

pledge shall be likewise at the Feast of *St. Michael* without occasion, so that every Man shall have his Liberties which he had, or used to have, in the time of King *Henry* our Grandfather, or which he hath purchased since: The View of Frank-pledge shall be so done, that our Peace may be kept, and that the Tithing be wholly kept as it hath been accustomed, and that the Sheriff seek not Occasions, and that he be content with so much as the Sheriff was wont to have for his View-making in the time of King *Henry* our Grandfather.

NOTES.

Before the Courts at *Westminster* were erected, the County-Courts were the chief of this Kingdom; in which Courts the Bishop and an Alderman did sit, the one to judge according to the Ecclesiastical Law, and the other according to the Common Law. This was the foundation of the united Power of the Bishop and Earl to sit and try Causes in one Court; the Conjunction of which Powers mutually to assist each other, is as antient as the *English* Government, it self; but these Powers were separated by *William* called the Conqueror, and afterwards all Spiritual Causes were brought into the Ecclesiastical Courts, and the Law-Business into the Courts at *Westminster*.

But during all the *Norman* Reigns, most Causes were tried in the County-Courts, which were held, as they are now, every Month, by the Sheriff; and he likewise held his *Torn* twice in every Year, (*viz.*) a Month after *Easter*, and *Michaelmas*: The County-Court is a Court of Record in all things proper to its Jurisdiction, and 'tis the King's Leet throughout the County, tho' the Sheriff is Judge of it; and therefore none are now exempted from appearing at this Court, but the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Clergymen and Women; and the reason is because all other Persons above the Age of 12 Years, were bound to take Oaths of Allegiance in this Court.

The View of Frank pledge shall be so done, that our Peace may be kept, &c. Now for the better understanding that Paragraph,