, and common-councilmen only.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—32.

PATRONS—Marquis of Bath, and earl Camden.

WELLS CITY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The influence prevailing in this city, is that of Clement Tudway, Esq. one of its present representatives. This gentleman has a sufficient interest always to procure a return for himself without expence; and the corporation, &c. compliment some particular friend, or neighbouring gentleman with the other seat. There have been several resolutions of the house of commons respecting the right of election in this city.

In one resolution, it is agreed to be in the mayor, masters, and burgeses, and in such persons as are, by *consent* of the mayor, admitted to their freedom; this would have left the election of members, in a great measure, in the corporation; as the mayor, with such a discretionary power, would admit only those that were of his own party; the last resolution has, however, determined it to be in the mayor, masters, burgeses, and freemen, without the word *consent* being included in it.

ANCIENT STATE. Wells received its name from the many springs or wells in the town and its neighbourhood. It is situated to the south of Bristol, and is a small, but clean place, at the bottom of Mendip-hills. This town was destroyed by the Danes, but afterwards recovered itself. It was erected into an episcopal see in the year 605; but John de Billula, the sixteenth bishop, transferred this see to Bath, and renounced the title of bishop of Wells; after which, hot disputes arose between the churches of Bath and Wells, concerning the election of a bishop; but they were compromised about the year 1133, by bishop Robert; and it was settled, that whenever the see became vacant, the bishop should be elected by the canons both of Bath and Wells; but that the precedency in style should be given to Bath, and that he should be installed in both churches. It was afterwards determined, that both churches should make one full chapter for the bishop.

WELLS was first made a free borough in the reign of Hen. II. by the interest of Fitz-Joceline, its bishop. It afterwards received a charter from king John, by which it was made a market-town, and was raised into a city by queen

Elizabeth. In 1738, a dreadful fire broke out, which consumed above a hundred dwelling-houses, in six hours time; so that very few had time to save their goods.

THIS is a very neat city, consisting of broad streets with handsome buildings. It has a cathedral, and only one parish church. The cathedral is said to have been first built by king Ina, about the year 704, but was afterwards so effectually repaired by bishop Fitz-Joceline, that it was considered as a new work. The front, which has been built upwards of five hundred years, is admired for its imagery and carved work in stone, and particularly for a window most curiously painted. Adjoining to the church are spacious cloysters, and a chapter-house of a circular form, supported by one pillar in the middle.

THIS city sent to parliament *ab origine*.

CORPORATION. By charter, anno 16 Eliz. it consists of a mayor, recorder, seven masters, and sixteen common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1695, 18 Feb. Is only in the mayor, masters, and burgeses of the said city,

city, and in such persons, as are (by consent of the mayor and common-council of the said city) admitted to their freedom in any of the seven trading companies of the said city, on account of birth, servitude, or marriage.

1723, May 2. } Is in the mayor, masters,
1729, Apr. 18. } burgessees, and freemen of
the said city, who are admitted to their freedom in any of the seven companies within the said city, being thereunto entitled by birth, servitude, or marriage.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 500.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—Clement Tudway, Esq. partially.

T A U N T O N .

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The borough of Taunton does not comprehend the whole of the town of that name, only part of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen being within its limits. The right of election, according to the last resolution of the house of commons, is in the inhabitants, *pot-wallers*, not receiving alms or charity. This quali-

qualification is defined to mean, all the resident male inhabitants, who have obtained a parochial settlement, whether they are occupiers of a house, or lodgers ; and gives occasion to such innumerable objections at an election, as to leave in the returning officer, who is umpire between the parties, the power of deciding in favour of whichever he pleases.

A PAROCHIAL settlement being acquired, and forfeited by such a variety of legal methods, witnesses to qualify and disqualify every person voting under that claim, are produced, and a decision is made in a court which has no authority, and before a returning officer who has not a power to examine on oath. The ministerial duties of his office, are thereby exercised judicially, and he admits or rejects votes at his own discretion.

THE want of an universally established right of election, must ever be productive of these imperfections in a popular institution ; exclusive rights, and local qualifications, have ever been the cause of dispute and litigation, of which the numerous petitions from the corporation and burghage-tenure boroughs, bear a disgraceful testimony :

timony: even the peerage of Scotland, where the election is vested in not more than eighty individuals, is exposed to the same inconvenience. Two years out of the seven for which they are elected, are now nearly elapsed, and yet only thirteen out of sixteen, which is the number of their representatives, can take their seats in the house of lords, owing to the length of time occupied in the investigation of partial rights; and a committee of the house of commons is sometimes engaged ten times as long in ascertaining the right of franchise in a rotten borough, as they would be in digesting and establishing a form for a fair, equal, and universal representation of the people.

THE influence of this borough is at present disputed between Sir Benjamin Hamet, one of its members, and Mr. Morland, the banker. The corporation, which, according to its charter, should consist of a mayor, recorder, two aldermen, and twenty common-council, has at present twelve vacancies; but, as a majority of those which remain are in the interest of Mr. Morland, it is probable they will soon be filled with that gentleman's friends.

SIR Benjamin Hamet has founded a very powerful interest in this place, by building a new street, and purchasing the castle in which the county assizes are held. The latter will enable him, in case a spirit of *disobedience* should manifest itself amongst the electors, to refuse the use of it to the public, and, of course, to remove the assizes to some other place in the county.

A PETITION of Alexander Popham, Esq. and John Halliday, Esq. was tried on the 24th of February, 1775, against the return of the Hon. Edward Stafford, and Nathaniel Webb, Esq. complaining of the partiality of the returning officer, in protracting the poll, by unnecessary adjournments, from the 10th of October, when it began, to the 18th of the same month, and that he had rejected many legal votes which were tendered for the petitioners, Popham and Halliday, and admitted many illegal votes for the fitting members.

THAT the fitting members, previous to, and during the poll, were guilty of divers acts of bribery and corruption by themselves and agents.

ONE hundred and sixteen voters were objected to as having received charity : the words "alms," and "charity," in this borough are admitted not to be synonymous ; the resolution of the house of commons having rendered all those receiving benefit, in either way, incapable of voting. There are a great many charitable funds in this place, such as the Town charity, Saunders's charity, Meridith's charity, &c.

THREE Chelsea pensioners were objected to on the part of the petitioners ;

NINETEEN, as not having parochial settlements ;

SIXTEEN, as not answering the description of potwallers ;

Two, as certificate-men ; and

Two, as bribery agents.

THE counsel for the fitting members thought, that gentlemen of fortune were not under the necessity of gaining a legal parochial settlement to intitle them to vote, but this was over-ruled, there

not appearing to be any principle upon which such a distinction could be supported.

THEY likewise contended, that the journals of the house have recognized, that apprentices cannot be potwallers qualified to vote; but of this question Mr. Douglas makes a query.

IT was determined, that Chelsea pensioners had a right to vote.

THAT, by the *lex loci*, certificate men cannot vote for this borough.

THAT those who had received *charity* had no right to vote.

THE counsel for the petitioners undertook to prove the charge of bribery so directly and palpably, as to disqualify the sitting members.

ON Thursday the 16th of March, the committee determined,

THAT the petitioners were duly elected.

State

STATE of the poll at the last election :

Sir Benjamin Hamet,	291
Alexander Popham, Esq.	257
John Halliday, Esq.	239
John Morland, Esq.	183

ANCIENT STATE. Taunton, which is delightfully situated on the river Thone, is a populous borough, and thought to be one of the largest in the kingdom. Ina, king of the West-Saxons, built a castle here, which was demolished by his wife; but afterwards it was rebuilt by one of the bishops of Winchester, to the prelates of which see this town and deanery belonged, even before the conquest. This castle was a building of great extent; its hall, with the outward gate and porter's lodge, are still standing; and in the hall, which is very large, are generally held the affizes for the county. At the entrance into the court, is the exchequer, where the bishop's clerk keeps his office; and a court is held every Saturday, for the bishop's tenants. This castle was garrisoned by the parliament in the civil war, when, being besieged by Goring, lord Fairfax marched to relieve it; on which Goring raised the siege, and in a few days after was defeated by Fairfax,

at

at Langport, who killed many of his men, took twelve hundred horses, and fourteen hundred prisoners. This victory was followed by the conquest of Bridgewater, Bath, Sherburn, and Bristol. King Charles the Second in the year 1662, caused its walls to be demolished, and took away the charter from the town, on account of the inhabitants having adhered to the parliament in the reign of his father ; after which they were seventeen years without one, till the same prince granted them a new charter.

THIS town suffered greatly by the cruelty of major general Kirk, immediately after the duke of Monmouth's defeat, in the year 1685, who being sent hither, caused nineteen persons, by his own authority, without any trial or process, and without suffering their wives or children to speak with them, to be hanged, with pipes playing, drums beating, and trumpets sounding. The same inhuman monster, having invited his officers to dinner, ordered thirty persons, condemned here by Jeffries, to be hanged while they were at table ; namely, ten, in a health to the king, ten, while the health went round to the queen, and ten, with the health passed to Jeffries.

AT

AT Taunton was anciently a priory of Black canons, erected by William Gifford, bishop of Winchester, in the time of Henry I. and dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. It had afterwards many considerable benefactors, and at the dissolution, its revenues, according to Dugdale, amounted to 286l. a year; but, according to Speed, to 438l. Here was also a house of White Carmelite friars, founded by Walter de Meryet; and likewise an ancient leper house; the advowson and patronage of which was granted by Thomas Lambritz, about the year 1280, to the abbot and convent of Glastonbury.

THIS borough sent to parliament 23 Edw. I.

CORPORATION. By charter of Cha. II. it consists of a mayor, recorder, two aldermen, and twenty capital burgesses. The mayor and aldermen are annually chosen out of the burgesses.

It is remarkable, that the mayor's officers have no power to arrest, and that there is no prison here, except a Bridewell for vagrants; debtors and criminals being sent to the county jail at Ilchester. Though this is one of the most flourishing

flourishing towns in the county, it is the meanest corporation, having neither lands, houses, nor joint stock of money.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1715, 28 July—Is in the inhabitants within the said borough, being potwallers, and not receiving alms or charity.

NUMBER OF VOTERS. At a poll taken in the year 1722, was 727; but at a poll taken in 1774, the number was only 456.

RETURNING OFFICER—The mayor.

PATRON—Sir Benjamin Hamet.

BRIDGEWATER.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough formerly acknowledged the patronage of the famous Bubb Doddington, of political memory, who was opposed by the late earl of Egmont, when they were leaders of the tory faction of the late reign. Earl Poulett had then the lead of the ministerial party in this place, and, by coalescing with lord Egmont, contrived at last to possess himself of the
controlling

controlling influence. It has since been contested with earl Poulett, by the late Mr. Allen, member for this town, by Mr. Fox, and, at the last general election, by lord Percival, son of the present earl of Egmont. Earl Poulett's interest, however, had the superiority, the numbers on the poll being,

For the Hon. Vere Poulett	186
John Langton, Esq.	161
Lord Percival	87

ANCIENT STATE. Bridgewater, which is a large and populous town, seated on the river Parret, is thought to be a corruption of Brugge Walter, or Walter's borough, a name by which it is supposed to have been called soon after the conquest, when, with several other lordships in this county, it was bestowed, by William the Conqueror, on Walter de Douay, one of his commanders. It had a castle built in the reign of king John, by William de Brivere, lord of Bridgewater, who also founded an hospital near the east gate, which was a chantry to pray for the souls of Henry II. Richard I. and king John. He also made the quay. Here was likewise an hospital, founded by
William

William Bruer, in the reign of king John, consisting of a prior or master, and brethren, who were to maintain thirteen poor infirm persons, besides pilgrims; for which purpose it was endowed with revenues, to the amount of 120l. 19s. per annum. Here was likewise a house of Grey friars, founded by William Bruer, his son, about the year 1230.

THIS town was made a free borough by king John, a mayor town by Henry IV. and sent to parliament 23 Edw. I.; and is said to have been re-incorporated by queen Eliz. in the 29th year of her reign.

CORPORATION—Consists of a mayor, recorder, two aldermen, who are justices of the peace, and twenty-four common-councilmen.

THERE are annually chosen out of the common-council, two bailiffs, who are invested with a power equal to that of a sheriff; for the sheriffs of the county cannot send any process into the borough. A receiver is also annually chosen out of the common-council, to collect the town rents, and make payments.

THE

THE revenues of the corporation, consisting of the manor of the borough, the great and small tithes, and some estates in Dorsetshire, are valued at 10,000*l.* a year; and the freemen are free of all the ports in England and Ireland, except London and Dublin.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1669, 7th Dec.—Is in the majority of the corporation, consisting of a mayor, aldermen, and twenty-four capital burgeses, being inhabitants of that division of the said parish of Bridgewater, which is commonly called the borough, paying scot and lot within the said division; and in them only.

1692, 10th Dec. Agreed to be in those that pay scot and lot, inhabiting in the said borough.

1769, 9th March. If the mayor, aldermen, and capital burgeses, are not inhabitants, though they pay scot and lot, yet they have no right to vote.

1769, 14th March. The inhabitants of the eastern and western division of the parish of Bridgewater have no right to vote for representatives,

tatives ; but the right of election is in the inhabitants of that division of the said parish, which is commonly called the borough, paying scot and lot within the said division, and in them only.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—300.

RETURNING OFFICER—The mayor.

PATRON—Earl Poulett.

MINEHEAD.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough was originally a feudal tenure, annexed to the castle of Dunster, which was given by William the Conqueror to William de Mohun, in whose family it continued till Sir John de Mohun, one of the first knights of the garter, having no male issue, conveyed it to trustees, for the use of his wife, who, after his decease, sold it, in the reign of king Edward III. to the lady Elizabeth Luttrell, daughter of Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devonshire, and widow of Sir Andrew Luttrell, Knt. Her son, Sir Henry Luttrell, Knt. who was lieutenant of Harfleur, and steward of the household to Henry V's queen, added several buildings, now standing,

standing, and left the castle and honour to his posterity, by whom it is still possessed, and who is the present owner and patron of this borough, and at whose court-leet the returning officers are chosen.

THE right of election is in the parishioners of Dunster and Minehead, *being housekeepers in the borough of Minehead.*

THIS borough has been lately nearly destroyed by fire, together with most of the property of the unhappy sufferers. A very liberal subscription has been made for the relief of the late occupiers, which does honour to the liberality and philanthropy of its promoters; and will, we hope, be equivalent to the heavy losses which they have sustained.

THE brother of the patron, Mr. Luttrell, is a commissioner of the tax office.

ANCIENT STATE. Minehead, or Minhead, is an ancient borough, with a harbour in Bristol channel, at the distance of one hundred and sixty-seven miles of London. It was formerly govern-
ed

ed by a portreve, but at present is under two constables, annually chosen at the court-leet held by the lord of the manor. It has a fine quay, and the largest ships may enter the harbour, and ride there in safety. The town is well built, and carries on a considerable trade with Ireland in wool, and with South Wales in coals.

THIS borough was impriviledged to return members to parliament, anno 1 Eliz.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1717, 24th Feb.—Is in the parishioners of Minehead and Dunster, being housekeepers in the borough of Minehead, and not receiving alms.

RETURNING OFFICERS. 1717, 13 June—The precept to be directed to the two constables, and they to make the return.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—160.

PATRON—John Fownes Luttrell, Esq.

ILCHESTER.

ILCHESTER.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough lately came under the patronage of John Harcourt, Esq. of this place, one of its present members, by the purchase of a majority of its houses, which we understand he has since disposed of to Mr. Troward, the attorney of Norfolk-street. Previous to its becoming the property of Mr. Harcourt, it was under the control of the late Mr. Peregrine Cust, who represented it many years. It was then, however, subject to continual contests and petitions.

THE first, under the Grenville act, came before a committee of the house of commons, on Saturday the 25th of November 1775, when the petitioners were Richard Brown, Esq. and Inigo William Jones, Esq. and the sitting members were Peregrine Cust, Esq. and William Innes, Esq. The petition stated,

THAT Mr. Christopher Lockyer, bailiff, and returning officer of the borough of Ivelchester,
being

being a known friend to the sitting members, had shewn great partiality in their favour, and had admitted many persons to poll for them who had no right to vote, and rejected several persons who had a right to vote, and had tendered their votes for the petitioners; that the sitting members, by themselves, their friends, and agents, were guilty of bribing and treating; and that the petitioners had a majority of legal votes, and ought to have been returned.

THERE is no last determination of the right of election in Ilchester. The constitution of the place is as follows: it is a borough by prescription; and, according to Willis, sent members to parliament from the time of Edward I. till 34 Edward III. From which time it did not choose representatives till 12 Edward IV. nor after that year till 12 Jac. I. when it was restored to its ancient privileges. By a charter granted 3 and 4 Phil. and Mary, the inhabitants were incorporated, by the name of the bailiff and burgessees of Ilchester. There were to be a bailiff and twelve capital burgessees, who were to choose annually, on the Monday before Michaelmas, one of themselves to be bailiff for the ensuing year; on

on the death of any of the capital burgesſes, his or their place to be ſupplied out of the common burgesſes, by the election of the remaining capital burgesſes. The charter ſays nothing of the qualification neceſſary to common burgesſes; nor of the mode of electing the members of parliament.

The numbers on the poll were,

For Mr. Innes	103
Mr. Cuſt	102
Mr. Brown	53
Mr. Jones	53

THE counſel for the petitioners undertook to prove, that ſuch a number of the votes for Cuſt and Innes had been bribed, as, when deducted from the poll, would leave the majority of legal votes in favour of Brown and Jones, ſo as to entitle them to be declared duly elected. And, if they ſhould not ſucceed in affecting a ſufficient number of the votes for the fitting member to answer that end, ſtill, they ſaid, they would prove acts of bribery, by them or their agents, ſo as to avoid the election, by rendering them incapable of retaining their ſeats.

THE counsel for the sitting members, after attempting, by evidence and argument, to overturn the case which had been made against them, endeavoured to prove, that Brown and Jones, by bribery, or promises, had disqualified themselves, even if the majority of legal votes had been in their favour; and consequently, that at all events they could not be declared duly elected.

ALL the acts of bribery, and the corrupt promises charged on the two sitting members, were by the intervention of agents, and long before the *teste* of the writ. It appeared, that when the gifts and promises were made, Mr. Cuff and "*his partner*" were mentioned to the voters, but Mr. Innes's name was not specified, and was not at all known in the borough till a few days before the election, when he canvassed along with Mr. Cuff and his friends. All those who had engaged their votes for Cuff and "*his partner*," voted for Innes as the partner.

THE promises, imputed by some of the witnesses called on the part of the sitting members, to Brown and Jones, were said to have been
.. made

made directly by themselves, during their canvass on the election week.

1st. The counsel for the petitioners having began to examine John Lloyd, concerning a conversation with certain voters, in which the voters had acknowledged that they had been bribed in order to vote for the sitting members; the counsel on the other side objected to their pursuing their questions, so as to charge the sitting members themselves with bribery, by such evidence. After some argument, the counsel for the petitioners agreed, that evidence of the declarations of the voters could only be admitted to affect the voters themselves, and not third persons.—The question first put, objected to, and given up, was, “ Whose money did you understand it to be, which the voters said they had received?” The question, which it was agreed might be put, and which was put, in lieu of the other, was, “ Did the voters, when they said they had received the election money, say in whose interest they were to vote, in consequence of their taking this money?”

2. One William Handover, a witness called on the part of the petitioners, was going to relate a conversation which passed between him and one James Pitman, alledged to be an agent for the sitting members, and dead since the election.

THIS was objected to.

IT was contended, that evidence of any acts of a supposed agent could not be admitted, until proof of his being an agent had been previously produced to the committee; that the propriety of such a rule is obvious, because, otherwise, many days might be employed in hearing evidence against a person, who might appear afterwards to have no connection with the cause; that, by the printed history of the two cases of Hindon and Shaftesbury, it appeared that such a rule had been laid down in both those cases.

ON the other side the counsel insisted,

THAT it would be found impracticable to adhere to this rule; for that the circumstances which were to prove that a person had bribed,
and

and that, in so doing, he had acted as the agent of another, were very often the same, or, at least, so complicated together, that they could not be separated; and that the committee, in the case of Bristol, had, on that account, over-ruled an objection like the present.

WHEN the counsel had argued the point, the chairman said, That he had enquired into what had been done by the committee in the case of Shaftesbury; and that he had been informed by the gentlemen who had sat in that committee, as well as by some of the counsel in the cause, that, although on the first day of the trial, a resolution had been come to agreeable to what is stated in the printed report of the case, yet they had afterwards found such inconvenience attending the rule, that it was agreed on all hands not to abide by it; that, accordingly, in the course of the trial, it was not adhered to after the first day.

UPON this observation from the chairman, the counsel for the sitting members desisted from the objection.

3. One John Tiptree, a witness called on the part of the sitting members, swore, That some days
days

days before the election, Mr. Jones asked him for his vote, and said, that if he would vote for him, he would give him fifty guineas after the election: That, until he came to town in consequence of the speaker's warrant, he had never mentioned this circumstance but to one Target, a person who had been a witness in the beginning of the cause, but who had died pending the trial, and before this evidence was given by Tiptree: That since he had been in town, and before Target died, he had mentioned it to several persons, of whom he named three.

4. James Corry being called, was rejected, because he was one of the two persons who had signed the petition on behalf of the electors. His inadmissibility was on all hands agreed on. Similar instances have occurred before several other committees, during this and the last sessions.

5. One Charles Gillet was proved to have received ten guineas, in order to vote for the sitting members, and it was admitted on the part of the sitting members, that by this act, his vote was destroyed.

THE

THE committee, after hearing the evidence of one James Rogers and him, with some other witnesses, having cleared the court, resolved,

“ That the chairman do report to the house,
 “ that James Rogers, being called as a witness
 “ before the committee, has grossly prevaricated
 “ in giving his evidence.”

AND accordingly, on the same day, Monday 27 November, 1775, agreeably to the 26th section of 10 George III. cap 16, the chairman did report to that effect; and the house being moved, that the entry in the journal of the house, of the 11th May 1772, of the proceedings of the house, in relation to Mary Hoffe, might be read; and the same being read, the following orders were made:

Ordered, “ That the said James Rogers,
 “ having grossly prevaricated in giving his
 “ evidence before the select committee, ap-
 “ pointed to try and determine the merits of the
 “ petition of Richard Brown, and Inigo William
 “ Jones, Esqrs. and also the petition of James
 “ Corry and John Cox, on behalf of themselves
 “ and others, being inhabitant householders, pa-
 “ rishioners,

“ rishioners, and others, within the borough of
 “ Ivelchester, in the county of Somersfet, seve-
 “ rally complaining of an undue election and re-
 “ turn for the said borough, be, for his said of-
 “ fence, committed to his majesty’s gaol of New-
 “ gate.

ORDERED, “ That Mr. Speaker do issue his
 “ warrant accordingly.”

ON Friday the 1st of December following, the
 chairman presented to house, in consequence of a
 motion for that purpose, a petition of Rogers, fet-
 ting forth, “ That he was extremely sorry for
 “ having incurred the displeasure of the house, by
 “ prevaricating in his evidence before the com-
 “ mittee; that he was sensible of his great offence,
 “ and of the justice of the house; and hoping,
 “ as his farther confinement would be prejudi-
 “ cial to his health, that the house would order
 “ him to be released.”

ON this petition it was ordered,

THAT he should be brought to the bar of
 the house, on the Monday morning following, in
 order that he should be discharged, and that the
 speaker should issue his warrant accordingly.

ON

ON Monday, December 4, he was, according to order, brought to the bar; where he received a reprimand from the speaker, and was ordered to be discharged out of custody, paying his fees.

DURING the whole course of this cause, the committee made it a rule, to order the clerk to read over to every witness the minutes of his evidence, that he might set right any mistakes made in setting it down.

THEY also made it a rule, where one witness directly contradicted what another had sworn, to call in such other witness; and confront them together.

ON Monday, December 4, the committee, by their chairman, informed the house, that they had determined,

THAT none of the four candidates were duly elected;

AND that the last election for the borough of Ivelchester, was a void election.

ON which a warrant for a new writ was immediately ordered.

· **ANCIENT STATE.** Ilchester or Ivelchester, is a town of great antiquity, it being a station of the Romans, seated on the south side of the river Ivel, and is generally allowed to be the *Ischalis* of Antoninus. It had a castle, now in ruins, and was originally encompassed with a double wall and ditch, the traces of which are visible quite round. The ancient town was an oblong square, three hundred spaces in length, and two hundred in breadth, standing conformable to the fosse-way, which passes through the town, exactly from the north-east to the south-west. The north-east side of the town is next the river, where some foundations of the wall may be seen. The ditch on the north-west side is filled up, and became a road, called Yard-lane, from its passing behind the yards and gardens. A vast number of coins have been found here, which have been distributed among the curious; there are also foundations of walls and old houses; some of which run across the present streets. The ditch, when perfect, admitted the water of the river all round the town. The fosse-way retains its name, and runs through the principal street; and the pavement of the original ford across the river, may be seen on the west side the bridge, formed of great
flag-

flag-stones. Upon the bridge is an old chapel, called Little St. Mary's, and at the foot of the bridge, within the town, is another, called White-chapel; both which are now converted into dwelling-houses. Here was an hospital for poor travellers, founded before the year 1220, by William Dacus, and dedicated to the Trinity. It is thought to have been changed into a house of religious women, under the government of a prioress, in the reign of king Henry II. but some time before the general dissolution, it was only a free chapel. Here was also a house for friar preachers, founded before the eleventh year of king Edward I.

THE inhabitants say, that there have been sixteen parish churches here; indeed, foundations are discovered all over the town, and on the west side of it have been dug up several stone coffins. The assizes for the county were fixed here in the reign of Edward III. but they have long since been alternately held at Wells, Taunton, and Bridgewater; however, the knights of the shire are still chosen here; the county courts are also held in this place, and here is a jail for debtors and malefactors. It has now only one parish church
and

and some meeting-houses; also a place, called King's Moor, in the neighbourhood, which is famous for horse races. This town gives the title of earl to the family of Fox.

THIS TOWN having sent to parliament in the reign of Edward I. Edward II. and to 34 Edward III. ceased sending till 12 Edward IV. when it again intermitted sending till 18 James I. at which time it was restored to this privilege.

CORPORATION. Consists of a bailiff and 12 burgessees.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—1689, 7 May. Alleged to be in the inhabitants of the said town, paying scot and lot, which the town called Pot-wallers.

1702, 28 January. Agreed to be in the bailiff, capital burgessees, and inhabitants not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—155.

RETURNING OFFICER—The bailiff.

PATRON—Mr. Troward.

MILBORNE

MILBORNE PORT.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough, which consists of nine parcels of burgage lands, each of which gives a right of voting at elections for members of parliament, is the sole property of Mr. Medlycott and Mr. Walter. In the year 1747, Michael Harvey and Jeffry inch, Esqrs. and Thomas Medlycott and Charles Churchill, Esqrs. were returned. This being a borough by prescription, there have always been in it nine capital bailiffs, who hold their respective offices by virtue of deputations, granted by the proprietors of nine ancient parcels of borough lands. Two of them preside yearly, by rotation, as head officers; and these two presiding capital bailiffs may, if they please (at a court-leet held in October yearly) appoint substitutes to execute the menial offices of the borough, who are called sub-bailiffs. This borough discontinued sending members to parliament for many years; but was restored to its ancient privileges in the 4th of Charles I. since which time it has continued to send two members to every parliament; and the sheriffs
precept

precept for chusing members is always directed to the bailiffs thereof.

FOR several years after the borough was restored to its privileges, the two presiding capital bailiffs, when present, or one of them when the other was absent, enjoyed the sole right of making the return to the sheriff's precept, that is to say, of returning the members they thought legally chosen.

BUT since the restoration, these nine ancient parcels of borough lands having been all engrossed, and become the property of two neighbouring gentlemen, by agreement between themselves, they, or some of their friends, were generally chosen, and returned without opposition; and, as it often happened, that neither of the capital presiding bailiffs were present, the return was often made by their substitutes or sub-bailiffs, but sometimes by the capital bailiff or bailiffs, and most frequently by the bailiffs and burgesses of the said borough. This was the constitution of the borough at an election, when Thomas Medlycott, Esq. and William Bishop, were the presiding bailiffs, and one Arthur Ansty, said to be a
common

common day-labourer, and servant to the said Thomas Medlycott, was the sub-bailiff, appointed by the said Medlycott. The candidate were, Michael Harvey, and Jeffry French, Esqrs. on one side, and the said Thomas Medlycott and Charles Churchill, Esqrs. on the other side; and when the election was over, the return of the two former was made to the sheriff by the said William Bishop, which he accepted and annexed to his precept; but some days after, another return, of the two latter, was made to the sheriff by the said Arthur Ansty, which he likewise accepted, and annexed to his precept; so that his writ was returned with a double return for the said borough; which was the legal return, was the question; and the only question that by order came to be determined on Thursday the 1st of December last.

As to the return made by William Bishop, it was objected, first, that the sub-bailiffs, and not the capital bailiffs, were, by the custom of that borough, the returning officers; and secondly, that the said William Bishop was not properly qualified to act, because he had not previously taken an oath of office. To the first objection it was answered, that by the custom

tom

tom of the borough, the sub-bailiffs never acted but in the absence, or by the order or permission of, their principals; and when either of the capital bailiffs was present, neither of the sub-bailiffs could act as a principal, the capital bailiffs being then the sole presiding officers. To the second objection it was answered, that William Bishop had taken all the oaths requisite by law; but that an oath of office was not requisite, either by law, or the custom of that borough, as had been admitted by the said Thomas Medlycott himself. Then, as to the return made by the said Arthur Ansty, it was objected, first, That as he was only a sub-bailiff, and both the capital presiding bailiffs not only present, but acting as presiding officers, he could not act as a presiding officer in any case whatsoever, much less in such a principal one as that of returning members to parliament; and secondly, That the return made by the said Arthur Ansty was void, by virtue of a resolution of that house of the 2d of June 1685; by which it was resolved, That no mayor, bailiff, or other officer, to whom the precept ought to be directed, is capable of being elected to serve in parliament for the same borough, of which he is mayor, bailiff, or other officer, at the time of election.

tion. And as the the return made by the said Arthur Ansty, must be supposed to be a return made by the said Thomas Medlycott, whose substitute and servant he was, according to the axiom in law, *qui fecit per alium, fecit per se*; therefore, by this resolution it ought to be void. To the first objection it was answered, That by the custom of the borough, the sub-bailiffs were the only proper returning officers, consequently the return made by Arthur Ansty was the only legal return; and to the second it was answered, That if the axiom of law were to be applied to the election for this borough, neither of the two proprietors of the nine ancient parcels of borough lands, could ever be chosen or returned as representatives for this borough; because, both the capital and sub-bailiffs are but their deputies; and as this would be inconsistent with common law, as well as contrary to the custom of the borough ever since the above-mentioned resolution, it could not be supposed, that the house thereby intended to render the sub-bailiffs of this borough incapable of returning, either their immediate principals, the capital bailiffs, or their remote principals, the proprietors of these ancient parcels of borough lands. Upon the whole the house, after

having spent two days in hearing counsel, reading former returns, &c. and examining witnesses, came to a resolution, That the execution of a precept for electing burgesſes to ſerve in parliament for the borough of Milborne Port, and the making the return thereof, are only in the two ſub-bailiffs of the ſaid borough, or in one ſub-bailiff, if there are not two, (one *ſub-bailiff* is undoubtedly more likely to be bribed than *two capital bailiffs*;) in conſequence of which, the clerk of the crown, by order, took off the file the return made by *William Biſhop*, and the ſaid *Thomas Medlycott*, and *Charles Churcbill*, Eſqrs. became thereby the only fitting members.

ANOTHER CASE.

ON the 20th of January, 1775, the petition of Edw. Walter, Eſq. and Iſaac Hawkins Browne, Eſq. againſt the return of the Hon. Temple Luttrell, and Charles Wolſeley, Eſq. came on to be tried by a committee of the houſe of commons.

THERE were three petitions read; when it appeared, that there were, in this caſe, three returns made by different perſons claiming to be returning officers, all of which had been annexed to the writ

writ by the sheriff, and returned into the office of the clerk of the crown; by one, Walter and Browne, by the other two, Luttrell and Wolfeley, were returned.

THE petitions likewise contained a claim made by each party, of the majority of legal votes, and mutual allegations of bribery. In the petition of Walter and Browne, it was also alledged, that Luttrell, at the time of his election and return, " had by himself, or some person in trust for him, " an office, place, or employment, touching or " concerning the farming, collecting, or manag- " ing his Majesty's customs," whereby he was incapable of being elected. It was agreed first, to proceed upon the legality of the different returns, separately from the other questions; and the return of *Walter and Browne*, being *immediately* annexed to the precept, their counsel began :

MR. MEDLYCOTT'S property is so intermixed with Mr. Walter's, that in following the established rotation, in some years one of the reigning bailiffs is in the appointment of Medlycott, and the other in the appointment of Walter; in some years they are both appointed by Medlycott, and

in others, both by Walter. In 1773, one of them was appointed by Medlycott, who nominated one Elias Oliver to be his sub-bailiff, and the other by Walter, who nominated one Robert Baunton, to be his sub-bailiff. In 1774, it was Mr. Medlycott's turn to appoint both the reigning bailiffs. The sub-bailiffs have always been appointed at a court-leet after Michaelmas-day, holden by a steward, named by the former sub-bailiff. Since the interests have been divided, there have been two stewards, who have holden separate courts, but always on the same day. It appeared by the witnesses, that the court-leet for appointing sub-bailiffs had always been holden, before and since the style was altered, on the first Tuesday after a fair at Sherborne, called Pack-Monday fair; and that there were entries to this purpose in the minute book of the steward of the court; but in none of the court-books or rolls, was there any entry referring the holding of the court to the Tuesday after Sherborne fair; it only appeared to have been always holden on the first Tuesday of October, before the change of the style took place.

On the third of October 1774, the precept for the election was delivered to Robert Baunton, who

who gave his receipt for it ; and having communicated with the other sub-bailiff (Oliver), they concurred in appointing the day of election to be on the tenth, (the fourth being the first Tuesday in October, N. S.) Oliver, together with Medlycott and others, broke open the Town-hall, the person who had the key not being found ; and Mr. Medlycott having nominated his brother, the Rev. George Hutching, and Robert Curtis, to be the reigning capital bailiffs for the year ensuing, they came into the court-leet (which was opened according to form), and appointed John Newton, jun. and John Peckham, to be their sub-bailiffs. The reigning bailiffs and the sub-bailiffs, enter on their offices immediately after their appointment. At the same court, Oliver was appointed a constable by the jury, and sworn into that office. On the 10th, the election came on, and there were three polls taken ; one by Baunton, who declared the majority of legal votes to be in favour of Walter and Browne, and accordingly annexed a return of them to the precept ; one by Oliver, and a third, by Newton and Peckham. By each of the two last, Luttrell and Wolfeley had the majority of votes ; and accordingly there were two returns made of them.

Counter

Counter parts of all the three were executed by the under sheriff, and they were all annexed to the writ. If Newton and Peckham were the legal bailiffs at the time of election, their return only was valid; if they were not, it was void; and in such case, the question would be, Whether the return of Baunton, or of Oliver, was the legal return? or whether they were both void? If the court-leet, holden on the 4th of October, was the legal court for the appointment of the annual sub-bailiffs, Newton and Peckham were the legal sub-bailiffs and returning officers on the 10th. The question concerning the legality of the court-leet turned chiefly upon the statute for altering the style.

THE counsel for Walter and Browne contended, That the court in question, was "*a court usually bolden with a fair*, and to be holden on the same natural day as formerly, that is, according to the Old Style." That this was evident from the constant practice since the change of the style, and the general sense of the place, and from the steward's book,

THAT if it were not so, yet the holding it last year according to the New Style, for the first time,

time, immediately on the eve of the election, contrary to the usage ever since the statute of 24 George II. without any notice being given of such an intended innovation, till the precept for the election came to the borough, shewed that the intention of holding it then was occasional, and evidently only taken up on account of the dissolution of the parliament, which brought on the election before Mr. Medlycott's two sub-bailiffs could have come into office, if he had waited till the usual time; consequently, that on this ground, the appointment of Newton and Peckham was fraudulent and void.

THAT if they were legally appointed, still the former sub-bailiffs, being the returning officers at the time when the precept was delivered, and one of them having received, and given his receipt for it, they were the only persons competent to make the return, according to the 7th and 8th of William III. cap 25.

THAT if the question came to be argued between the returns made by Baunton and Oliver, it was clear that Oliver, by accepting the office of constable at the court-leet, holden on the 4th of October

tober, had abdicated his former office, and could not afterwards pretend to exercise it ; so that Baunton was the only sub-bailiff at the time of election, and must of course be the only legal returning officer.

THE counsel for Luttrell and Wolseley argued, That though it did appear that the Michaelmas court-leet had usually been holden on the Tuesday after Sherborne, or Pack-Monday fair, yet *that* was merely *accidental*; because it happens, that the first Tuesday in October must of necessity be the day immediately following the first Monday after Michaelmas.—That the entries in the minute or memorandum book of the steward, prove only that he assisted his memory in recollecting the time of holding the court, by referring it to Pack-Monday.—That it was natural, from this *accidental* connection between the two days, for the people of Milborne-port to call the court-day Pack-Tuesday.—That if they had any *necessary* connection, it would have appeared by entries in the court books, in some such terms as these: “ At a court holden on the first Tuesday after Pack-Monday, or Sherborne fair;” but no such entry could be found.

THAT

THAT it did not appear, that the office of constable and that of sub-bailiff were incompatible.

THE counsel for Walter and Browne, in reply, insisted, that there was nothing absurd in supposing an original connection between Sherborne fair and the court-leet at Milborne-port, although the two places are in different counties.—That in former times, the grants of the crown used to extend very commonly into different counties, and the fair and court, at first, might have made part of the same grant.—That it is not true, that if a fair were forfeited, a court *usually holden with it*, but belonging to another person, would be so likewise.—That the old prescriptive day for holding the fair would still continue to be the guide for fixing the prescriptive day for the court-leet.

THE committee having cleared the court, deliberated among themselves; and the counsel being again called in, the chairman acquainted them, that the committee had resolved,

“ THAT the return made by John Newton, jun. and John Peckham, of Mr. Luttrell and Mr. Wolseley, was an illegal return.

“ AND

“AND that the other two returns appeared to the committee to be so complicated together, that they thought it their duty to go upon the merits of the election, without previously deciding between them.”

THE counsel for Walter and Browne now went into the whole that remained of their part, the bribery by Luttrell and Wolseley, or their agents, and Luttrell's ineligibility. When they had finished and summed up their evidence, the counsel on the other side proceeded to remove the imputation of bribery from Luttrell and Wolseley, and to fix bribery on the other two candidates. Lastly, they answered the objections to Luttrell's eligibility; and after they had summed up their case, the counsel on the other side replied.

DURING the trial of this petition, the committee thought fit to propose, that the following question should be urged by the counsel, viz.

“WHETHER persons rateable, and having paid to the rate, though that rate was made and collected by officers illegal or doubtful, may vote as inhabitants paying scot and lot.”

THE

THE counsel for Walter and Browne contended, that they might. They said that scot and lot existed long before overseers of the poor, or poor rates, were known in England, and for this they appealed to the definitions in Spelman's Glossary.—That the poor-rate indeed was, in common cases, very properly taken to be the rule for discovering who are to be considered as persons paying scot and lot, but that the right of such persons to vote is so far from being created by the poor rate, that it is neither necessarily connected with, nor altered by it.

THE committee, after hearing the counsel on the other side, cleared the court, and resolved,

“ THAT persons *rateable*, and *having paid* to the *rate*, though that rate be made by officers illegal or doubtful, have a right to vote, as inhabitants paying scot and lot.”

ON the head of Mr. Luttrell's ineligibility, it appeared, from the evidence of Mr. Charles Hartford, the person who executes the office he was supposed to hold as deputy, that it is the place of *Customer inwards in the port of Bristol*.—

That

That it stands in the name of one Mr. Smith, who resides in Ireland, and the accounts are always made out in his name. He said, he paid profits (amounting to between three and four hundred pounds a year) to Luttrell, considering him as agent for Smith. That he had seen a power of attorney from Smith to Luttrell, authorizing him to appoint a deputy for him; and that he had received a deputation from Luttrell, as attorney for Smith, but that afterwards, that deputation being found to be improper, he had destroyed it, and had received his deputation (which was produced and read) directly from Smith. That he thought, from this transaction, that there was such a connection between Smith and Luttrell, as made it safe for him to pay the money to Luttrell; but that he never had considered, whether the payments he had made to Luttrell were strictly legal, and he thought, that if Smith were to die, he would be liable to pay the arrears of the profits to his executors.—He said he was appointed by Mr. Luttrell's interest.

On the part of Walter and Browne it was contended, that Smith's holding the office was merely

ly colourable.—That Luttrell received the profits, and was in substance the person who possessed the office; and that he was thereby incapable of being elected, since the statute of the 12th and 13th of William III.

MR. LUTTRELL'S counsel contended, it was unnecessary to urge this point, as no evidence had been given to shew that he had any beneficial interest in the place. John Coxe Hippeley, Esq. barrister, being called on the subject of Mr. Luttrell's office, refused to answer any questions which might affect him, as he had constantly acted as his confidential adviser and counsel.

THE committee took several days to consider of the merits of this election, after the counsel had closed their evidence and their arguments.

ON Friday, the 10th of February, their chairman informed the house, that the committee had determined,

“ THAT Edward Walter, Esq. is not duly elected a burges to serve in this present parliament,

ment, for the borough of Milborne-port, in the county of Somerset.

“ THAT Isaac Hawkins Browne, Esq. is not duly elected.

“ THAT the honourable Temple Luttrell, and Charles Wolfeley, Esq. are duly returned burgeses to serve in this present parliament, by the return executed by *Elias Oliver.*”

THERE was also a petition, in 1772, of George Precot, Esq. against Richard Combe, Esq. the fitting member, when the petitioner was declared duly elected; but as there is nothing in that case but what is reported in the above, we shall not trouble our readers with a repetition of it.

A VERY serious charge of corruption was brought against lord North, in the house of commons, during his administration, by the honourable Temple Luttrell, for *inducing* Thomas Hutchins Medlycot, Esq. one of the proprietors of this borough, to oppose the re-election of Mr. Luttrell at the ensuing dissolution of parliament, in 1780; when, after a full hearing, the house got

rid of the business in a manner nearly similar to that of Mr. Rose's, in Westminster.

ANCIENT STATE. Milborne-port, which is a borough town, where the houses are scattered in a very irregular manner, is situated at the distance of 116 miles south-west of London. This town has seven commonalty stewards, who are trustees of the profits of the lands which have been given to the poor, out of which two are annually chosen for the particular distribution of these profits, as well as for the custody of the common seal of the borough. It has likewise two constables, who are invested with very considerable powers.

THIS borough having sent, anno 26, 28, 33, 35 Edward I. ceased sending till 15 Charles I. when it was summoned to return members to parliament.

CORPORATION. It is governed by two bailiffs and two sub-bailiffs.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1702, 8th Dec.—Is only in the capital bailiffs and their deputies, in the

the comonalty stewards, and inhabitants thereof, paying scot and lot.

NUMBER OF ACTUAL VOTERS—9. NOMI-
NALLY—114.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The two sub-bailiffs.

PATRONS—William Coles Medlycott, Esq. and
Edward Walter, Esq.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

THIS county is completely under the direction of aristocratic influence. The marquis of Stafford and lord Bagot, have the commanding interest. The marquis of Bath, earl of Stamford, earl of Uxbridge, earl Talbot, the earl of Dartmouth, and lord Vernon, have also a powerful weight in this county; but the arrangement of
I parties,

parties, always throwing the preponderance of it into the scale of the two first, they have generally the dictation in the choice of the representatives,

ANCIENT STATE. This county, which derives its name from Stafford, is bounded on the north-west, by Cheshire, on the north-east, by Derbyshire, on the south-east and south by Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire, and on the west, by Shropshire; extending forty miles from north to south, twenty-six from east to west, and one hundred and forty-one in circumference. Stafford, which is nearly in the middle of the county, is one hundred and thirty-five miles north-west of London.

THIS county contained about a third part of the country anciently inhabited by the Cornavii; and the Watling-street, and Ikenald-street, two of the four great Roman military ways, passed through this county. The Watling-street, extending from Warwickshire, entered Staffordshire at Falkeley-bridge, near Tamworth, and running westward passed into Shropshire, at a small distance from Brewood. Ikenald-street

enters the county at Streeton, near Tutbury, and running south-west, crosses Watling-street, about a mile south of Litchfield, then passes into Warwickshire, at the village of Hansworth, near Birmingham. Upon these ancient roads, there have been discovered in this county considerable remains of Roman antiquities.

It is seated in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Litchfield and Coventry, and has one hundred and fifty parishes. It is divided into five hundreds, containing the city of Litchfield and seventeen market-towns, and sends ten members to parliament, viz. two knights of the shire for the county, two citizens for the city of Litchfield, and two representatives for each of the following boroughs, Stafford, Tamworth, and Newcastle under Line.

STAFFORD TOWN.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This town acknowledges no patron; but how far it may stand clear of corruption, we do not take upon us to determine. As there has been no public accusation
of

of that crime before the house of commons, or any other tribunal, it is far from our purpose to step out of our way to explore its recesses. We confine ourselves to acts of notoriety, and such as have provoked the interposition of the legislature, or incurred the chastisement of national justice. The electors have at present the honour of giving a feat to one of the most shining ornaments of the British senate, who possesses those genuine principles of liberty which have ever distinguished his great political leader, Mr. Fox, and which were never displayed to greater advantage, than when his eloquence dispelled the cloud of prejudice, which was artfully and malignantly intended to envelop the lustre of the French revolution. The family of lord viscount Chetwynd, of Ingestre, in this county, had formerly a considerable interest in this town; but that has ceased since the estates became the property of earl Talbot, the present possessor.

ANCIENT STATE. Stafford, which gives name to the county, and was formerly its principal town, stands on the river Sow, over which it has a handsome stone-bridge; and is, in Domesday-book, which was written in the reign of William the

Conqueror, called a city; but it does not appear to have been incorporated before the reign of king John.

UPON a lofty hill, to the westward of the town, stood Stafford castle; but there are now only a few ruins of the walls remaining. This was the feat of the earls of Stafford, who derive their title from this town. Here is an ancient custom, called Borough English, by which, if the father dies intestate, the youngest son inherits the lands lying within the liberties of the town.

THIS borough sent anno 23 Edward I. and was incorporated anno 3 Edward VI.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, a recorder, ten aldermen, and twenty common-councilmen. Here the county assizes and quarter-sessions are always kept.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1710, 25th Jan.—The sons of burghesses, and those who have served apprentices seven years in the borough, have a right (upon demand thereof) to be made burghesses of the said borough.

1722, 27th Nov.—Is in the mayor, aldermen, and burgeses, resident within the said borough.

1724, 4th Feb.—Persons made burgeses of the said borough, since the death of John Dolphin, Esq. late member of parliament for the said borough, (not being sons of burgeses, or not having served seven years apprenticeship within the said borough) had not a right to vote in the late election of a burges to serve in this present parliament for the said borough.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 400.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

LITCHFIELD.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This city, which, in conjunction with Coventry, is a bishop's see, is uninfluenced in the election of its members of parliament. The right of election is of a very complex kind, being in the bailiff, magistrates, freeholders of forty shillings a year, and all that hold by burgage tenure, together with such freemen only as are inrolled. It is a county of itself, and

and contains a jurisdiction of about ten or twelve miles in compass; on which account the sheriff, on the 19th of September, rides round the bounds and gives a feast to the corporation and neighbouring gentry.

ANCIENT STATE. The name of this city is, according to some authors, a corruption of Litchfield, its ancient British name, which signifies a field of carcases, a great slaughter of Christians having been made here in the persecution under the emperor Dioclesian; but Dr. Stukely affirms, that it received its name from the marshy bog which surrounds the church, the word *Loche* signifying a watery place.

LITCHFIELD stands in a valley, three miles south of the Trent, and is divided by a stream which runs into that river. That part of the town which is on the south side of this stream, is termed the City, and that on the north side is called the Close, from its being encompassed with a wall and dry ditch on every side, except that next the City, which is much the largest part, and is joined to the Close by two bridges,

THIS

THIS place arose from the ruins of a Roman town, named Etocetum, about a mile distant, where the Ikening and Watling-street cross each other, and is now called Chesterfield-wall, from some remains of its fortifications.

It was made a metropolitan see by king Offa; and, together with Coventry, is the see of a bishop. About the year 789, king Offa, by the favour of pope Adrian, constituted it an archiepiscopal see; but Litchfield, about ten years after, lost this honour, and its church and diocese were again rendered subject to the metropolitan see of Canterbury. In 1075, this see was translated to Chester, and from thence, in 1102, to Coventry; but soon after the bishops settled here again.

LITCHFIELD gives the title of earl to the family of Lec.

THIS city having sent to parliament, anno 33 Edw. I. 4, 5, 6, 7, 20 Edw. II. and 1, 14, 27 Edw. III. intermitted sending till the reign of Edw. VI. who restored and incorporated it.

CORPO-

CORPORATION. It is governed by two bailiffs, a recorder, sheriff, and twenty-four burgessees.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1701, 10 Mar.—The bailiff, magistrates, freeholders of forty shillings a year, and all that hold by burgage tenure, have a right to vote.

SUCH freemen only of the said city as are inrolled, and pay scot and lot, have a right to vote.

SUCH freemen of the taylors company as are enrolled in the old book of the constitutions of the taylors company, in the said city, have not a right to vote.

SUCH freemen only of the taylors company as are enrolled in the new book of the constitutions of the taylors company, in the city of Litchfield, have a right to vote.

To these resolutions the house agreed.

1718, 10 Dec.—Is in the bailiff, magistrates, freeholders of forty shillings per annum, and all that hold by burgage tenure, and in such freemen
only

only of the said city as are enrolled, paying scot and lot there.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—600.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The sheriff and bailiffs.

NEWCASTLE UNDER LINE.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this borough has been attended with that singularity which distinguishes the absurdity and folly of the present deranged system of partial representation.

THIS right has three times been the subject of parliamentary investigation ; viz. in 1624, 1705, and, lastly, in 1792 ; the first determination was in favour of ancient custom, which was that of the freemen residents, who did not forfeit their claim till a year and a day after they had left the town ; the second, and last, have been confined to the question of residence for the year and day that they had actually ceased to reside, which in both cases was decided against this ridiculous claim,

IN the trial of the last petition, which was that of Thomas Fletcher, Esq. and Clement Rynnersley, Esq. against Sir Archibald Macdonald and the Hon. John Leveson Gower, the fitting members, it appeared in evidence, that a great part of this borough was the property of the marquis of Stafford, whose influence directs the choice of the electors; and that it is very customary for the burgessees, who are the electors, to live ten, fifteen, and twenty years, in their houses, *without paying any rent*, and that the present members are the brother, and son-in-law of that nobleman!!

UPON the trial of the above petition, the counsel for the petitioners stated the right of election to be in the mayor, bailiffs, and burgessees or freemen, whose place of residence, at the time of their giving their votes, was in the said borough; or who, at such time, have no place of residence elsewhere, and who have never been absent from the borough for the space of a year and a day without interruption, since they were admitted to the freedom thereof, or whose families (if they were masters of families) have not been absent for the space of time aforesaid
without

without interruption, after the time of the admission of such burgesses or freemen, having families, to the freedom of the said borough.

THE counsel for the fitting members stated the right of election to be in the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle, and not receiving alms or church-bread; and that persons living a year and a day out of the borough lost their freedom.

THE committee determined, that neither of the statements delivered in by the petitioners, or fitting members, were the specific right of voting for this borough, but that the right was, "In the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle under Line."

ANCIENT STATE. Newcastle under Line receives its name from a castle now in ruins, built in the reign of Henry III. which was called New, to distinguish it from an older castle, which stood at Chesterton, a village in its neighbourhood, and was afterwards called Newcastle under Line, or Lime, from its situation upon the east side of a branch of the Trent, called the

Line, or Lime; but the castle has been long levelled with the ground. It is situated fourteen miles north by west of Stafford, thirty-one north-west of Litchfield, and one hundred and forty-nine north-west of London.

THIS borough was incorporated by king Henry I. and again by queen Elizabeth and king Charles II. and began to send members anno 27 Edward III.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and twenty-four common-councilmen.

THE corporation has a court for holding pleas, for any sum under 40l.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1624, 9 April. Was (before the charter) in the mayor, bailiffs, and common-councilmen; and it was resolved, That the late constitution altered not the former custom.

1705, 27 February. The right was agreed to be in the mayor, burgesses, and freemen, resident within the borough.

1792,

1792, March 21. In the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle under Line.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—664.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor.

PATRON—Marquis of Stafford.

TAMWORTH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough was the joint property of the Marquis Townshend, and the Marquis of Bath; but the latter having sold his share to Mr. Peel, the banker, that gentleman has established a considerable manufactory here, and is one of its present members.

The freeholders had formerly votes, in common with the inhabitant householders; but they lost that privilege by a resolution of the house of commons, 1722.

ANCIENT STATE. Tamworth, receives its name from the river Thame, by which it is so equally divided, that half of the town stands on the

west side of that river in Staffordshire, and the other half in Warwickshire; for which reason each side chooses a representative in parliament; the borough is by some writers placed in Staffordshire, and by others, in Warwickshire. When it was built does not appear; but it must have been very ancient, as king Offa had a seat here, in the year 781.

THIS town appears to have been incorporated by queen Elizabeth, and first sent to parliament in the fifth year of her reign.

CORPORATION.—Consists of two bailiffs, a recorder, and twenty-four principal burgessees.

THE corporation have power to keep a three weeks court of record, and a court-leet twice a year; they have also a jail, and a common seal.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1698, 17 March. Is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, and in such persons as have freeholds within the said borough, whether resident in the said borough or not.

1722,

1722, 23 January. Is in the inhabitants being householders, paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 250.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The two bailiffs.

PATRONS—Marquis Townshend and Robert Peel, Esq.

SUFFOLK.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This county possesses much independent spirit, which it never fails to exert when called forth into action. In the year 1784, the people, in consequence of the connections of Sir T. C. Bunbury, Bart. with the coalition formed by lord North and Mr. Fox, proposed, as a candidate for their representation, Joshua Grigby, Esq. with whose attachment to the cause of liberty in all its branches, and aversion to aristocratic influence, they were well acquainted; and their exertions in his favour were finally successful. At the last election in 1790, Mr. Grigby declined the honour that was intended him, when Sir Gerard

Gerard Vanneck was thought the best substitute to supply the place of that gentleman. The success of the independent yeomanry would in this instance, as well as the former one, have been certain, but for the union of so many heterogeneous substances, as administration, opposition and aristocracy. The junction of all these parties, and the interest arising from it, was hardly sufficient to overthrow and subdue the laudable efforts which were used against it, as appears by the poll; when the numbers were,

For Sir T. C. Bunbury, Bart.	3065
Sir J. Rous, Bart.	2755
Sir Gerard Vanneck, Bart.	2047

ANCIENT STATE. Suffolk, which signifies South-folk, or Southern people, was so called by the Saxons, on account of its being inhabited by the southern branch of the East-Angles, and so express its situation, with respect to the northern people of that nation, in the county of Norfolk. It is a maritime county, bounded on the east, by the German ocean; on the north, by Norfolk, from which it is separated by the rivers, the Little Ouse, and the Waveny; on the west,

west, by Cambridgeshire, and on the south by Essex, from which it is divided by the river Stour.

THIS county, at the invasion of the Romans, was part of the territory inhabited by the Iceni, and Mr. Camden, from the similitude of the names of several villages, is of opinion, that it was the district in which they principally resided. Here were two Roman stations on the western side of the county, upon the military way called Ermine-street; and the remains of fortifications, barrows, and Roman coins, have been found here, in as great plenty as in other parts of England.

THIS county is divided into two parts; the first, called the franchise or liberty of St. Edmund, which contains the western part of the county; and the second, called the geldable land, contains the eastern part. Each of these furnishes a distinct grand jury at the county assizes. In the franchises, the issues and forfeitures are paid to the lords of the liberties, and in the geldable part, they are paid to the king. There are likewise two other general divisions

of this county, into High Suffolk and Low Suffolk, which is subdivided into twenty-two hundreds. It is situated in the province of Canterbury and diocese of Norwich; has 575 parishes, 29 market towns, and sends sixteen members to parliament.

I P S W I C H.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough is independent of influence, except what may be corruptly established by the candidates, or their agents, at the time of election, as the following case, which was tried before a committee of the house of commons, in 1780, will explain: the petition of Charles Alexander Crickitt, Esq. stated, that Mr. Cator, the sitting member, had, by himself or his agents, after the teste of the writ, been guilty of a most notorious and flagrant attempt to bribe the corporation of Ipswich to elect him, by offering a large sum of money to them for that purpose; that he had, in the same manner, been guilty of bribing the electors of the borough, by promises of presents, and by
treating;

treating; that one of the returning officers was an avowed agent of Mr. Cator, and did, by his direction, corrupt the electors to vote for him; in consequence whereof, many of them did vote for him; that by these means Mr. Cator had procured an illegal majority of votes over the petitioner, who would otherwise have been elected and returned.

No objection was made to the election of Mr. Middleton. By the opening of the case it appeared, that the petitioner endeavoured to avoid the election of Mr. Cator, by proceeding upon all the charges in the petition; and accordingly evidence was produced upon all of them.

UPON the first point the following facts were given in evidence:

THE electors of this borough are two bailiffs, ten portmen, twenty-four common-council men, and an indefinite number of freemen; they have been for a long time divided into two parties, distinguished by the names of *Blues* and *Yellows*; at the head of the former are the common-councilmen; the latter is headed by the

portmen. The Yellows had been predominant at the late elections; Mr. Wollaston, one of the late members, had been supported by them, and being abroad at the time of the late election, his brother, the Rev. Dr. Wollaston, proposed him as a candidate upon that interest. Mr. Staunton, the other late member, declined this election. Mr. Middleton was supported by the Blues, on which interest he had failed in the last contest.

THE last election happened on Saturday, the 3d of April: in the preceding week, the Blues had proposed to the Yellows to support Wollaston, if the Yellows would support Middleton, and thus settle their differences; but this was rejected by the Yellows, who then had hopes of carrying both members; and they persuaded Dr. Wollaston, against his own inclination, to join with Cator, whom they had invited to stand: about the same time, the portmen, who were told by Dr. Wollaston that he would spend no money in the election, asked him to withdraw his brother; which he refused. Cator was at this time a stranger to the borough. On the Monday before the election, Dr. Wollaston, by appointment,

ment, met Mr. Cator at the house of Mr. Cornwall, a banker in Ipswich, and partner in that business with the bailiff Spooner. Here these three held a conversation about the election: Cornwall, who had before been told by Dr. Wollaston, that he would not spend more than 300l. on the election, and had communicated this to Mr. Cator, in this conversation said to Dr. Wollaston, " he had estimated the expence
 " at about 2000l.; that Cator was willing to advance 1700l. of this sum, if Wollaston would
 " answer for the remaining 300l." This being agreed to by the latter, Cornwall said, " if the
 " expences were to be paid at his bank, he
 " should expect a deposit of the money before
 " hand;" this was likewise agreed to, and then they went about the town on a joint canvas for Wollaston and Cator. On the same day Cator paid 1700l. into Cornwall's banking-house; on the next day, at Cator's desire, the above agreement was put in writing and signed; it is as follows:

" Mr. Wollaston, by Dr. Wollaston, deposits
 " 300l. in the hands of Messrs. Alexander, Cornwall, and Spooner; and John Cator having
 " deposited

“ deposited 1700l. in the same hands, for the
 “ purpose of paying the expences already in-
 “ curred, and which may be incurred, for their
 “ election; and it is agreed, if the expence is
 “ less than 2000l. all the money remaining shall
 “ be returned to John Cator; and if the ex-
 “ pences exceed 2000l. all above that sum is to
 “ be paid in equal portions by Dr. Wollaston
 “ and John Cator. In witness whereof, they
 “ have set their names this 30th March, 1784.

“ FRED. WOLLASTON.

“ JOHN CATOR.

N. B. “ If the expence does not amount to
 “ 1200l. Dr. Wollaston is to have returned the
 “ proportion of one to four.”

Dr. Wollaston in his evidence said, he had no
 knowledge of election matters, nor of the parti-
 cular expences, or the manner in which they
 were incurred, in an election at Ipswich; he
 had heard that a great deal was incurred on ac-
 count of the out-voters; and being told by
 Cornwall, that the expences of the former elec-
 tion had exceeded the above sum, he relied on
 his estimate, as he made it, without knowing
 how,

how, in particular, the money was to be applied ; but he understood it was for necessary joint expences of the election, and not to be used for any purposes in which both parties were not concerned ; and that no unlawful use would be made of it. Cornwall was to disburse the money, and to return the remainder, if any, with an account. He wished the transaction to have been kept secret, though not from any notion of its being wrong ; but found it was known to all his principal friends in the corporation.

IN the course of the canvas, he perceived his brother's interest to have declined considerably, and hereupon determined, after consulting one or two private friends, to withdraw his name, on being indemnified the expences at that time incurred. On the Thursday before the election, at Cornwall's house, in the presence of Cator, Cornwall, Spooner, Notcote the town clerk, and one or two more of the corporation, he said, he feared his brother might fail, and asked them, " If Middleton should be at the head of the poll, whom they would desert, Cator or his brother ?" To this question no answer was made ; upon which he said to them, " I now see
" you

“ you would desert my brother and support Cator ;” hereupon Notcote came forward and said, “ What would our enemies say of us if we should not, as he pays so much more than you.” No more was said on the subject. In the afternoon of that day, Dr. Wollaston offered to withdraw his brother, according to his first resolution, and Mr Cator agreed to repay him what he had laid out upon his canvas: as to the 300l. he had not paid it into the bank.

MR. CORNWALL in his evidence said, that he had known Mr. Cator before, and would have trusted him with any sum, but would not have given credit to the parties jointly; for which reason he desired a deposit, as he had before found difficulties in getting the money advanced; that he believed the 1700 l. was intended for the common expences of the election, jointly with the 300l. but that it was liable to such uses as Cator might think proper, and he might have drawn for it without defraying the expences: on being asked “ Where then was the security of the deposit?” he said, it was so, notwithstanding, in his mind. Being asked if he did not know, before the meeting of Cator and Wollaston,

Wollaston, that the former was to make a deposit? he said, he could not recollect this with certainty; he was not sure, but believed not. He delivered in an account current of his house with Cator for the 1700 l. of which, about 1100 l. was spent, the rest was repaid to him on a draught of the 24th of May; the disbursement of the money was made under the direction of Spooner. Mr. Cornwall said, he himself was no corporator.

ALL the expences were paid out of his fund.

IN order to shew that the lawful expences of the election, particularly the travelling charges of the out-voters, could not require such a sum as Mr. Cator placed in Cornwall's hands, the counsel for the petitioner gave in evidence the following account of the situation of the voters for him, which had been examined with the poll, and the distances proved:

LIST

LIST of the OUT-VOTERS for Cator, and of the distances of their residence from Ipswich.

	Miles.	Voters,
Resident at Harwich, distant	11	- 37
Ditto, within	5	- 8
Ditto, between	5 & 10	- 13
Ditto	10 & 15	- 12
Ditto	15 & 20	- 12
Ditto	20 & 30	- 10
Ditto	30 & 40	- 5
Ditto	40 & 50	- 4
Ditto	50 & 60	- 4
Ditto (including London and its environs)	60 & 70	- 39
Ditto, between	70 & 80	- 17
		<hr/> 158
Voters for Cator resident at Ipswich		<hr/> 139
	Total	<hr/> 297

UPON the charge of corrupting the electors, the facts proved were as follow :

AN extensive distribution of money was made, after the election, to many of the out-voters for loss of time, with the approbation of

of Mr. Cator, out of the sum in the bankers' hands; thirteen voters, resident in London or its neighbourhood, who were examined before the committee, were paid three guineas each immediately after the election; they had all their travelling expences paid besides; this sum was given without enquiry into their circumstances, or the profits of their several employments, which were various; some being capable of earning five or seven shillings a day, and others two shillings; they were absent from their business, some four days, some five; to none of them was any direct expectation given of a reward for their votes; two or three were told, when canvassed by Cator's agent, Prigg, whom he had employed to canvas and convey voters to Ipswich, that "they should be satisfied for loss of time." Some of them had voted at former elections, and had received a similar gratuity, and said they expected it at this. One man said to the committee, "he could not tell what the three guineas were for, unless for his vote." One, when canvassed by Cator's agent, bargained that his son should go and take up his freedom, and was afterwards paid five guineas by the same person, for himself and his son, though his son did not vote.

THE

THE greater number of these thirteen did not promise their votes to Cator before they went to Ipswich, though they travelled there at his expence. They voted for Middleton and Cator.

FIVE voters, resident at Harwich, likewise gave their evidence to the committee: these men, in the same circumstances as the others from London, had in the same manner received a guinea and a half a-piece; and it appeared that the same sum was given to most of the Harwich voters. Harwich is eleven miles distant from Ipswich, and the passage by water (their usual way of going thither) costs sixpence: they were absent on Saturday and Sunday. To all these Cator was a stranger at the time of the election, and some of them came to Ipswich intending to vote for Wollaston.

It was admitted by the counsel on both sides, that Middleton and Cator had no joint expences in the election. And it was either proved or admitted, that all the London voters generally received three guineas a-piece after the election, out of the money deposited.

UPON

UPON the charge against Spooner, these facts appeared in evidence,

THAT he had a very extensive influence in Ipswich; that he canvassed the town for Wollaston and Cator, and afterwards for Cator singly; wrote letters soliciting votes for him, and in particular to Prigg, before mentioned, in London, to canvas for him and Wollaston, whose bills of expences he paid, and to whom he gave, or sent money to pay some of the London voters the three guineas; he likewise told Prigg, that he had given one Burney one hundred and fifty guineas for paying expences. In Cator's presence he sent an agent to London, in order to accompany the freemen to Ipswich, and afterwards paid him for his trouble. He gave orders at two inns for entertaining some of the London voters, and afterwards paid the bills. He paid some of the Harwich voters a guinea and a half for loss of time; in Cator's presence he told one who had voted, that he should have three guineas when he came to London; and paid several bills of the election expences.

BEING

BEING examined himself, he said he had done every thing in the election which one friend does for another; had voted for Cator, and, as a banker, paid his draughts for the expences.

THE following evidence was given of one particular charge of bribery by Spooner.

ONE Reynolds, who had voted in the election in 1780, for Staunton and Wollaston, had been employed at the same time in some election business for that party, upon whom he now had a demand of 4l. 16s. for expences then incurred, and not paid. He met Spooner at Ipswich at this last election, and asked him, why this demand had not been paid according to his (Spooner's) promise? Spooner told him, "it should be settled; that Wollaston had declined, Cator was in his interest:" whereupon he went to the poll, and voted for Cator and Middleton. Reynolds said in his evidence, he should not have voted for the Yellows, if he had not been made easy on this demand. This man went to Ipswich on the part of Middleton, and was paid three guineas by his agent after the election.

UPON

UPON these facts, the counsel for the petitioner agreed, That the election of Mr. Cator had been obtained by corrupt influence, and must be declared void.

June 18. The committee determined, " That
 " neither the fitting member nor the petitioner
 " were duly elected, and that the last election
 " was void as to Mr. Cator."

A NEW writ was accordingly issued, and Mr. Crickitt was unanimously elected.

AT the last general election in 1790, Mr. Middleton and Mr. Crickitt were opposed by Sir John Hadley D'Oyley and major Rochfort. At the close of the poll the numbers were, for

Sir John Hadley D'Oyley	323
C. A. Crickitt, Esq.	312
William Middleton, Esq.	299
Major Rochfort	243

By the event of this poll, the borough lost, in Mr. Middleton, a representative, whose independence was an ornament to the British senate.

I P S W I C H.

ANCIENT STATE. Ipswich, is a corruption of its old Saxon name, Gyperfwic, which it received from its situation on the river Gipping. It is situated eighteen miles north-east of Colchester, fifty-four south-west of Yarmouth, twelve north-west of Harwich, and sixty-eight north-east of London.

IT is a town of great antiquity, and had charters and a mint as early as the reign of king John. This town enjoys several considerable privileges, such as the passing of fines and recoveries, trying both civil and criminal causes, and even holding pleas of the crown. The assize of wine, bread, and beer, is also appointed by the magistrates. The corporation has an admiralty jurisdiction, and is entitled to all waifs, strays, and goods cast on shore, within that jurisdiction, which includes all the coast of Suffolk, and extends, on the Essex coast, beyond Harwich. No freeman can be compelled to serve on juries out of the town, or be obliged to bear any office for the king, except that of sheriff of the county.

Here is a town-hall and a council-chamber; a shire-hall for the county sessions; and in a part of an ancient monastery, is held the quarter-sessions for the Ipswich division; another part of which building is converted into a jail.

THIS town sent *ab origine*.

CORPORATION. By charter of Charles II. it is governed by two bailiffs, a recorder, ten portmen, and twenty-four common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION.—1710, 3d February. Is in the bailiffs, portmen, common-councilmen, and freemen at large, not receiving alms.

1714, 31 March. Portmen, are an essential constituent part of the great court for making freemen of the said borough; without some of which portmen being present, the said court cannot be held.

1714, 1 April. A motion being made, and the question being put, that the persons voted freemen at the pretended great courts held in the corporation of Ipswich, 15 June, 7 August,

25 and 28 September, 1711, without any legal portmen then present, were duly made, and have a right to vote for members to serve in parliament for the borough of Ipswich; it passed in the negative.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—623.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The two bailiffs.

D U N W I C H.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This town, which was formerly the most considerable in the county of Suffolk, and the see of a bishop, is now reduced to a mean village of about thirty houses, with only one church left, and that in part demolished. It still, however, retains *the name* of a corporation, having two bailiffs, and twelve capital burgeses, all of whom reside in other parishes, and never assemble here but upon election purposes, for the choice of bailiffs, or members of parliament.

THE destruction of this borough was occasioned by the incursion of the sea, seven of its parishes out of eight having been destroyed: and the encroachment that is still making, will probably,

bably, in a few years, oblige the constituent body to betake themselves to a boat, whenever the king's writ shall summon them to the exercise of their elective functions; as the necessity of adhering to *forms*, in the farcical solemnity of borough elections, is not to be dispensed with.

THIS is one of those places which, with Orford, in this county, Castle Rising, in Norfolk, Gatton, in Surrey, Old Sarum, in Wiltshire, with many others, which have scarcely the appearance of having ever been the seat of population, elect a majority of the house of commons, while the towns of Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Halifax, and Wolverhampton, which are the first in opulence, manufacture, and population, are as much excluded from all share in the legislature of their country, as Peking, or Constantinople.

THE right of election in this borough (if we may be allowed to call it by such a name), is in the freemen, inhabiting within the remains of the borough, and not receiving alms.

ANCIENT STATE. Dunwich, which was formerly a celebrated city, and a considerable sea-

port, is now a remarkable proof of the instability of all sublunary things; it being reduced to a mean village of about thirty-five houses, and only one church left, which is in part demolished; notwithstanding which, it still retains the name of a corporation.

IN the first year of the reign of king John, it had a charter of liberties, in which the burgeses, among other things, had the privilege of giving, selling, or otherwise disposing of, their lands and houses, within the town, at pleasure. This charter cost the citizens three hundred marks, besides ten falcons, and five gyr falcons. In the reign of Rich. I. Dunwich was fined one thousand and sixty marks, Orford fifteen, Ipswich two hundred, and Yarmouth two hundred, for the unlawful practice of supplying the enemy with corn; which may give some insight into the trade of these towns at that time.

HERE were six, if not eight parish churches; namely, St. John's, (which was a rectory, and seems to have been swallowed up by the sea about the year 1540;) St. Martin's, St. Nicholas's, and St. Peter's, which were likewise rectories; and St. Leonard's,

Leonard's, and All Saints, which were impropriated. The register of Eye also mentions the churches of St. Michael and St. Bartholomew, which were swallowed up by the sea before the year 1331.

THE walls, which encompass upwards of seven acres of land, had three gates. That to the eastward is quite demolished; but the arches of the two gates to the westward continue pretty firm, and have something curious in their workmanship, but are almost covered with ivy. This town being built on a hill consisting of loam and sand, it is no wonder the sea had such an effect upon it, as to undermine and wash it away.

THIS town sent *ab origine*.

CORPORATION. Consists of two bailiffs, and twelve capital burgessees.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—1691, 8th and 22d December. Is not in the freemen of the said borough, commonly called out-fitters, as well as in the freemen inhabiting within the said borough.

Is only in the freemen inhabiting within the said borough.

1695, 25th November. Is in the freemen of the said borough, commonly called out-fitters, as well as in the freemen inhabiting within the said borough.

1708, 5th February. Is only in the freemen inhabiting within the said borough, not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 14.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The bailiffs.

PATRONS—Sir Joshua Vanneck and Mr. Barne.

O R F O R D.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The corporation of this borough consists of a mayor, recorder, eight portmen, and twelve capital burgessees, in all twenty-two, in whom the right of election is vested. The number is seldom complete, there being scarcely ever more than ten or twelve, who are chiefly composed of the sons and relations of the earl of Hertford. It was formerly a town of
great

great commerce, but it is now only a decayed village, owing to the sea having, for some time past, withdrawn itself from it. The constituent and representative body being made up of this nobleman's family, the usual mode of canvassing is laid aside, and the election made among themselves, without trouble or expence.

ANCIENT STATE. Orford is seated ten miles to the eastward of Woodbridge, and derives its name from a ford over the river Ore, near the mouth of which it stands. It is situated eighty-eight miles from London, and was incorporated by Hen. III.

THE earliest account we hear of it is in the reign of Hen. I. when Bartholomew Glanville was governor. It was once the capital seat of Peter de la Valoines, and was lately in the possession of Pryce Devereux, lord viscount Hereford, whose executors sold it to the right honourable the earl of Hertford, who now possesses it. This town, which gives the title of earl to lord Walpole, had a charter, with great privileges, granted to it by Rich. III. and was certainly a much larger place formerly than it is at present, as it sent
three

three ships, and sixty-two men to the siege of Calais, in the year 1359.

THIS town having sent to all the parliaments in the reign of Edw. I. discontinued sending till the reign of Hen, VIII.

CORPORATION. Consists of a mayor, eight portmen, and twelve capital burgesfes.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1699, 10th Feb. Is in the mayor, portmen, capital burgesfes, and freemen, of the said borough.

1708, 29th Jan. Is in the mayor, portmen, capital burgesfes, and freemen, not receiving alms.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—12.

RETURNING OFFICER—The Mayor,

PATRON—Earl of Hertford.

ALDBOROUGH.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election was anciently in the inhabitants paying scot and lot within this borough ; but, by the resolution
of

of 1709, it is confined to the bailiffs, burgesſes, and freemen, not receiving alms; which right is again further limited, by a ſubſequent reſolution of 1715, omitting the word *freemen*, and adding that of *reſident*, by which it is now underſtood to be in the bailiffs and burgesſes, reſident within the ſaid borough, and not receiving alms.

THE corporation conſiſts of about thirty burgesſes, and two bailiffs, who are the returning officers. Mr. Creſpigny, who has the influence of the corporation of Sudbury, is alſo patron of of this borough.

ANCIENT STATE. Aldborough receives its name from the river Ald, which runs near the ſouth end of it. It is pleaſantly ſituated in a peninsula, called Slaughden Valley, formed by the river on the weſt ſide, and the ſea on the eaſt. It conſiſts only of two ſtreets, near a mile in length, running parallel to each other; the ſea has, in the preſent century, ſwallowed up one whole ſtreet, which was parallel to the other two.

THIS place never ſent members to parliament, till 13 Elizabeth.

CORPORATION. Consists of twelve superior, and twelve inferior burgessees.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1709, 23d Dec. Is in the bailiffs, burgessees, and freemen, not receiving alms.

1715, 16th June. Is in the bailiffs and burgessees resident within the said borough, and not receiving alms; to which the house disagreed.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 35.

RETURNING OFFICERS—The two Bailiffs.

PATRON—P. C. Crespigny, Esq.

S U D B U R Y.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. This borough has been for many years under the influence of the Crespigny family, of Hontlesham-hall, in this county, although their interest in the borough is not deemed by any means secure; it having been defeated in 1774, by Sir Walden Hanmer and Sir Patrick Blake, baronets; and again, in 1784, by
William

William Smith, Esq. of Pardon-hall, in Essex,
and John Langston, Esq. a banker in London.

MR. SMITH has petitioned against the return
of Thomas Champion Crespigny, Esq. and John
Coxe Hippsley, Esq. the present fitting mem-
bers, which petition is at present undetermined.

IN the year 1774, a petition was presented by
Sir Walden Hanmer, and Sir Patrick Blake,
against the return of Philip Champion Crespigny,
and Thomas Fonnereau, Esqrs. The petition
complained, that a great many legal voters, who
tendered their voices for Hanmer and Blake,
had been rejected, although they had been for
many years in the possession and exercise of their
rights, to the knowledge of the mayor, and of
Fonnereau, one of the fitting members; that
others, who were not legally qualified, had also
been admitted to vote for them; that the fair
majority of legal votes was in favour of the peti-
tioners; but that William Strut, the mayor and
returning officer, had acted partially and corrupt-
ly, before and during the poll, and had declared
the fitting members duly elected, and had re-
turned

turned them; and that money was given by the fitting members, or their agents, by way of bribe or reward, to persons who voted for them at the election.

UPON the hearing of the petition, it appeared, that the corporation consists of a mayor, recorder, six aldermen, twenty-four capital burgeses, and an indefinite number of freemen. The freedom in this borough is acquired by birth, servitude, or redemption. There have been a few instances of making what are called honorary freemen, or faggots; but they have never been allowed to exercise any franchise, as members of the body corporate.

THE point upon which the petition turned was, the partiality of the corporation, who were in the interest of Mr. Crespigny, in refusing freemen, duly qualified by the custom of the borough, to their admission and enrollment.

THE decision of the committee, according to Douglas, was,

“ THAT

“ THAT persons who derived their claim to their freedom, from the antecedent title of birth, who had exercised all the rights of freemen, and that of voting for members of parliament among the rest, for twenty years and upwards, before the last election, who had demanded to be enrolled (and offered to prove, that at their birth, their fathers exercised and enjoyed the rights and franchises of freemen) but were refused, had a right to vote, though they could not produce evidence of their admission, enrolled upon stamps.”

AND they afterwards informed the house, that they had determined, “ That Sir Walden Hanmer, Bart. and Sir Patrick Blake, Bart. were duly elected, and ought to have been returned.

ANCIENT STATE. Sudbury, which stands upon the Stour, at the distance of fifty-four miles from London, was anciently called Southburgh, from its situation with respect to Norwich, which was called Northburgh, and is supposed to have been formerly the principal town in the county, being one of the first places where king Edward

ward III. settled some Dutchmen, whom he had invited over, to teach the English the woollen manufacture, which they were wholly ignorant of before; and where the woollen trade has continued ever since.

THE duke of Grafton takes the title of baron from this place.

THIS being made a mayor town, and incorporated by queen Mary, first began to return members to parliament, anno 1559, 1 Eliz.

CORPORATION. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, six aldermen, and twenty-four capital burgeses, or common-councilmen.

RIGHT OF ELECTION. 1702, 19th Jan.—The sons of freemen, born after their fathers were made free, and those that have served apprenticeships in the said borough, have a right to vote, without an admission in form to their freedom, or taking the oath of freemen.

1703, 6th Dec.—Is only in the sons of freemen, born after their fathers were made free, and
in

in such as have served seven years apprenticeship, or are made freemen by redemption.

RETURNING OFFICER. The mayor.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—725.

PATRON—T. C. Crespigny, Esq.

E Y E.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. The right of election in this borough extends to the corporation, consisting of two bailiffs, a recorder, ten superior and twenty-four inferior burgessees, and to the inhabitants paying scot and lot.

THE greatest part of the town is the property of earl Cornwallis, who is also lord of the manor, and possesses the parliamentary influence.

ANCIENT STATE. Eye, or Aye, which is seated in a bottom, and is almost surrounded by a brook, which runs close to the town, from whence it had its name (Aye signifying a brook) is seated in the road from Ipswich to Norwich, at the distance

distance of ninety-two miles from London, and was incorporated by king John. It enjoys several privileges at present, but they were formerly much much more extensive.

THIS borough first returned to parliament, anno 13 Eliz.

CORPORATION—Consists of two bailiffs, a recorder, ten principal or superior, and twenty-four inferior burgessees.

RIGHT OF ELECTION—Is in the free burgessees and corporation, together with the inhabitants paying scot and lot.

NUMBER OF VOTERS—About 200.

RETURNING OFFICER—The bailiff.

PATRON—Earl Cornwallis.

ST. EDMUNDSBURY.

POLITICAL CHARACTER. Although this town is the principal one in the county, both in extent, antiquity, and number of inhabitants, yet
the

the right of voting, as in the cities of Bath, Winchester, and Salisbury, and in the towns of Andover, Banbury, Tiverton, and Dartmouth, is confined to the corporation only. That the privilege of returning the members should be placed in this small body of men, to the exclusion of the rest of the inhabitants, is as unjust as it is destructive of that adequate representation, which the constitution supposes the people to possess.

THE influence prevailing here, is that of the duke of Grafton, whose services in the cause of religion and liberty, as well as his known attachment to a parliamentary reform, merit the thanks of his fellow-citizens.

ANCIENT STATE. St. Edmundsbury, or Bury St. Edmunds, commonly called Bury, was originally called St. Edmundsburgh, from an abbey founded here in honour of St. Edmund, who was martyred in the year 870, and after having lain interred in the town where he was killed, thirty-three years, was removed to this place.

THE abbey, once an illustrious structure, was built by Sigebert, king of the East Angles, for

N n

secular

secular canons, soon after Christianity was planted here by Felix, the Burgundian; and when it was finished, Sigebert himself retired into it, and secluded himself from all temporal affairs. Two hundred years after, king Edmund was interred here, and a small church erected over his tomb, which was afterwards levelled to the ground by the Danes, under the command of king Swain; but Canute his son, afterwards obtaining the crown of England, rebuilt the church in a sumptuous manner, enriched it with many gifts and privileges, and confirmed all the former grants.

WHEN the abbey was in its prosperity, there was an hospital, or religious house, at every gate of the town; particularly an hospital of St. Peter's, without the Risby-gate, for the maintenance of leprous and infirm priests; an hospital of St. Nicholas without the East-gate; of St. John within, and St. Petronilla without, the South-gate. But the most famous of the hospitals was St. Saviour's, without the North-gate, an entire wing of which is still remaining. It was in this building that the parliament met, in the reign of Henry VI.; and it was here that Humphrey duke of Gloucester was murdered, at the instigation of the monks.

monks. There was also a college of priests, with a guild to the holy name of Jesus, and a house of Grey-friars without the North-gate, to which those friars retired, after they were driven out of the town by the abbot.

THIS place was first impriviledged to send members to parliament by king James I. who incorporated it in the fourth year of his reign, and by two other charters in the sixth and twelfth years of his reign.

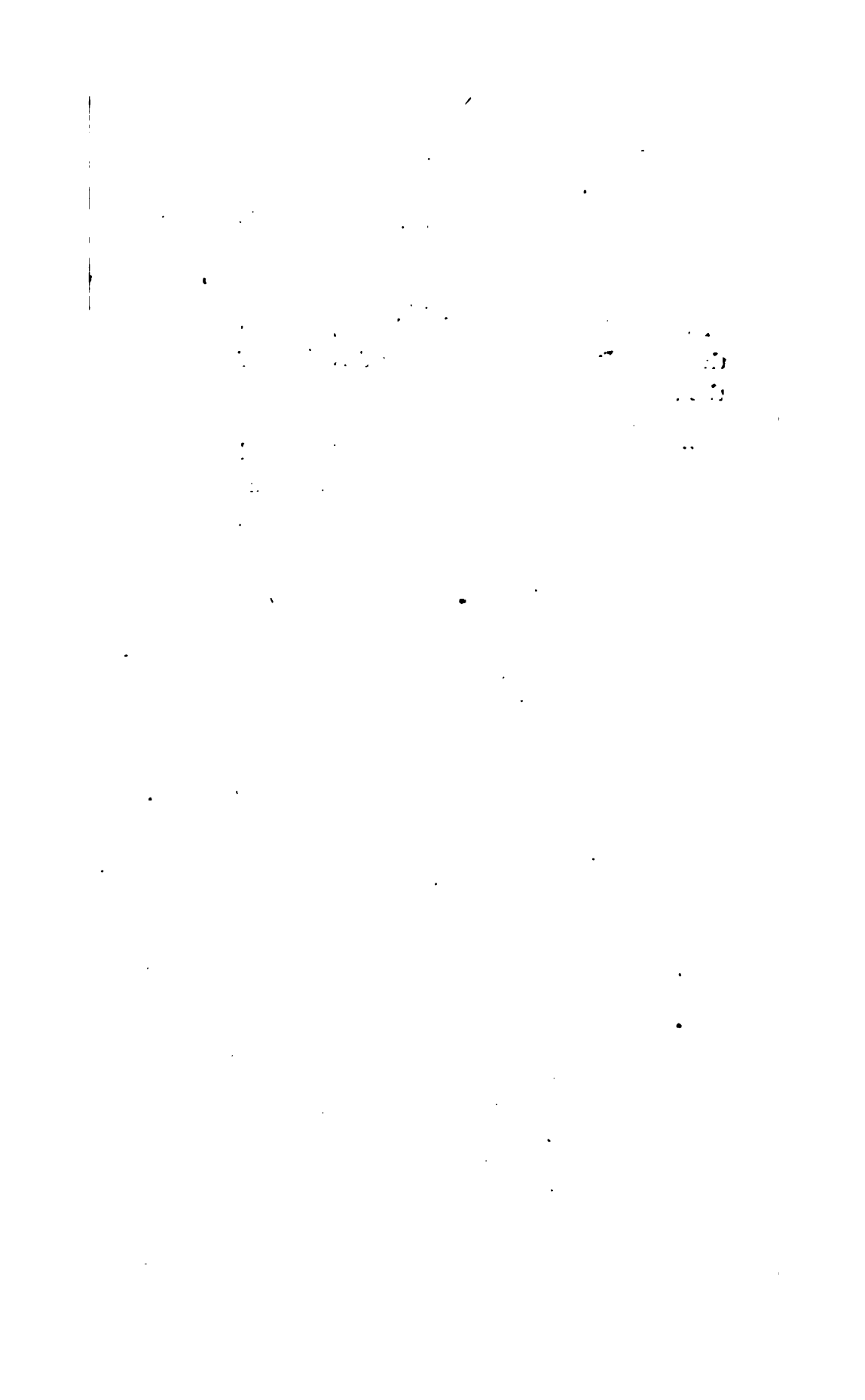
CORPORATION—Consists of an alderman, recorder, twelve capital burgeses, and twenty-four common-councilmen.

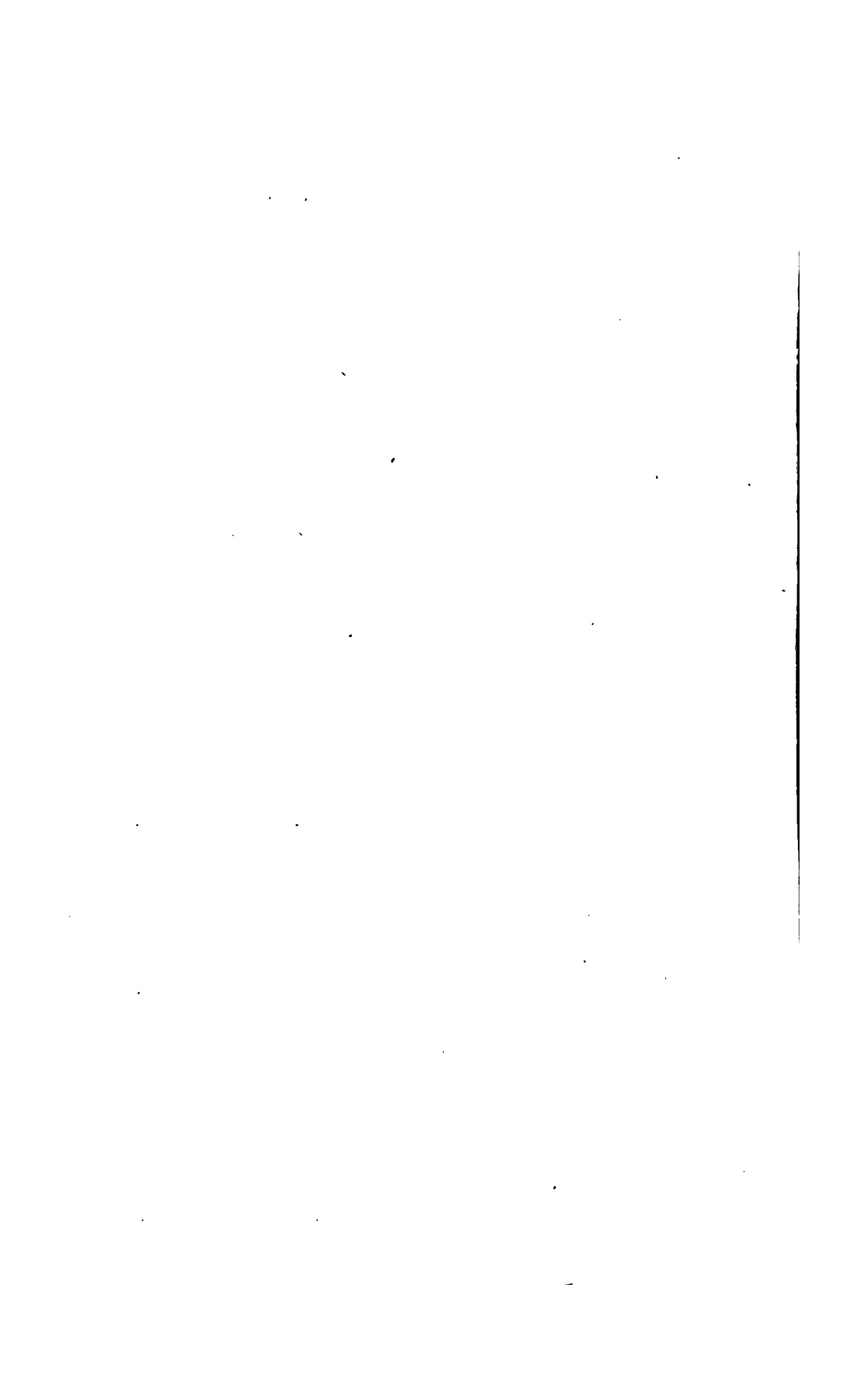
RIGHT OF ELECTION—Is in the alderman, burgeses, and common-councilmen.

NUMBER OF VOTERS.—37.

RETURNING OFFICER—The alderman.

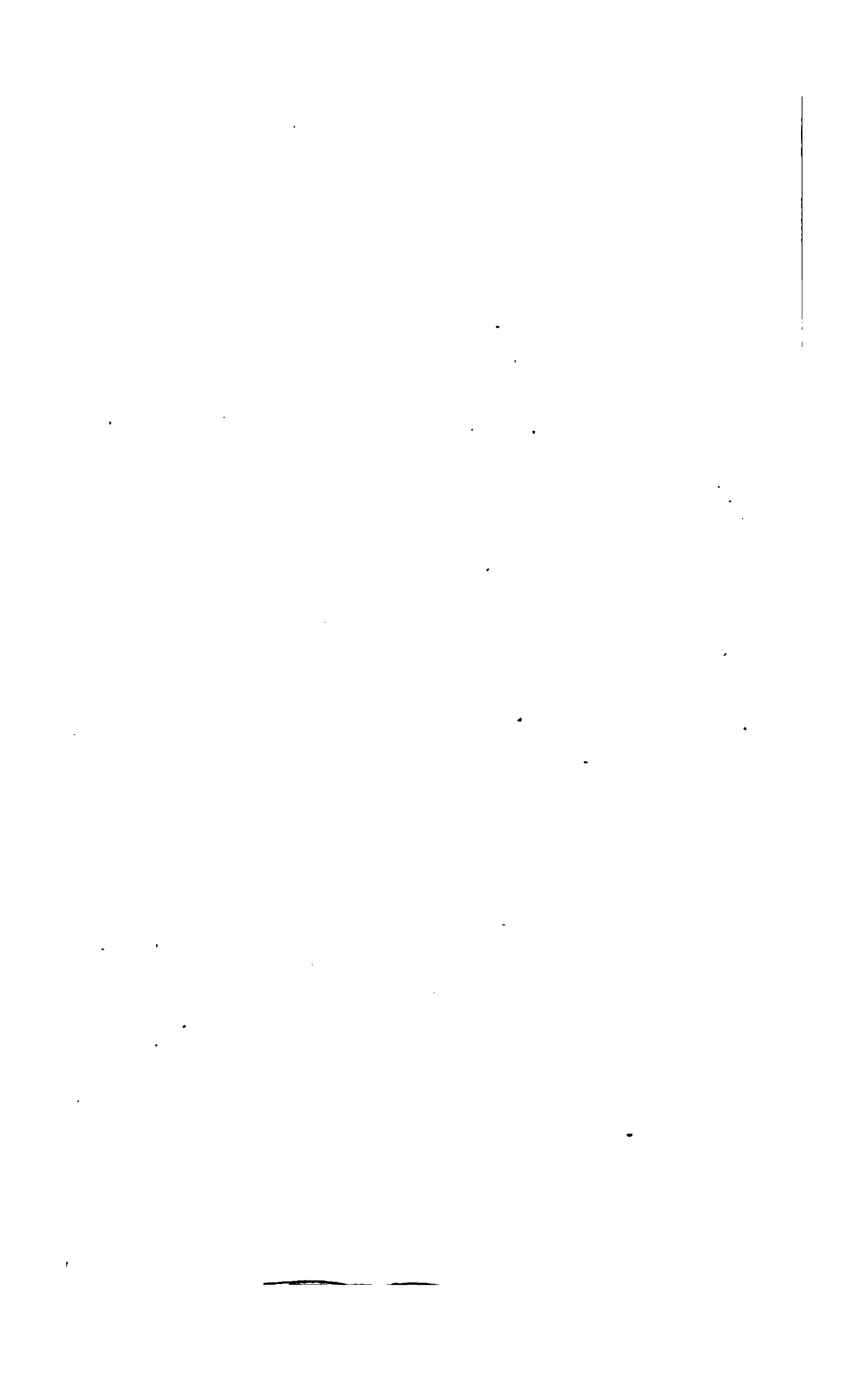
PATRON—Duke of Grafton.











Standard Law Library



3 6305 06 147 095 6

