

**ON THE NOBILITY OF THE BRITISH  
GENTRY, OR, THE POLITICAL  
RANKS AND DIGNITIES OF THE  
BRITISH EMPIRE**

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On the Nobility of the British Gentry, or, the Political Ranks and Dignities of the British Empire  
by James Lawrence

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**JAMES LAWRENCE**

**ON THE NOBILITY OF THE BRITISH  
GENTRY, OR, THE POLITICAL  
RANKS AND DIGNITIES OF THE  
BRITISH EMPIRE**



ON THE NOBILITY  
OF  
THE BRITISH GENTRY,  
OR THE  
POLITICAL RANKS AND DIGNITIES  
Of the British Empire,

COMPARED WITH THOSE ON THE CONTINENT  
FOR THE USE OF FOREIGNERS IN GREAT BRITAIN, AND  
OF BRITONS ABROAD ;

PARTICULARLY OF THOSE WHO DESIRE TO BE PRESENTED AT FOREIGN  
COURTS, TO ACCEPT FOREIGN MILITARY SERVICE, TO BE INVESTED  
WITH FOREIGN TITLES, TO BE ADMITTED INTO FOREIGN ORDERS, TO  
PURCHASE FOREIGN PROPERTY, OR TO INTERMARRY WITH FO-  
REIGNERS.

Nobles sunt qui arma gentilitia antecessorum suorum proferre  
possunt. COKE UPON LITTLETON.

BY SIR JAMES LAWRENCE,  
KNIGHT OF MALTA.

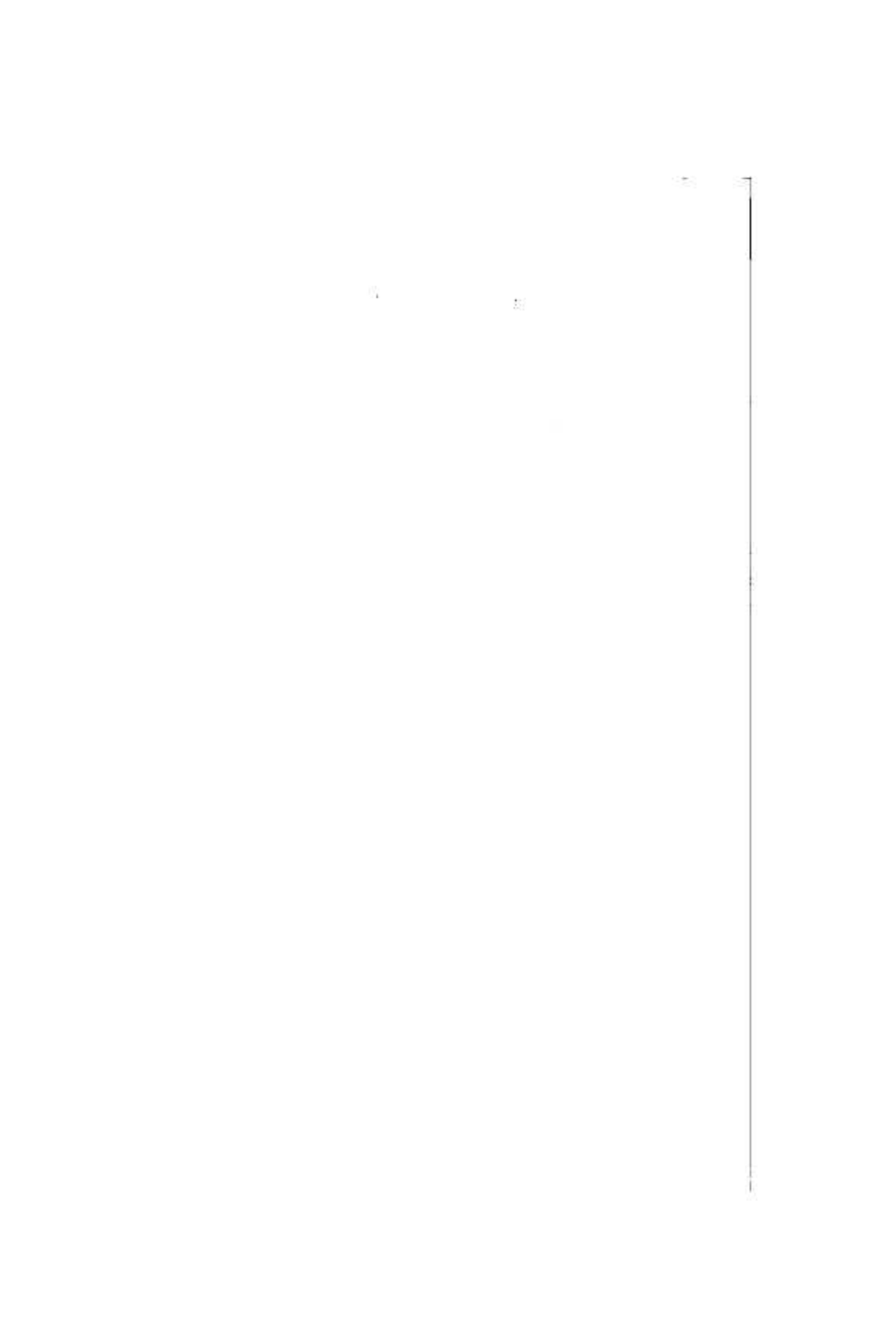
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TO  
THE GENTLEMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN,  
WHETHER  
PEERS, BARONETS, KNIGHTS OR ESQUIRES,  
THE COUNTRYMEN OF SIR PHILIP SIDNEY,  
AND  
THE TRUE NOBILITY OF THE EMPIRE,  
THIS WORK IS INSCRIBED.

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ON THE  
NOBILITY OF  
THE BRITISH GENTRY,  
ETC. ETC.

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It has been asserted by envy or ignorance, that the peers are the only nobility in the British empire. This assertion has been repeated on the Continent, and particularly in France, by those who wish to inculcate the inutility of the ancient noblesse. This assertion, however unfounded, has done injury to individuals, and is derogatory to the honor not only of the gentry, but of the peers themselves; for the gentry being the nursery-garden from which the peers are usually transplanted, if the peers were to date their nobility from the elevation of their