

Upon that which is lost in war, may God remember?

Nothing can be more agreeable to natural Equity, than that such as have been
for ever made prisoners of war, when they find means to escape out of their Enemies:
to transport back into their own Country, and are under no obligations to them, should not only
by their former Quality and State in the Commonwealth; but also to restore
to all their Rights Goods and Fortunes. If we look no further than the Law
of Nations, nothing taken in War from Enemies can be justly claimed by
those from whom the Enemies won it By the Right of war, St. Grot. & J. B. lib.
lib. 3 cap. 6 § 7. But it is to be observed, that the Right to acquisitions in War
is of force only against any third Disinterested party. For so much as
conqueror or an absolute Right of property that will hold good against the
conquered, the latter must needs ^{rendomise} their possessions by a pacification and
agreement with the former: otherwise the Right is supposed so far to continu-
in the old proprietor, that when ever he finds himself strong enough, he
may justly struggle to recover it, puf. 2d. lib. 8 cap. 20. Things which are movable
or immovable, taken from the Enemy, and retaken during the war, either by
our friends or by our subjects or soldiers, should in all justice and according to
the ancient proprietors. For since the Commonwealth is engaged to defend &
secure the subjects as far as possible in their Goods and properties; there lies
the same obligation upon the publick to take care that what is taken from them
be restored. And 'tis no exception, that such Goods were received by their
enemies: seeing those are only the hands of the Commonwealth, and acquire
to it whatever they win by their swords bander Muslon Comm. in Grot. lib. 3
cap. 9. puf. 2d. lib. 8 cap. 6 § 25. Therefore David having recovered from his Enemies
the spoil of Ziklag, restored to every man his own, 1 Sam. 30. 23. 24. By
the Civil Law, when the Matter of Sea Capture was not well ascertained, as
it came afterwards to be by the Law of Nations when Commerce increased,
was at Roshibus capta statim frumenta in 17 Inst. offerid. Nov. 22.
it at this day every where agreed upon, what Goods or other things taken by the
Enemy become the property of the captors, so as if retaken by Allies or Friends
they

They should not be resold to the former owners, but sold under a lawful prize. 3^o by 169
Law of some European Nations, particularly that of France, any of their subjects taken
from their enemies, within 24 hours in their hands and goods, &c. 4^o by 169
constitutions of the Dutch and other Nations, ships and other things received from
the enemy before they are brought into port in the harbour, that is, within the English
ports or harbours or place where their fleet meets, unless there is no hope of their
being resold, ought to be restored to the owners, Henry, Lib. 3. cap. C 3. fo. 2 et seq.
Sect. Milit. cap. C. 1. 2. 3. Wall. 19 June. 1713. Book 1. chapt. 8. 7. 11. Grand prize
clerk who took a Scottish ship, valued a quantity of goods out of her, and sold them
shipper of some quinsas, and also got a handsome price having continued upon the
coast of this Kingdom, till taken there a shorter often days after by the commander of
one of his Majesties ships of war within the bounds of his cruise, who recovered
the money and goods aforesaid. The said goods (quinsas and ransom) money more found
still to belong to the persons from whom his prizeman took the same, and his captor
had a resolution to them 13 February 1713 & 16 February 1713. Stuart and others
contra Collar. Because what ever articles might be sold by the captors, yet none
of them so recovered by our sovereigns own subjects were liable to a common interest in
weakening the enemy and preserving their own right by the Rule of Prizes only,
is to be understood done for the benefit of the true owners. Again, whatever private
captors who fail upon their own charges, might have to say for themselves; The
commanders of his Majesties ships of war (who are maintained by the publick
and fit out for a safeguard to the persons and goods of the state they belong to, for
to protect their trade) must restore to the owners what they recover from the
enemy. And this captain was more particularly bound to resolution, because he was
specially commissioned by the Admiralty board to protect the Scottish coast, and prevent
the enemies making seizure thither. And it was unreasonable for him to prof-
it to make benefit of the subject of his trust. It was alledged for the Captain 1^o
that there is a difference between Goods found aboard a prizeman and Money: for
that Money being a fungible, it is impossible to distinguish what species belong'd to
the prizeman, and what to the person pillaged. 2^o The Money and Goods given to
the prizeman by way of Ransom could not be restored, because agreements for Ransom
are lawful Transactions, whereby the property of things given in Ransom becomes the
prizeman's immediately, and want not to be declared prizes by any court of Admiralty
when carried intra præsidia, as other Goods do. Both Lawyers and Captains agreed
that such practices with Enemies ought to be observed and fulfilled, even after a
peace, unless expressly discharged by the Treaty. The Ransom being absolute
scarcely to the ships ransomed against all the enemies ships as well as for that received
the Ransom, and the purfunders having had the Benefit thereof; the Ransom, which is the
price of ship and Goods, did belong to the prizeman by the Rule of a mutual Contract.
3^o By the Statute of Anna cap. 13 All prizes taken by the sovereigns ships of war, or
prizemans solely belong to the Takers, without being further accountable for the same, &
which Allegations for the Captain were rejected in respect of the following answers. 1^o
To take off the Insinuation, that Money is not fungible, and so perisheth upon payment, it was
offered to be proved, that the individual species of Gold partly pillaged and partly paid to the
prizeman, were retained from him; And its having been once in the Captain of the prizeman,
youth cannot be a ground to hinder restoration to the owner. 2^o The Ransom falls to be restored
because the purfunder consented thereto only rebus sic stantibus. And as Goods thrown over
with consent of the owners in a storm, if broken up by others, or cast ashore, must be
restored to them: So the purfunder consented to the Ransom as minus Malum, but not
meritorily, or absolutely, so as they might not recover suretys for what was thus transferred
in a case of necessity. Had the Captain of the prizeman instead of present payment, taken a
hostage like a Ransom Bill had been deserved, the receipture of the prizeman with the
hostage aboard would have excused the purfunder from payment. 3^o The Statute cited, does
not give the Captain of the prizeman a right to demand payment, but only to receive it.