

with the subject of our enquiry, and will in their proper places receive due notice. To close our explanation of socage tenure, it is to be observed that this is deemed to include under it all other methods of holding free lands by certain and invariable rents and duties :—Among these is *Petit Serjeanty*, which, as defined by Littleton, “ consists in holding lands of the King by the service of rendering to him “ annually some small implement of war, as a bow, a sword, “ a lance, an arrow, or the like.” It is possibly under this custom that Lord Baltimore was bound in acknowledgement for his grant of Maryland to deliver annually at the King’s Castle of Windsor “ *two Indian arrows of those parts.*” Services and rents are very much confounded with each other in all accounts of feudal customs, but as Lord Baltimore held by fealty in lieu of other services, and as the payment of two arrows is not a personal service, the render or “ yielding” of those implements ought probably to be considered as an annual rent. In like manner, the Proprietary, instead of a rent of real or adequate value, frequently subjected his tenants only to the annual render of some unimportant article, as, a bushel of corn, a capon, an Indian arrow, a buck’s foot, &c. This was, in both cases, holding by fealty and a fixed rent, which is among the most (a) usual of tenures in socage : In regard to the obligation of fealty, which signifies allegiance and fidelity to the Lord or grantor, it is to be observed that, according to a fundamental doctrine of the feudal Law, this supposes protection on his part, and on the same ground of reciprocal justice the Lord could not alienate his signory, and transfer to another the services due from his tenants, without their consent ; but, according to the ordinary course of things between the strong and the weak this restraint was not so effectual or permanent upon the Lords as were theirs upon their tenants. I have here given, as I presume an explanation of tenures sufficient for the end in view, which is to satisfy the curiosity, and in some small degree to enlighten the ideas of those landholders who are not in the way of learning from full and formal treatises the meaning of those terms which express the original tenure of their estates. The Gentlemen of the Law will readily conceive that I have not intended to instruct *them* and will view this attempt, in which a want of entire accuracy would be of little consequence, with indulgence.

I proceed now to what concerns the erection of Manors, for which purpose power was given to Lord Baltimore by the 19th article of the Charter which runs as follows.

(a) Others are by homage fealty, and rent ;—by homage and fealty without rent ;—by fealty and certain corporal service ; and by fealty only without any other service.