
The Epistle.

or meddling do not that good service therein which they are desirous to do. I have herein endeavoured to set down things so plainly and briefly as I could, with reference to the Statutes abridged, whereby the Reader may the better resolve and satisfy himself, what he ought to do in every particular almost that should come before him, or them, out of their general Sessions of the Peace. And yet for that in cases of Ambiguity, Satius est fontes petere quam sectari rivulos, I could wish all Justices of the Peace to have ready by them the Statutes at large, as well as the Abridgments, and to use this Book, or the Abridgments of the Statutes, as Tables and brief Memorials, but to trust and ground themselves upon the Books at large.

It resteth now only to intreat your Favors: and although I might rest confident by the honourable Patronage I have obtained of him, whose high Place and Presidency for matters of Justice and judicious Understanding drew me to covet the same, (and not a little besides induced, yea obliged thereto, in regard of the near alliance by Marriage into the honourable House of the Spencers;) yet withal I could not out of that duty and love which I owe to this Honourable Society, (my first breeder in the studies of the Law) and hope of your tender respect, to uphold the Credit of an affectionate Member of your Society; but be bold also to crave your farther countenance in these my Labours; and that you would be pleased to accept this loving remembrance as a thankful gratuity to you, to whom I must ever acknowledge my self deeply obliged, and ever to rest at all your Commands.

MICHAEL DALTON.