

Years is further continued by the Statute 10 *Anna*, cap. 14. for eleven Years, &c.

An Attorney was turned over the Bar, for giving Directions to the Sheriff what Persons he would have returned.

S E C T. I.

Of Justices of Peace, their Original, their Office, and Power, &c.

THE word *Justice* bears in itself so plain and easie a definition, that 'tis not necessary to enter into any Harangue about it; but the Person wao is to administer this Justice had formerly many Appellations, tho' his Office was still the same; for at Common Law he was call'd a *Conservator* of the Peace; and by the Statute 1 *Edw.* 3. cap. 16. he is called a *Guardian* of the Peace.

There are different Opinions amongst learned Men concerning the time when Justices of Peace were first made; my Lord *Coke* tells us it was in the 6th Year of *Edw.* 1. but the learned Antiquary Sir *Henry Spelman*, was of another Opinion, (*viz.*) That they were constituted by *Edw.* 3. about the beginning of his Reign, in order to suppress those Tumults that might happen upon the Deposing of *Edw.* 2. at which time they had no judicial Authority; for their Power was only to examine and commit for a Breach of the Peace, as they saw Cause.

But in the 34th Year of that King, the Commons gave him Advice how the publick Peace might be better kept than at any time before, and that was by issuing out Commissions under the

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