

of Great Men, whom inferior Judges and Jurors (though they should not) would in respect of their Greatness, be afraid to offend; Bribery, Extortion, Maintenance, Champerty, Imbracery, Forgery, Perjury, Libelling, Challenges, Duels, &c. Their Proceedings were by *English Bill*, and Process under the Great Seal; and the Punishments by them inflicted, were *Fines, Imprisonment, Pillory, Cutting off Ears, &c.* But whatever Pretences there were for the setting up this Court at first, 'tis certain it was made use of as a Property of Arbitrary Power, to crush any whom the ruling Ministers and Favourites had a mind to destroy; and indeed there were three Things in the very Nature of this Court, which were destructive to the original Constitution of our *English Government* and Liberties. 1. They proceeded without *Juries*. 2. They pretended to a Power to examine Men upon their *Oaths*, touching Crimes by them supposed to be committed, which is contrary to all Law and Reason; For, No Man is bound to accuse himself. 3. The Judges of this Court proceeded by no known Law or Rules, but were left at Liberty to act arbitrarily, and according to their own Pleasures; whereas the Law of *England* hates to leave to any such, an unlimited Power, but as it marks out the several Species of Crimes, such or such an Act shall be Treason, this Felony, that Petty-Larceny, &c. So it awards certain and positive Punishment, proportionate to each of them. Therefore this Court being found a Grievance to the Subject, was by this Act dissolved and taken away.

And to the intent nothing of the like kind should by any other Name be practised for the future, it is declared and enacted, That the King and his Privy Council shall not question or dispose of the
Lands