

tute of 25 H. 8. cap. 21. as follows, — *Whereas this Realm recognizing no Superiour under God but the King, hath been and is free from Subjection to any Man's Laws, but only to such as have been devised, made, and ordained within this Realm, for the Wealth thereof, or to such other as the People of this Realm have taken at their free Liberty, by their own Consent, to be used amongst them; and have bound themselves, by long Use and Custom, to the Observance of the same; not to the Observance of the Laws of any Foreign Prince, Potentate or Prelate, but as to the accustomed and ancient Laws of this Realm, originally established as Laws of the same by the said Sufferance, Consents and Custom, and none otherwise. It standeth therefore with natural Equity and good Reason, that all and every such Laws Humane, made within this Realm, or induced into this Realm, by the said Sufferance, Consents and Custom, the King, and the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, Representing the whole State of the Realm, in the most High Court of Parliament, have full Power and Authority to dispense with these and all other Human Laws of the Realm, and with every one of them, as the Quality of the Persons and Matter shall require. And also the said Laws, and every of them, to abrogate, annul, amplify, or diminish, as to King, Nobles, and Commons of the Realm, present in Parliament, shall seem most meet and convenient for the Wealth of the Realm.*

Thus far that notable Statute, which in Truth is only Declarative, and in Affirmance of the ancient Common Law of England.