

To the Right Honourable,

St. HENRY MOUNTAGUE, K^t.

Lord Chief Justice of the Pleas, holden before
the KINGS MAJESTY.

My Honourable good Lord.

AFTER I had spent many Years in the Study of the Laws of this Realm, and was called to the Ministration of *Justice* in my Country, I thought it not sufficient to apply my self only to the Precepts and Directions of former Times, but withal to observe such new Accidents as daily happened within my own Experience, whereby the better to perform the Duties of my Place. Whilst I thus endeavoured my self, I observed that *Justices* of Peace in their Places grew in neglect, and many times were over-swayed by Superiour Sollicitations, yea, and sometimes disgraced, in such sort, as I could have been content rather to have sat down in private quiet, than with Care, Study and Pains to incur such Hazards and Discontentments. But again, whilst I stood thus doubtful, it pleased the Fountain of Justice (I mean, His *Royal Majesty*) so to Countenance and Grace, yea, to shew His Majesties high Esteem of his Authority of *Justices* of Peace, not only (in his Majesties late Speech in the *Star-Chamber*.) prizing and valuing them with the nearest employed about him, but (to the great Honour of this Realm, and of the Government thereof) sithence also establishing this Country Government by *Justices* of Peace in His Majesties Native Country of *Scotland*; so as methought I saw the current of Justice to run clear and comfortably through the Land, and my self to receive new Vigour and Encouragement: whereupon I began to recollect my confused Notes and Observations, willing, for my private help and better readiness, to digest them into some Order and Method, such as my Understanding could best contrive. Thus prepared, I yet made question with my self, whether it were better to adventure the publishing of these my Labours, or to keep them by me only for my own private Use. In this unsettled Consultation, being brought unto your Lordship by my good Friend, (who also discovered to your Lordship this my Labour) and finding