

Touching the Power of the Parliament.

THE Jurisdiction of this Court (saith Coke ¹ *Instit.* Sect. 164.) is so Transcendent, that it maketh, enlargeth, diminisheth, abrogateth, repealeth and reviveth Laws, Statutes, Acts and Ordinances, concerning Matters Ecclesiastical, Civil, Martial, Marine, Capital, Criminal and Common. And ⁴ *Instit.* Fol. 36. The Power and Jurisdiction of the Parliament for making of Laws in proceeding by Bill, is so transcendent and absolute, as it cannot be confined, either for Causes or Persons within any bounds. Of this Court it is truly said, If you regard its Original, it is most ancient; if its Dignity, it is most honourable; if its Jurisdiction, it is most capacious.

Sir Thomas Smith, a great Statesman, and in high Esteem and Place under Queen Elizabeth, in his Treatise, *de Republica Anglorum*, lib. 2. cap. 2. gives this Character of this supreme Court. The most high and absolute Power of the Realm of England consisteth in the Parliament; for the Parliament abrogateth old Laws, maketh new, giveth order for things past, and for things hereafter to be followed; changeth the Rights and Possessions of private Men; legitimateth Bastards, corroborates Religion with civil Sanctions, alters Weights and Measures; PRESCRIBES THE RIGHT OF SUCCESSION TO THE CROWN; Defines doubtful Rights, where there is no Law already made; appointeth Subsidies, Taxes and Impositions; giveth most free Pardons; restoreth in Blood and Name, &c.

As for the Power of Parliaments over both Statute and Common Law, take it in the accurate and significant Words of a Parliament, viz. the Statute