

To the HONOURABLE
The Commons of Great Britain, in
Parliament Assembled.

The CASE of *Thomas Fuson*, Rector of
Wansted, in *Essex*, *William Hatton*, and
John Brooks, his Servants, and *Richard
Spencer*, Day-Labourer, touching a Com-
plaint made to this Honourable House on
Monday February 17 ;

*That they have in a forcible Manner entered upon Part of
the Possessions of the Right Honourable Richard Viscount
Castlemain (a Member of the House) at Wansted, and
have Cut down a Fence, and Committed Spoil there in
Breach of the Privilege of the House.*

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT the Church-yard of *Wansted* is fenced on the West End,
and on Part of the South Side, by a Hedge of white Thorns, hav-
ing an Oak and several Elm Trees in the midst of the Hedge, and a
Ditch on the Outside thereof. It is not known when any of the
said Trees were planted ; but they and the Hedge were always esteemed to
belong to the Rector for the Time being.

THAT Lord *Castlemain's* Servants have long since cut and grubbed up
the Hedges adjoining to the *Fence*, (supposed to be the Foundation of this
Complaint) to clear and open a View from his Lordship's new House ; but
his Lordship's Servants never attempted to cut down or lop this *Fence*,
without first obtaining Leave from Mr. *Pound* the late Rector for that Purpose.

THAT Mr. *Fuson* observing that the white Thorns in the said *Fence*
were decaying, and being advised that *Lopping* would be for the Preservation
and Improvement of the said *Fence*, did, about the Middle of *January* last,
order the said Thorns to be *Lopped*, at his own Expence, for the Purpose
only aforesaid, not imagining that his Lordship would be offended thereby ;
for he never heard that his Lordship claimed any Right to the said *Fence*, till
Service of an Order of the Committee of Privileges and Elections on him,
(so late as *Wednesday* last) for hearing the Matter of this Complaint on *Mon-
day* the 24th of *February* Instant.

THAT the *Lops* of the said white Thorns being at present no Advan-
tage to the said Mr. *Fuson*, but an Expence, (he having applyed them only
to the Improvement of the Parsonage) and tending manifestly to the Preser-
vation of the said *Fence*, he humbly hopes, that the *Lopping* ~~only~~ *of his own Fence*
will not be construed to be cutting down a Fence and committing Spoil, in
Breach of a Privilege of a House.
Which he humbly submits to the Consideration of this
Honourable House.

*This was heard before the Committee Feb 26: 17²⁹ & the said Cutting
down the Fence voted a Breach of Privilege. Ayes 119: Noes 42.*

