our Civil Rights, and to enſlave our Conſciences.

It was the Unhappineſs of the Chriſtian Church to continue uncorrupt but a ſhort Time, and after a few Centuries to be polluted with falſe Doctrines and ſuperſtitious Practices, by the help of which, and a Succeſſion of many dark Ages, the *Romiſh* Prelate found Means to aggrandize himſelf, aſſuming the Style and Title of Chriſt's Vicar General upon Earth, boaſting of an infallible Spirit and an uncontrollable Power, and claiming an univerſal Juriſdiction over all the Principalities, the Kingdoms and Empires of the World.

And this uſurped Authority was ſo imperiouſly executed, its Encroachments became at length ſo exorbitant, and its Tyranny ſo inſufferable, that in the 16th Century ſeveral Kingdoms and States, for the Reformation of Religion and the reſcuing their Civil Rights, were obliged to throw off the Yoke of his pretended Holineſs, to renounce his Juriſdiction, and aſſert their own Independency in all Cauſes, as well Eccleſiaſtical as Civil.

From which Time a cruel Spirit of Revenge has with implacable Hatred purſued the