

Shires, over and above the President, Council, Justices, and the King's Attorney and Solicitor, and that they shall be put in every Commission of the Peace in every of the twelve Shires.

But this Clause is repealed by the Statute 5. Will. cap. 4. and 'tis made lawful for the King, by Commission under the Great Seal, to appoint what number he thinks fit.

The Court of Quarter-Sessions being established as aforesaid, my Lord Coke commended it to be such a form of Subordinate Jurisdiction for the Quiet of the Realm, that if duly executed, the Christian World had not the like.

I shall not endeavour to disprove him, though 'tis plain, that in all Governments there are subordinate Ministers and Courts of that Nature; but with us these Magistrates have been so unsuitably appointed, that a Country Justice is made a Jest in Comedies, and his Character the Subject of Buffoonry and Laughter.

'Tis probable that upon the Consideration of these Statutes, made in the Reign of Ed. 3. and the great number of Justices of Peace in every County, and some of them, if not many, very unequal for the Office; a late ingenious Author was for reducing them pretty near the Original both in Quality and all other Respects; and that was by constituting eight *Honorary Justices* in every County who should be Men of the *first Quality* there, and not be obliged to attend the Sessions at any time, unless their Zeal to do Justice should incline them to be present; and that there should be eight acting Justices, who in every respect should be fit and qualified for the Office, and who should constantly attend it, and be entitled to a Reward for their pains.