

Registered at the Chancery

The Lord high treasurer is by act of privy council in the year 1623 Declared the second officer of state, who took place of all the Nobility Next to the Lord high Chancellor, the law is provided only pag. 37. As a badge of his office he carried a white rod in his hand, and had a Mace carried before him. He presided in the Exchequer even when the Chancellor was present, by Virtue of a Statute from King Charles 2. to his privy council of 1663, that the former had Right by Law to preside in all public Judicatures Act 1. Sess. 1. Parl. 1. Ch. 2. Because the Exchequer was considered as the Kings Chamberlain court in which the treasurer was chiefly intrusted and Unforsable, than a public Judicature. But this pretence was groundless, being, the Exchequer was Declared to be a Judicature, Act 14 Parl. 1. Ch. 1 and the latter afore said was provided, when the Earl of R. that then Lord Treasurer was rising in favour, and the Interest of the Earl of Gloucestre the Chancellor began to sink at court. Which for George Makenzie (observ. on ch. Act 1. Parl. 1. Ch. 2) Records an Instance of the Kings Innate power to Dispense with Acts of parliament relating only to the Government and his own service. The Lord high Treasurer was Mainly Concerned in the care and oversight of his Majesties Revenues and the business it belonged to him to recover all the Rents, Customs and Casualties of what ever Nature payable to the King, and to Appoint Chamberlains and Under Receivers. The Receivers of all the public Money were Accountable to him, who Debursed the same and ordered the payment of the Army and Garrison and pensions fees salaries and other due out of the publick Money.

The old office of Comptroller (called in the Ancient Records Rotulator) was annexed to the treasurers functions. This was an office of so great trust and Import, having necessarily so many Dependants, that our princes frequently thought fit rather than lodge it in one single person, to appoint it to be discharged by a select Number Commissioned by the King, termed Commissioners of treasury. The high treasurer or Commissioners of treasury and treasurer Deputes, being Accountable for their Intromissions and Management, the King Granted Commissions to certain Noblemen, Gentlemen, officers of state, Senators of the College of Justice and privy Councillors, to call them to Account, and to Audit and Discharge their Accounts. A servant to the treasurer or Commissioners of treasury was the Cash keeper and General Receiver, who Uplifted all the publick Money from the Collectors and Under Receivers, and paid it as he was ordered. We had no Lord high Treasurer in Scotland, till the Reign of King James the first. The Duties of his office having before that time been Discharged by the Lord Chamberlain, Cranford lives of the Officers of the Crown and state pag. 252. 355. But that wise prince, after he was released from his long Confinement in England, judging to Modifie his Court according to the English Constitution, he instituted the office of a Lord high Treasurer. Sir Walter Ogilvie of Linlothian son to Sir Walter Ogilvie of Auchterhouse, was made Lord high Treasurer in the year 1425 and he was the first who Enjoyed that Dignity in Scotland. After a series of 35 Lord high Treasurers upon the Death of George Earl of Dunbar, the last of that Number in the year 1611 the treasury was put into Commission, and the Administration of the Royal Revenues committed to Alexander Earl of Dunfermling Lord Chancellor, Sir Alexander Hay Secretary, Sir John Innes Lord President of the Session, Sir Thomas Hamilton Lord Advocate, Dr Spaldwood Arch Bishop