

A  
Great Body of the Law of Scotland  
containing

the Harmony thereof with, and Differences  
from the Civil and Criminal Laws; and shewing  
how far the Scots and English Law do agree and  
differ; with incident comparative Signs of the modern  
Constitutions of other Nations in Europe.

Vol. I.

Comprehending the  
Private Law.

Preliminary Dissertation.  
concerning

Law in general, and the several Kinds of it; as the  
Divine, Natural and Positive Laws, Humane Law of Nations,  
and Civil Laws; the civil Law of the old Romans, the  
Canon and Feudal Laws, are the Municipal Law of Scot-  
land, and how that Law is raised, founded on and influ-  
enced by those other Laws.

There is no Term of which Men have a more confused and com-  
mon Apprehension than that of Law.

Law is taken in a twofold Sense,<sup>1</sup> for the Command or Precept  
of a Supreme Power, obliging Subjects to act or not to act under  
a Penalty. <sup>2</sup> for a Science or Collection of such Precepts.

Chap. I.  
Of Law considered as the command of sovereign  
Power.

Law in this sense may be divided with respect to its efficient Cause,  
or different Authors, into Divine, and Humane.

[1] The Divine Law is either Natural, or Positive,  
[2] By the Law of Nature I don't understand those Dictates which  
Nature, that is god the Author of Nature hath taught all living  
Creatures: as the copulation of Male and Female, Generation and  
Education.