

fluence, elected by those, for whom they were made. Upon this principle is reasonably founded the maxim in law—That every one, who is capable of exercising his will, is party, and presumed to consent to an Act of Parliament.

FOR the same reason that persons, who live dependant upon the will of others, are not admitted to vote in elections, those who are under age, and therefore incapable of judging; those who are convicted of perjury or subornation of perjury, and therefore unworthy of judging; and, those who obtain their freeholds by fraudulent conveyances, and would therefore vote to serve infamous purposes, are all likewise excluded from the enjoyment of this great privilege. Corruption at elections is guarded against by the strictest precautions, and most severe penalties. Every elector, before he polls, must, if demanded by a candidate or by two electors, take the oath against bribery, as prescribed by 2. Geo. 2. c. 24. Officers of the excise, of the customs, and of the post-offices—Officers concerned in the duties upon leather, soap, paper, striped linens imported, hackney coaches, cards and dice, are restrained from interfering in elections under the penalty of £ 100 and of being incapable of ever exercising any office of trust under the King.

THUS is the freedom of elections secured from the *servility*, the *ignorance*, and the *corruption* of the electors; and from the interposition of officers depending immediately upon the Crown. But this is not all. Provisions, equally salutary, have been made concerning the qualifications of those, who shall be elected. All imaginable care has been taken, that the Commons of Great-Britain may be neither *awed*, nor *allured*, nor *deceived* into any nomination inconsistent with their liberties.

IT has been adopted as a general maxim; that the Crown will take advantage of every opportunity of extending its prerogative in opposition to the privileges of the people; that it is the interest of those who have *pensions*, or *offices at will* from the
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