

Statute were from the rest of the Records; and when the People stood up for their Liberties, a way was found out to confirm these Laws, and particularly *Magna Charta*; and that was by the *Inspeximus* of this very King, I mean *Edward*, the First, by which word it was signified, that the King had seen the Record, which he recited *verbatim*, and then he confirmed it.

But the Statute *De tallagio non concedendo*, though it was taken off the File, remains in force to this very day; and I do not find, notwithstanding what Dr. *Heylin* hath told us, that any of our Kings ever exercised such a Prerogative, as to impose a general Tax on the People, without their Consent in Parliament, but in the violent Reigns of the two *Williams*, the Father and the Son, and then the Taxes were laid on the *English*, and not on the *Normans*.

'Tis true, the Kings of *England* have taxed their Tenants in *Ancient Demesne*, without their Consent in Parliament, but this was not a general Tax of the People; besides, these Tenants were exempted from being taxed with the rest of the Nation in Parliament, because they were liable to give the King a Tallage, *ratione tenuræ*, whenever he had occasion for it; and this was accounted rather a Privilege than otherwise, because they were free from all other Taxes and Parliamentary Attendance, and were taxed much less than the rest of the People, in regard of their tilling the King's Lands for the maintenance of his Household; but when this reasonable Prerogative was abused, and the Exactions levied upon these Tenants became intollerable, then they would no longer pay, but got it remedied by this Statute *De tallagio, &c.*

So likewise the Tenants, who held of the King by Knights Service, taxed themselves out of Parliament: