

Laws of their Country, perfectly well, and who never fail'd to use their utmost Efforts, in Opposition to every Violation of that Law; that notwithstanding all they could do, themselves, and others, were insecure in their Lives, Liberties, and Properties; and Things were brought to such Extremities, that it became necessary, to confirm, and strengthen, the antient Rights by the *Legislative Authority*: And that, although That was frequently done, yet Oppressions were frequently renewed, and wicked Men in Power, always found Pretences, to oppress those, that would not abett, or would oppose their Crimes; and they have never wanted Instruments, to execute all their villainous and destructive Schemes.

LET us consider our own Circumstances, and enquire, Whether the Number, Ability, Interest, or Fortune, of our Patriots, bear any Proportion, to those that *England* has been blest with, in all Ages? Whether we are greater Lovers of Justice, and Equity, than other People, or have less Occasion for Laws, to restrain those that are unruly amongst us, and to secure and protect those that are peaceable, and innocent, than our Neighbours have? And whether Men of the greatest Authority, and Interest among us, may not have as strong Inclinations for Power, and Dominion, and of Lording it over their Inferiors, as we are told Great Men in other Parts of the World have? By a serious Consideration of these Things, we may be able, to form some Judgment, of the Condition we should be in, if we were to forfeit the Benefit of all the Laws, that have been made; I mean, the Statutes to declare the Subject's Right at the Common Law; and to establish, strengthen, and confirm, that Right. " If Men (says an ingenious Author) will be " great Knaves, in spite of Opposition; how much greater " would they be, if there were none. (*)

(*) *Cato's Letters*.