

their proceedings, and gives out Contracts of the orders of few  
choice Curators of the Library, for purchasing the plate thence  
from time to time, and for ordering books to be bought one of  
which goes off yearly in course; nine private and six publick  
examinators, for trying the qualifications and sufficiency  
of Inhabitants & vocalists. The Faculty of Doctors at MacLaren, Glasgow,  
the first Tuesday of January when the session is sitting, at the  
time they choose their annual officers. Namely the Deany, the  
treasurer, the Clerk, a Curator of the Library in whose  
of him that goes off next year, and the publick and private  
Examinators of Inhabitants; but the Deans, Treasurer, and Clerks  
frequently continued.

## Sect. 3.

The Clerks belonging to the sessions.

Clerks called in France <sup>magistris</sup> they is Lord are officers of Justice  
whose business is to write down what is dictated or pronounced  
by the judges, and to be Depositaries of the Decrees sent from other  
parts of Court which are to be performed. Of these they  
give out Extracts or Exemptions signed by them to the  
parties or others having interest therein. At which shall have  
Copies carry along with them the proof of their truth, &  
ought to write exactly and faithfully what is pronounced or  
dictated by the judges. For all that they write should be  
verified by the judges who sign it. Yet the Judges sometimes  
misaken alteration of words or Expressions may carry  
being taken notice off by such judges as happen to be there  
not very clear sighted, or not very attentive. It is a duty in  
common on them to be carefull in preserving the records  
whilst they con tinue in their hands, and till removed  
from their office into the Publick Archives, where they  
to remain for ever. They are to be guilty of no Manner  
of Extortion, and to be contented with their ordinary fees.

Clerks belonging to the sessions are the Clerk Register  
or Lord Register, and the Clerks under him viz. Clerk  
properly called Clerks of Session principal and their  
deputies; a Clerk or keeper of the minute book, and the  
Clerk to the Commission of Halls.

## Sect. 1.

The Clerk or Lord Register  
and, who keeps all the records, and the he has his own  
office only shewing the Kings pleasure, grants Commission  
for life. He names not only the principal Clerks of Session

Session and Bills, Clerk to the Minute book, and Clerk to the Rec-  
quisition of Notaries, but also keeper of the General Register  
of Pleas, Decessions &c. And of course, the Clerks of Session, and the  
keepers of the particular Registers of Pleas in every their place  
of Registry, Regality or Parliament in Scotland, and general to those  
keepers signed books for Recording such works.

## Book 2.

## The Clerks of Session.

At the institution of the College of Justice there were  
but one Clerk of Session, called Bishop of the Council, act 13 Edw. 6.  
who was chosen per Pleas out of the writers to be keeper  
of Session office on Oct 5. 1360. Thereafter there were two  
Clerks of Session, to whom 14 Decemb 1399 a third was added,  
which last Clerk, as had three distinct offices. From Many Years  
there were no distinct Clerk of the Justiciary, where the two  
Clerks did officiate severally, or in their several parts. The Lord  
Clerk did officiate over Siries, or in their severall parts, he was  
in the Year 1621 at the earnest desire of the Earl of Kellie, caused  
a Common Clerk into each office, to make knowne of a part  
of the burden of their labours. And least the Number  
of Clerks should increase, it was declared by an Appropria-  
ted Act of Parliament  
that there should not be  
more than three in the session; & id. Notwithstanding whereof  
in the Year 1661 two Clerks were presented to each of the  
three offices by Sir Richard Tribe, late Clerk of the Session  
But 20 June 1676 the Lord upon a Letter from King Charles  
the second restricted these Clerks to three, and ordered the  
three allowed to continue in office to pay leave themselves  
men to those turned out. Which Letter Sir George  
Lord to Name their Clerks in time coming, and ordained  
the Clerk Register to give Deputations to them from  
time to time; without prejudice to the Clerk Register or  
all other benefit and Entailment belonging to depending  
upon that office. But by a publick quent letter from the King  
instituted among the acts of Edwar. 16 June 1680 which  
sanctified the nomination of the Clerks of Session to  
have been always inherent in and depending on the  
office of Clerk Register, his Majesty empowered Sir the  
said Murray of Glendochart Clerk Register of that County  
during his Employment of the said office solely to nominate  
and