

S E C T. I.

Of the Advantage Englishmen enjoy by this Trial by Juries, above any other Nations under Heaven.

IT is one of the miserable Follies of depraved Nature, that it commonly slights present Enjoyments, and rarely rates the good Things it possesses at their true value, till 'tis deprived of them. This grand Privilege of *Trials*, by our Country, that is, by *JURIES*, as it seems to have been as Ancient as the Government, or first Form of Policy in this Island, for it was not unknown to the ancient *Britains* (as appears by their Books and Monuments of Antiquity) practised by the *Saxons* and confirmed since the Invasion of the *Normans*, by *Magna Charta*, as you have heard, and continual Ulage; so it is a Thing of the highest Moment, and an essential Felicity, to all *English* Subjects. For look abroad in *France*, *Spain*, *Italy*, or, indeed, (almost) where you will, and observe the miserable Condition of the Inhabitants, either intirely subjected to the arbitrary Lusts of Tyrants, who Plunder, dismember or slay them, according as the Humour takes them, and many Times without the least Provocation, meerly for Sport, and to gratifie a savage Cruelty: Or at best, you will behold them under such Laws, as render their Lives, Liberties and Estates, liable to be disposed of, at the Discretion of Strangers appointed their Judges, most times mercenary, and Creatures of Prerogative; sometimes malicious and oppressive, and too often partial and corrupt. Or suppose them

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