



P R E F A C E.

I *T would, now, be an unfashionable Doctrin, whatever the ancient Opinion might be, to affirm that the Constituent can bind his Representative by Instructions; but tho' the obligatory Force of these Instructions is not insisted upon, yet their persuasive Influence, in most Cases, may be; for a Representative, who should act against the explicit Recommendation of his Constituents, would most deservedly forfeit their Regard and all Pretension to their future Confidence.*

When it is under Deliberation, whether a new Law shall be Enacted, in which the Electors of England are interested, THEY have Notice of it, and an Opportunity of declaring their Sense—THEY may point out every dangerous Tendency, and are not restrained in their Representations, from shewing in the plainest Language, the Injustice or Oppression of it.

When a Law in it's Execution is found to be repugnant to the Genius of Liberty, or productive of Hardships or Inconvenience, THEY may also instruct their Deputies to exert Themselves in procuring a Repeal of it, and in the Exercise of this Right are not constrained to whine in the Style of humble Petitioners.—THEY are exposed to no Danger in explaining their Reasons—THEIR Situation does not become so delicate as to make it prudent, to weaken, by not urging them, with their full Force, and to their utmost Extent. But who are the Representatives of the Colonies? To whom shall THEY send their Instructions, when desirous to obtain the Repeal of a Law striking at the Root and Foundation of every Civil Right, should such an one take Place? Instructions to all the Members who compose the House of Commons would not be proper. To them the Application must be by Petition, in which an unreserved Style would, probably, be