

itself, particularly regard the sovereign. He is the depository of the empire, and of the power of commanding whatever relates to the public welfare; he ought, therefore as a tender and wise father, and as a faithful administrator, to watch for the nation, to take care of preserving it, to render it more perfect, to better its state, and to secure it as much as he is able, from every thing that threatens its safety or its happiness. From thence he receives all the rights of a nation, to preserve and improve itself; all these rights reside in the sovereign, who is therefore indifferently called the conductor of the society, superior, prince, &c.

“The sovereign ought to be well acquainted with the nation he is to govern, since he is to watch over its preservation and perfection. The Duty which the law of nature here imposes on the conductors of nations, is of extreme importance, and of very great extent. They ought to know exactly all the countries subject to their authority, their qualities, defects, advantages, and situation with regard to the neighbouring states; and they ought to obtain a perfect knowledge of the manners and inclinations of their people, their virtues, vices, talents, &c. All these branches of knowledge are necessary to enable them to govern properly.

“The prince derives his authority from the nation; and it is exactly equal to what they have intrusted him with. If the nation has strictly and simply invested him with the sovereignty, without limitation, or division, he is supposed to be invested with all the prerogatives, without which the sovereign command and authority could not be exerted in the manner most conducive to the public welfare. These are called *regal prerogatives*, or the *prerogatives of majesty*.

(To be continued.)

N E W S.

L O N D O N, May 19.

They write from Portsmouth, that an additional number of carpenters, riggers, &c. are now employed in his Majesty's arsenals and yards, to forward the repairs of several men of war and naval stores, which are ordered to be got ready with the utmost expedition. This, together with the number of ships already in commission, and other beneficial regulations, has made the commercial affairs of Portsmouth

wear a better appearance than is usually to be found in times of peace.

May 27. Before the unfortunate Mr. Sampson received judgment, he addressed the Court as follows:

My Lords,

“After having voluntarily pleaded guilty, I humbly wait to receive Sentence of the Law. Great as my Crime is, his Majesty's Mercy is still greater; and if in my past Conduct any Circumstances have happily happened, by which I have (under God) been the Means of saving the Lives of any of his Majesty's Subjects (and with Truth I can say that I have saved above 200 from perishing) I hope those Circumstances will, in some Measure, recommend me, a truly sincere Penitent, to his royal Mercy; and if it shall be his gracious pleasure to save that forfeited Life, which before had been the Means of saving many others, the Remainder of it shall be spent in a Manner becoming the Situation of one sensible of that inestimable Blessing. My Lords, I applied to the Court last Sessions to put off my Tryal, in order that I might be able to lay many favourable Circumstances before this Court, that might incline your Lordships to Mercy; but being advised that those Circumstances were more proper to be laid before his Royal Majesty, I confessed that Guilt, which in Conscience I could not deny. Your Lordships are men, you feel as men, and, perhaps, may now feel Compassion for an unhappy Youth truly Penitent, and not yet twenty Years of Age. Permit me, my Lords, to add, that if your Lordships, who are now proceeding according to strict Law, shall be pleased to render me any compassionate Services, that Obligation to myself and my worthy Relations (now involved in my Sufferings, but not in my Guilt) will never be forgotten. But my Lords, if after all, the bitter Cup of Justice is not to be removed from me, I humbly submit to thy will, O God, in whom I trust.”

June 5. On Sunday Night, at near Eleven o'Clock, one of his Majesty's Messengers, dispatched from the Secretary of State's Office, came to Newgate, and brought a Respite, during the King's Pleasure, for Michael Sampson, who on his own Confession was convicted of Forgery, and received Sentence of Death, at the last Session at the old Bailey, and was one included in the Death Warrant, to suffer with the other seven Malefactors To-morrow.

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