

shall only say, *That whoever is not fit to be chosen Knight of the Shire, is likewise unfit to be chosen a Burgess*: Neither let the more specious Pretences of any Man, that shall promise to build you a Town-Hall, or relieve the Poor with Money, or out of his adjacent Woods, or any such Good-morrows, deceive you; for if so, wherein are you wiser than your Horses, whom you catch every Day, and clap a Bridle into their Mouths, only by shewing them a few Oats, which they are never like to eat? Even the very Mice are too wise to be taken by an old Bait, but will first have the Trap new baited before they'll meddle: And yet I have known a Corporation which has been taken twice by the same Bait. But suppose these Men do really perform what they promise, what Compensation is that, if the same Men should lay a good swinging Tax upon your Estates, without a real Cause? Or should give up the very Power you have of Taxing your selves, or sending your Representatives in Parliament, (for one bad Parliament may ruin us) what Good would the Money for your Poor do in such a Case, more than, that when you are thereby reduced to Beggary, you might, perhaps, your selves (the Gentry of the Country having no reason to relieve you) be forc'd to come in for a small Share of this their Hypocritical Charity? An excellent Reward for a Knavish Folly. Neither say—*O! this is but one Man, and can have but one Vote, he will do our Town a great deal of Good, and can do us but little Hurt if he would, &c.* For 1. (as I told you before) one or two Voices have sometimes carried a Vote of great Importance. 2. You know not what Mischief your bad Example may do in other Corporations; and if all should do so, what a miserable Case would you be in, since the Voices of the Boroughs