

now) still remains a City. *Coke 1 Instit. Sect. 164.* Boroughs are Towns Incorporated, but such as never had any Bishops,

*Of the Three Estates in Parliament.*

There has been a great Debate about the *Three Estates*, some zealously pleading, that the Bishops are one of the *Three Estates* of the Realm, and the Lords Temporal a Second, and the Commons House the Third, and the King over all as a Transcendent by himself: Others as stiffly deny this, and assign the King (as he is the Head of the Commonwealth) to be the first Estate, the Lords as well Spiritual as Temporal jointly to be the Second, and the Commons House the Third.

We shall not presume to undertake a Decision of this Controversy, but in our Opinion the Matter seems to appear more difficult than really it is, by means that the contending Parties do not first plainly set down what it is they severally mean by the word *Estate*. Which may be taken, 1. For a Rank, Degree, or Condition of Persons considered by themselves, different in some notable Respects from others wherewith they may be compared. And in this respect, my Lords the Bishops may very properly be said to be an Estate, or one of the Estates of the Realm; for then there will be several Estates, above the Number of three; for so in the House of Commons there may be said to be three Estates, viz. Knights, Citizens and Burgeses. And heretofore, in the days of Popery, when there were Twenty-six Abbots and Priors, that held *per Baroniam* too, as well as the Bishops, called to the Parliament, and sat in the Lords House. Whether they being Religious and Monastical Persons, whereas the Bishops were Seculars (no small difference in their account) might not as well claim to be