

they were not so good as their words. The first of our Kings which gave life to those old Laws, was King *Henry* the Second, the first Grantor of the *Magna Charta*, which, notwithstanding, he did not keep so exactly, as to make it of any Strength or Consequence to bind his Heirs; but the Commons having once tasted the sweetness of it, they with the Lords in a long War against King *John*, extorted it from him by a strong hand, and had it confirm'd unto them at a place called *Running-Mead* near *Staines*, Anno 1215. confirm'd afterwards in more peaceable times by King *Henry* the Third, in the ninth Year of his Reign, but so that he and his Successors made bold with the Subject notwithstanding in these Money-matters, till the Statute *De Tallagio non concedendo* was pass'd by *Edward* of *Carnarvan*, eldest Son to King *Edward* the Third, (but I suppose he meant to *Edward* the First) at such time as his Father was beyond the Seas, in the War of *Flanders*; which being disallowed by the King at his coming home, seems to have been taken off the File, to the Intent it might not pass for a Law for the time to come; nor is it to be found now in the Records of the Tower amongst the Laws of that King's time, as are all the rest.

This is the Account given us by that learned Historian, both of the *Magna Charta* and of our Statute *De Tallagio*, &c. but before I make any particular answer to it, I cannot but observe what a mean Contrivance it was of those who designed to invade the Liberties of the People, that as soon as any Statute was made to confirm those Liberties, it was presently taken off the File, that it might not remain as a Record and pass into a Law.

But a Law it was notwithstanding the Record was taken away, as both *Magna Charta* and this Statute