

NOTES.

Before the making this Charter, all the Inhabitants of that County wherein the King had any Forest, were bound to appear before the Chief Justice in Eyre, or his Deputy, at a Court call'd the Justice-Seat, upon a *General Summons*; (i.e.) all those who had Lands or Tenements within the Boundaries of the Forest, or those who claimed any Liberties or Franchises, or free Customs therein.

And this *General Summons* was only a Precept directed by the *Chief Justice in Eyre*, to the Sheriff of the County, commanding him to summon the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Knights of the Shire, Tenants, &c. and that he should make Proclamation throughout the County, both in Fairs and Markets, and all other publick Places, that all Persons claiming any Liberties within the Forest, should appear there at a certain Day to shew what manner of Liberties they claimed.

This was called the *General Summons*: But it being found very inconvenient for those who lived out of the Forest, to appear at this Court upon such a General Summons, therefore it was remedied by this Statute.

But the chief Reason of this Charter was, that King H. 2. having converted the Lands and Woods of several of his Subjects into Forests, to which he had no manner of Title, and those Lands, &c. being afterwards restored to the right Owners, or their Heirs, and quite disforested; therefore it was provided by this Charter, that the Owners of such Lands, who formerly had lived within the Forest, might not appear at the Justice-Seat, now their Lands were no longer any part of the Forest; but all Persons who had any thing to do within the Forest, as well Spiritual as Temporal, were bound to appear upon this *General Summons*; and for not appearing, &c. the Abbot of *Westminster* was amerced, and so was one *Jeffery Lucy*, a great Lord.