

ners; and which by Consent, and long Use, have obtained the Force of Laws.

The Statute Law, consists of such Acts of Parliament, as have been made from Time, to Time, by the whole Legislature; some of which, are declaratory, or alter the Common Law; I mean, such Part of it as consists of Usages, and Customs, that received their Force and Sanction from the Consent of the People; when those Usages, and Customs, have been mistaken, misapplied, or found to be unsuitable to the Order, and Engagements of Society, in order to make the whole Body of the Law, best answer the true End of all Laws, the Good and Safety of the People.

Some, have restored the People to the Rights, that were theirs, by the Common Law, (which contained nothing inconsistent with General Liberty and Property,) and which ill Men, had at Times, invaded, and infringed; and have made New Barriers, (if I may so speak,) to prevent future Infringements

P. 4 of the like Nature; and paved out a certain, determinate Path, for every Subject, suffering Violence, and Oppression, to be remedied; And taken Care to make it the Interest as well as it ever was, and ever must be, the indispensable Duty of the Magistrate, to allow the Subject, the Benefit of the Law; by rendering the Magistrate himself punishable, if he should neglect, so essential a Part of his Duty.

Some Statutes, are Introductory of new Laws, which may be divided, into such as are by the Words, or Subject Matter of them, of general Use and Extent; such as are more confined; and such, as are made for particular Ends, and Purposes. I shall have Occasion to treat of the first of These, only.

This Law, of England, is the Subject's Birth-Right, and best Inheritance; and to it, may be justly applied, what the great Oracle of the Law, the Lord Coke, saith of the Common Law. "Of Common Right, that is, by the Common Law; so called, because this Common Law, is the best and most Common Birth-Right, that the Subject hath, for the Safeguard and Defence, not only of his Goods, Lands, and Revenues; but of his Wife, and Children, his Body, Fame, and Life, also.

(1) 'Tis this Law, that will effectually secure every Honest Man, who has the Benefit of it, in his Life, the Enjoyment of his Liberty, and the Fruits of his Industry. 'Tis by Virtue of this Law, that a British Subject, may with Courage, and Freedom, tell the most daring, and powerful Oppressor, that He must not injure him, with Impunity. This Law, uprightly and honestly applied, and administered,