

PROPOSAL

BY

WILLIAM FORBES Advocat, A. M.

M After William Forbes Advocat, in Pursuance of a Design to write *A Complete Body of the Law of Scotland, containing the Harmony thereof, with, and Differences from the Civil and Feudal Laws; and shewing how far the Scots and English Law, do Agree and Differ; with Incident Comparative Views of the Modern Constitutions of other Nations in Europe; Having endeavoured to clear up the Dark and Untraced Subjects of the Scots Law by Three distinct Books already published, viz. A Methodical Treatise concerning Bills of Exchange; another Intituled, A Treatise of Church-Lands and Tithes; and a Third Intituled The Duty and Powers of Justices of Peace in this Part of Great Britain called Scotland, in Two Parts, whereof the first Treats of their Power by Act of Parliament, and the Council Proclamation in the Year 1707, The Second shews what they may, and should do, in consequence of the Extension of their Powers by the late Statute of the Parliament of Great Britain, together with the Relative Duty and Powers of Constables, Sheriffs, Stewarts, Lords of Regality, Baillies of Regality and Royalty, and Explains the Conformity and Differences betwixt the Scots Law, and that of England, in so far as concerns the Subjects Treated of. And having Sessionly since February 1705, Observed and Collected the Decisions of the Lords of Session, under the Title of The Journal of the Session; He is Resolved, if Incouraged by the Government, not only to make up those Decisions wanting *ab ante* from December 1681, where the Viscount of Stair left off, down to the Commencement of his own Journal: But also is designed to Handle The Consistorial, Maritime, and Criminal Parts of Law, by way of distinct Treatises; And then to set about the Grand Work of Compiling *A Complete Body of the Law of SCOTLAND.**

Since the Happy UNION of the Two Kingdoms into One MONARCHY, such *A Complete Body of the Law of SCOTLAND*, as is Proposed, may now be justly Reckoned among the *Desiderata*, or Things that are wanting, towards Settling and Maintaining a fair Understanding and Correspondence betwixt the Judicatures in North and South Britain, and for facilitating the Dispatch of Justice; In which Judges, and Persons of all Ranks will find their Account.

An earnest Desire to Serve these Good Ends in some measure, and not any Ambition or Design to appear more Learned than others, doth lead Mr. Forbes to set his Shoulders to this Vast Undertaking, which those of more Approved Abilities, would not, perhaps, find Leisure to Compass, and go through with.