

any of these branches of the legislature, their liberty is secure, provided they be not wanting to themselves. Let us take a view of the restraints, which they have upon the *House of Commons*.

THEY elect the members of that House. "Magistrates, says Montisquieu, are properly theirs, who have the nomination of them." The members of the House of Commons, therefore, elected by the people, are the magistrates of the people; and are bound, by the ties of gratitude for the honour and confidence conferred upon them, to consult the interest of their constituents.

THE power of elections has ever been regarded as a point of the last consequence to all || free governments. The independant exercise of that power is justly deemed the strongest bulwark of the British liberties ¶. As such, it has always been an object of great attention to the legislature; and is expressly stipulated with the Prince in the Bill of Rights. All those are excluded from voting, whose poverty is such, that they cannot live independant, and must therefore be subject to the undue influence of their superiors. Such are supposed to have no will of their own; and it is judged improper that they should vote in the representation of a free state. What can exhibit, in a more striking point of view the peculiar care which has been taken, in order to render the election of members of parliament entirely free? It was deemed an insult upon the independant Commons of England, that their uninfluenced suffrages should be adulterated by those, who were not at liberty to speak as they thought, though their interests and inclinations were the same. British liberty, it was thought, could not be effectually secured, unless those who made the laws were freely, and without in-

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¶ The Athenians, justly jealous of this important privilege, punished, with death, every stranger who presumed to interfere in the Assemblies of the people.

¶ The English freedom will be at an end whenever the Court invades the free Election of Parliaments. RAIPN.

A right that a man has to give his vote at the election of a person to represent him in Parliament, there to concur to the making of laws, which are to bind his Liberty and Property, is a most transcendant thing and of an high nature. LORD RAYMOND'S reports. 953.