

for Common Affairs to Make by Statutes and Regulations Agreeable to the publick Law Approved by the Governour and what Relates to the Policy and good use of every Trade and handy Craft. For the observance of which they send one or more yearly, a wise cunning man of their Number called their Deacon: who calls together the Incorporation when there is Occasion for it, and with the assistance of other learned Wardens or Visitors, Inspects the work of the City, if it is such as it ought to be; binds the Unfreemen to work, and sees that all the Rules of the Company be duly observed, and is empowered to punish offenders. There is a Box for the Common Cash of the Incorporation arising from the dues paid by Apprentices, compositions of Tradesmen for their Entry, fines of Delinquents, Mortifications by benefactors to the Trade &c. out of which the poor of the Trade or poor Widows and Children of freemen Decayed are Maintained, for receiving Expences and Lending out that Money by order of the Community, a Treasurer, called the Box Master is Appointed by the Incorporation. l. 1. § 4. quod civ. Univ. Nov. l. 4. de Colleg. Incorporat. the particular Crafts have their Deacons; so there is one chosen by the whole Incorporation of Artificers who calls and holds Meetings of all the Crafts for Maintaining and keeping up their Common Policy and Privileges who has the Name of Deacon Bonvener.

Deacons were at first appointed in the Year 1424 Act 29 Parl. 2. J. 1. But were one and again Discontinued and suppressed by the Parliament, as tending to Sedition Viz. in the Year 1426 when Wardens of Crafts, so called quasi guardians chosen by the Council of the Burgh were set up within their Room Act 26 Parl. 6. Act 103 Parl. 7. J. 1. And in the Year 1555 when Visitors of Crafts in place of Deacons were Appointed Act 52 Parl. 6. J. 1. In the Year 1556 about the time of the Reformation, Queen Mary strengthened the

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the Popish party by Engaging all Trades men to adhere to it, Disposed with those Laws Relating to Government as were introduced in the Sovereigns favour, and Restored the Policy by Deacons, whom by a special grant to the Craftsmen of Edinburgh she allowed to be chosen as necessary in towns. Since which time each of the ordinary Crafts had its Deacon confirmed by Parliament whensoever observ. on Act 36 Parl. 6. J. 1. Except Maltmen who were Discharged to have Deacons Act 29 Parl. 2. J. 6. Act 103 Parl. 7. J. 1. Because at their Meetings they might conspire to set a price on the Beer at their pleasure, and oblige Gentlemen to sell at any Rates. But several towns have no Deacons, and some of those who have them, have only Deacons of some kind of Trade. And tho' all Burghs may have Deacons, yet every Burgh is not obliged to have them, except where the good of the Community requires it 20 Feb. 1679. 20 January 1681. Grades of Burghs contra the Magistrates. Burghs of 3000 may authorise and suppress a stronger or stronger using new words in their calling in Edinburgh, all the Magistrates of Burghs in Anno 1683 there being a Difference between the Magistrates and the Grades of Edinburgh about their Interests in the Magistracy, both submitted to the Arbitrament of King James 6, who by Advice of some States men and Lawyers for the time, gave his Decree Arbitral commonly called the *Scott*, by which he determined 14 Crafts only to have power to Choose Deacons, of which Deacons six and two other Crafts men should be upon the ordinary Council of the Burgh, and the whole 14 Deacons be called in Matters of Extraordinary Importance, as the Election of Magistrates setting of Taxes, building of publick works Disposing of the Common Stock above such a sum &c. The Deacons Annually chosen by their respective Crafts out of a list of three persons given in to them by the said town Council. Some of these Incorporations assumed other Homogenial Crafts into their fraternity, who Vote in all their Concerns and are Capable to be Elected Deacons of the whole Incorporation, whether Associated before 15 Decem. 1676 Wright and Masons of Edinburgh contra Conyer Bonvener &c. or after 27 January 1676 contra