

in Parliament; and 'tis not likely so wise a King as *Edward I.* would aggravate his Subjects, by dissenting to such a reasonable Law to restore them to their Liberties, especially when at the same time he was engaged in Wars against his Enemies abroad.

And though we are told by the aforesaid Doctor that notwithstanding *Magna Charta*, both King *John* himself, and some of his Successors, made bold with the People in Money-matters, until this Statute was made: He might as well have told us, that though we have several good Laws to secure our Properties, yet we very often meet with Men on the Road, who make bold with us in Money-matters, but certainly such boldness doth not make what they do lawful; but the Doctor had forgot the Rule, that *a facto ad jus non datur consequentia*.

And here it may not be improper to mention an attempt to raise Money without Consent of Parliament, in a late Reign, which was called *Ship-money*, (*i. e.*) Money raised only by the King's Proclamation to build Ships, and to provide Naval Stores for the Defence of the Nation, when in Danger; and the King was to be sole Judge of that Danger; and accordingly great Sums were levied on the Subjects, and those who refused to pay were committed without Bail, and no *Habeas Corpus* would be allowed to discharge them.

'Tis true, this Money was not squanderd away, but the *Royal-Sovereign*, a Ship well known by that Name, and some other Ships were built with it: And though the King was then engaged in a War with the House of *Austria*, to restore his Brother in Law to the *Palatinate*, which was his Inheritance, and this at the desire of the Parliament, from whom he could afterwards have no Assistance, and was therefore forced to make use of some exorbitant Methods