

making *them adequate compensation*, it will not be contended that it could possibly have any *right*, under any *law* either *human* or *divine*, to confirm unlawful acts, which *devoted* the lives of several thousands of its *innocent and faithful* subjects, on any account or upon any pretence whatsoever. If it could not obtain a repeal of such laws, it certainly ought not, by any means whatever, to have given its sanction to them. Indeed, this was an act so fundamentally wrong, that it is impossible to suppose his *Majesty*, whose paternal affection for his people is so well known, or that the two Houses of Parliament, whose honour and justice have ever remained un sullied, would have approved of it, *however urgent the public necessity*, had not their minds been impressed with the most firm and immutable resolution to make the most *ample and complete* reparation for it.

C H A P. V.

Of the Usage and Precedents of Parliament, under the fundamental Laws of the British State.

WE have seen in the preceding chapters, that the Sovereigns of every State have held themselves bound by the laws of civil society never to abandon the protection of the subject in their *greatest extremities*; that even when they have been under the necessity to give up a part of their dominions to save the remainder, the property of the subject has been still an object of their utmost protection and care: that in all cases where it could be done, it has been reserved by treaty and restored to the owner; and where the nature and issue of the war have not admitted of such restitution, the *usage* founded on the LAW has been, to indemnify the private sufferer out of the public revenue, and by that means to divide and distribute the burthen equally and justly among those whose protection and safety have been purchased by the sacrifice. This being the universal practice of States, it would be strange were there not precedents of it in the administration of the govern-

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