That your Lordship may know what progress I am making in the important object. I have in hand, that take the liberty of broubling your Lordship with a lost of Report, in a short way, of what I am doing. your Lordship remembers, that I proposed an district should be carried out of the country of Mida hing, I kent, containing the whole Metropolis except the city of London; and then, that a separate emph of the peace should the for that district, out of which the County justices though be exchides, ho' he historis for the district should be in the conflue for these countries. It was then proposed that seven Offices should be apprinted in this side the water, I one on the other; in ach to be three Parties, to be paid by government on the plan of Bow stock; and that the longh for this district should contain hefe 24 Instruit, and about 30, or 40 more, who though he chiper from the most respectable persons, who would afrist volunterily, & gratis, I might be trained, perhaps, to succeed to any vacancies among the 24. This was the first idea of a plan for getting

rid of all exceptionable magistrates, and preventing hytice and wish Longor being made a low, & disty truspic. But, on considerating iven it was seen, that much reliem Sopposition might be excited by of he so material a change in the Compa of the peace, for three Count he ! and it was wished to compass the same end, in some different have way. Now it has been suggested, that he same effect would be they produced, more easily, & quite as completely, in this way: To don crack, that no bytice within the above district should take any am fee; then to put a stamp-duty expon summons' warrants, surg lone , rejunces be amounting to the sum which, in the prepart practice to . es paid in feet, for issung be. of those papers; let a reparate non account be kept of the produce of these itamps, and then a gran, pay made to each of the eight offices, of that produce. Thus, as no Instices would make any gain, but those in these offices, hi the byines of the magistracy would receptarily Remain in these ha hands, where the government, and of course, where the public had wo fu In this regulation, your Lordship will see, that I admit these two positions; first, that hackeck should be put on the accept to a higher's office, but, secondly, that the accept tel to it should till be paid for. Therefore, my Lord, while we

any wish to semore such persons as abuse the power of a justice by derates giving encouragement to brils, & squattly among the tower took ed to of people, it is highly receptary that the doors of magistrates that lound be still open to complainants, and that when all reasonable pains tesent have been tuken to compose, & restrain the litigeous, without effect, the they should have their warrants, their bail & te - as hereto fore. For we must be apared, that the sevenge which the law puts into a many hands, in this crantry, prevents these stoody retaliations any we fee in others. I gain; it seems responsible, that the accept 2000 ractic to a magnitrate thould be open without a fee. It is a common faying, that the expense of law suits is the price we te pay for our liberty; and, it may be truely said, that the fee 2 gran of a justice of peace are the price the sulgar pay for their , as becation ref. In thost, without mentioning that these secoples would viey, hardly have an opinion of the law, which work them nothing, it ofe. would be concly to let them loofe, without this obeck on their had funy; and till more to to the magnitude; who would not have Mas a moments peace the whole day. It is for these reasons, that I think the intime also. puf lition of fey, as some gentlemen propose, would be as impolitic, he hurtful, Vois conary.

when the whole of this subject, and am obliged to him for the above plan about the fees, in the place of the separate longen It we had in view. I spent three hours, he other morns with the I Recorder, who expressed great satisfaction, that government were so sensing upon this subject. He has it very much at heart himself and hay, for some time, been penning down such hints as were Jurnished by his experience in this part of his office. Plather very fully with him about Recievers, which seem to have ingry. et much of his attention; Some of these Phase minuted down, & others we are to talk further upon. These I shall have the konor of communicating to your Lordship in my next. I mentioned The subject to Mr. Mainwaring, the Mairman, whose afristance of have great reliance upon, but there not get had any conversation with him. another gentleman, was readily contributes his afrestance is Mr. hilrester, the loursel, who has long been in great practice at the Het Bailey; as I have more opportunities of seeing this gentleman, Jostener confer with him than any one. Other gentlemen, whom I have expectations from,

are Mr. Tyle, deputy blesh of the peace to the telfy & the Regardly Elech of the wraigns at the Old Bailey; with thefe two gouthenen There approximents to mest, at an early day. To all thefe, I should add, the last, not least, a Mr. John Clarke, one of the officers belonging to Bow stock; who is a very old reveal to the Public, and is considered in a very respectable light, in his thehing, Mr. Bond, who is more known in the world, than the other, has not yet fallen en my way; but I have tay, I shall, mader the unction of It lampson, have the like confidential communicating from hom, that I have already had, from Mr. Clarke. This, my Lord, is the course lam pursuing; not to spin out visionary theories, ofset my own, but by thepeat - and canvair, and enquiry to bring into one point the experisence of those, who alone are intimately acquainted with this subject, my intention is, that the fruits of this enquiry shall be put into a discourse, where the defects of the prefent

14thm, and the intended reform of them, should be spoken you

fully, with the reasons & objections on all ride; that this should

be insmitted to the above gentlemen, as well as fome others, who have the same sort of experience; so that, what is trough finishly before your Lordship should carry with it the incurren of those who may be thought best able to fortyne a right judgment of it. and this may be done without waiting till the whole is completed, but as soon as any of the parts are trought to mature? In the mean while, I shall take the liberty of communicating to your Lordship, occasionally, the progress I am making, in order that your Lordship may be apprired of the nature of the intended reform, previous to its coming before you finally, in the shape of a formal discourse. I have the honor to be, with great thanky, My Lord, your Lordings. most obliged lumble from Thank Place John Reeves

4 th now. 04.

onghi umen umen in is I am nh,

W. Person log

AUTOGRAPH LETTER TO REEVES (JOHN) LORD SYDNEY. 6 pp. sm.4to. My Lord, That your Lordship may know what progress I am making in the important object I have in hand, I shall take the liberty of troubling your Lordship with a sort of Report, in a short way, of what I am doing. Your Lordship remembers, that I proposed a district should be carved out of the counties of Midx., Surrey, and Kent, containing the whole Metropolis except the city of London; and then, that a separate Comss. of the peace should be excluded, tho' the Justices for the district should be in the Comss. for those counties. It was then proposed that seven officers should be appointed on this side of the water, and one on the other; in each to be three Justices to be paid by government on the plan of Bow Street; and that the Comss. for this district should contain these 24 Justices and about 30, or 40 more, who should be chosen from the most respectable persons, who would assist involuntarily and gratis and might be training, perhaps, to succeed to any vacancies among the 24. This was the first idea of a plan for getting rid of all exceptionable magistrates, and presenting Justices any longer being made a low and dirty traffic. But, in consideration it was seen, that much odium and opposition might

be excited by so material a change in the Comss. of the peace, for three counties and it was wished to compass the same end, in some different way. Now it has been suggested, that the same effect would be produced more easily, and quite as completely, in this way: to exact, that no Justice withinthe above district should take any fee; then to put a stamp-duty upon summons' warrants, recognisances &c. amounting to the sum which, in the present practice, is paid in fees for issuing &c. of those papers, let a separate account be kept of the produce of these stamps, and then a grant made to each of the eight officers, of that produce. Thus, as no Justices would make any gain, but those in these offices, the business of the Magistracy would necessarily remain in those hands, where the government and of course where the public had confidence.

Inthis regulation, your Lordship will see that I admit these two positions; first, that ho check should be put on the access to a Justice's office, but secondly, that the access to it should still be paid for. Therefore, My Lord while we wish to remove such persons as abuse the power of a justice; by giving encouragement to cribs and squabbling among the lower sort of people, it is highly necessary that the doors of magistrates should be still open to complaints and that when all reasonable pains have been taken to compose and restrain the without effect, they should have their warrants, their bait &c. &c. as heretofore.

For we must be assured, that the revenge which the law

puts into a mem's hands, in this country, prevents those bloody retaliations we see in others. Again, it seems reasonable, that the access to a magistrate should not be open without a fee. It is a common saying, that the expence of law suits is the price we pay for our liberty; and it may be truely said, that the fees of a justice of peace are the price the vulgar pay for their licentious—ness. In short, without mentioning that these people would hardly have an opinion of the law which cost them nothing, it would be cruelty to let them loose, without this check on their fury; and still more so to the magistrates, who would not have a moment's peace the whole day.

It is for these reasons, that I think the entire absolution of fees, as some gentleman propose, would be impolitic, hurtful, and visionary.

I I have had several conversations with <u>Sr. Sampson Wright</u> upon the whole of this subject, and am obliged to him for the above plan about the fees, in the place of the separate Comssn. we had in view. I spent three hours the other morning with the <u>Recorder</u>, who expressed great satisfaction that government were so serious upon the subject. He has it very much at heart himself, and has, for some time, been penning down such hints as were furnished by his experience in this part of his office. I talked very fully with him, about <u>Receivers</u>, which seem to have engaged much of his attention. Some of these hints I have minuted down, and others we are to talk further upon. These I shall have the honor of communicating to your Lordship in my next. I mentioned the subject to <u>Mr. Mainwaring</u>, the Chairman, whose assistance I have

great reliance upon, but I have not yet had any conversation with him. Another gentleman, who readily contributes his assistance is Mr. Silvester, the Counsel, who has long been in great practice at the Old Bailey; as I have more opportunities of seeing this gentleman, I oftener confer with him than with any one.

Other gentlemen whom I have expectations from, are Mr. Eyles deputy Clerk of the peace to Mr. Selby and Mr. Reynolds Clerk of the arraigns at the Old Bailey; with these two gentlemen I have appointments to meet, at an early day. To all these, I should add "tho' last, not least," a Mr. John Clarke, one of the officers belonging to Bow Street; who is a very old servant to the Public, and is considered in a very respectable light in his station;

Mr. Bond, who is more known on the world than the other, has not yet fallen in my way; but I dare say I shall, under the saction of Br. Bampson, have the like confidential communications from him, that I have already had from Mr. Clarke.

This, my Lord, is the course I am pursuing; not to open out visionary theories, of my own, but by repeated canvass, and enquiry to bring into one point the experience of those, who alone are intimately acquainted with this subject; my intention is, that the fruitsof this enquiry shall be put into a discourse, where the defects of all the present system, and the intended reform of them, should be spoken upon fully, with the reasons and objections on all sides; that this should be submitted to the above gentlemen, as well as some others, who have the same sort of experience, so that what is brought finally before your Lordship should carry with it the concurrence of those who may be

1, thought best able to form a right judgment of it. And this may be done without waiting till the whole is completed, but as soon as any of the parts are brought to maturity. In the meanwhile, I shall take the liberty of communicating to your Lordship, occasionally, the progress I am making, in order that your Lordship may be apprised of the nature of the intended reform, previous ot its coming before you finally, in the shape of a formal discourse. I have the honor to be, with great thanks, My Lord, your Lordship's Most obliged humble Servt JOHN REEVES. Thanet Place.

4th Nov^T 84.