

The Lord High Chancellor of England (who hath been called Keeper of the Great Seal) could not be made a Peer, till the 22d of Henry 8th. And the Lord High Treasurer, who was distinguished from that office and the patent of a Peer, was not made a Peer, till the 22d of Henry 8th. 338.

The Officers of State (so called because in all Meetings concerning the State as in Parliaments Conventions &c. they sat as Members by Virtue of their Offices) before the Union of Scotland and England were in Number eight Whose of four were called the great, and four the lesser Officers of State. All which Officers of State were appointed by the King by Commissions Under the Great Seal.

sect. 1.

The four great Officers of State.

These were the Lord high Chancellor, Lord high Treasurer, Lord Privy Seal, and the Lord Secretary.

The Lord high Chancellor, summus Regis Cancellarius, is the Chief Officer of State. Whether this Name comes a Comelle from his power to cancell or cross out letters patent from the King if found Amist when perished by him in Virtue of his office as some think Spelman Glossary or because he cancelled or annulled the sentences of other courts as others imagine; or because he usually he sat to examine Matters in a Cancellor in a charnel or inclosed place surrounded with Cross latticed grates or Bars to defend him from the Press of the people according to others, Cassid. or Variar. lib. 11 Epist. 6. This great Officer appears to have been very Ancient in Scotland Leg. Malcolm. 2 cap. 2 and Derived his Authority by Commission Under the Great Seal, which used to pass the privy seal also, because the Lord Chancellor had the Custody of the Great Seal himself, G. Crawford lives of the Chancellors of Scotland pag. 2. We some times had Lord Chancellors here for the King's use. The Lord Chancellor was the head of Justice, presiding in all foreign courts Act 1557. 1 Parli. Ch. 2 except the Exchequer, the court of Justice, and the high court of Admiralty We never observe on do act hand took place Next to the Princess of the blood. Bishop Burnet (Bishop of King Charles 2) tells us, that Archbishop Sharp was

at London in the Year 1663 Moved that a Letter might be writ by the King giving him power one of the Lord Chancellor, which was thought an inexcusable piece of Vanity. The thing was accordingly ordered, and as I am well informed the Arch Bishop did at Edinburgh when he came down to Scotland, take place and Rank of the Earl of Glencairn then Chancellor. The George Crawford ibid. pag. says that was ordered to bring us to a conformity to the English precedency, and that Doctor Sharp was modest in the point and Declined either to claim or Urge it at that time. But that preference was never afterwards yielded by the Chancellor to him or any other Arch Bishop of St. Andrews. The Lord Chancellor was Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland. But in former times we had frequently in Scotland a Lord Chancellor and a Lord Keeper of the Great Seal who were distinct persons, Crawford ibid. The Chancellor of Scotland had right to the Great Seal, whereof the Director was his Clerk: The now the Director of the Chancery is appointed by the Kings Commission Under the Great Seal, and has Right to the profits of the office. The Lord Chancellor had always attending him two Gentlemen going bareheaded before him, with Badges of his office, viz. the Purple Bearer who walked Next to him carrying a large Crimson Velvet purse having the Royal Arms in very rich Embroidery of gold and silver; and the Mass Bearer who carried a large Massie silver Mass Richly gilted. He had the power of calling and adjourning the Courts of privy council, and in the Interval of an adjournment, if occasion required, could convene the privy Council. The Books of Enrollment for the Inner house of the Court of session were kept by one Clerk of the Lord Chancellor Act of Regulation 1672 art. 5. But since the Year 1714 we had only a Lord Keeper of the Great Seal that is a Seal. And since the Union in place of the Great Seal of Scotland which it all that remains here of the Office of Lord Chancellor; the Keeper of this Seal has a Deputy Under him who gives constant Attendance and Appends it to such writs as are sent patched and