

*weighty Matters in any Parliament moved concerning the Peers, and Commons in Parliament assembled, ought to be determined, adjudged and discussed by the Course of the Parliament, and not by the Civil Law, nor yet by the Common Laws of this Realm used in more Inferior Courts. Which was so declared to be, Secundum Legem & consuetudinem Parliamenti, according to the Law and Custom of Parliament, concerning Peers of this Realm, by the King, and all the Lords Spiritual and Temporal; and the like is for the Commons, for any thing moved or done in the House of Commons: And the rather, for that by another Law and Custom of Parliament, the King cannot take notice of any thing said or done in the House of Commons, but by the Report of the House: And every Member of the Parliament hath a Judicial place, and can be no Witness. And this is the Reason that Judges ought not to give any Opinion of a Matter of Parliament, because it is not to be decided by Common Law, but Secundum Legem & consuetudinem Parliamenti, according to the Law and Custom of Parliament: and so the Judges in diverse Parliaments have confessed. And some hold, that every Offence committed in any Court punishable by that Court, must be punished (proceeding Criminally) in the same Court, or in some higher, and not any Inferior Court, and the Court of Parliament hath no higher. Thus Coke.*

In the Reign of King Charles the Second, great Complaints was made, about the House of Commons sending for some Persons into Custody by their Serjeant at Arms; but certainly they did no more therein, than what their Predecessors have often done; every Court must be supposed armed with a Power to defend it self from Affronts and Insolencies: In all Ages, when the Houses has appointed particular Committees, hath it not been usual to order, that they shall be impower'd to send for Papers, Persons, and Records? But to bring Men