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armal. in the Province) be a means of extending the Influence of
Government in such a manner as is supposed by the Plan you have
been pleased to communicate to your M^{ty}. The Truth is that most of
the Sheriffs think the Collection of the Quit Rents on the terms they
farm them at present a Burthen rather than a Benefit & if the Com-
mission allowed is hardly a Recompence for their Trouble it cannot be
worth any other Persons while to solicit those Contracts, I mean any Person
above the Common Clap (who could not be trusted) for I believe the
whole Amount of the Commission of 10 p^{ct} in some of the Counties full
short of £30 p^{ty} a Year; a Sum which I am confident most People that
can write tolerably & are at all acquainted with Business may in this County
get with much less Trouble & Application than is necessary in order to
collect the Quit Rents. 'Tis true that the Sheriffs have rather too much
Business on their hands at present being obliged to collect the Land Tax
as well as the Excise & other Duties but they will be discharged from that
in another Year & then the abovementioned Objection to their being required
to farm the Rents will no longer subsist. As to the proposal for bringing
the Sheriffs under such Regulation as that the whole Justice may be
appointed at once, I think such an Innovation or unusual Mode would
be impolitic for as the Sheriffs according to the Plan are to be then
appointed from among the Members of the Lower House or their near Rela-
tions, the Leaders in that House & those who are Enemies to the Govern-
ment would immediately discover the Intention of such a step & take the Al-
arm, whereupon a Bill would be immediately framed for disqualifying