

pro tanto 27 January 1669 Bell of Belford contra Lady Rutherford. A Wife cannot in her Husband's Lifetime renounce all alienate or transact for her Feme of Lands of which her Husband dies intest. Because then she hath no Right to a Feme Craig fid. 6.12. viventis, the disallowed in the civil Law is allowed with us vid. infra p. Whatever be at t<sup>e</sup> this a Wife may slante matrimonio take Land in Satisfaction of her Feme.

## 2. Of Courtesy.

The Courtesy of Scotland (curialitas Scotiae called in England the Courtesy of England) is a legal Right which the Husband of an Heire<sup>t</sup> has to where Lands and Hereditages she diec intest in; if there was a Child of the Marriage cry or weep Reg. majest. Lib. 2. cap. 58. §. 1. Leg. Burg. Cap. 44. This legal Right is peculiar to Britain (Feme de verb. sig. verb. curialitas) and takes place nowhere else that I know except it be observed as Craig about (Feud Lib. 2. Tit. 22. §. 13) in Normandy. It was introduced here by our common Law or ancient Custom, as an honest Mean of Subsistence to the Husband the Reasons because Fathers by the civil Law had the Usufruct of any ventitious Estate falling to their Children as Heirs to their Mother §. 1. And per quas personas cuig. acquir. l. ult. C. de bon. qui libet. Craig fid. Law requires that the Child be heirdory, as the surest Token of its being ripe and come to Maturity. For a stillborn Child is not considered to have had any Existence in the World L. 129. ff. de verb. signif. That the Child was heirdory may be proved even by Women Witnesses. Feme fid. Craig fid. vers. competit autem stat Lib. 2. Tit. 6. §. 19. vobis. The Original of this Liferent. Because Men are seldom present at the Birth of Children. The Courtesy is effectual to the Husband tho the Child should die immediately after it was heirdory, and before the Mother Feme fid. Craig fid. Stair fid. For the Child h[ab]c ipso by his Birth is his apparent to his Mother, tho he was born before the Time and could not live. But there will be no Courtesy tho the Marriage should last many Years, unless there be a ripe Child born. Feme fid. Whereas the Wife has a Feme, either the Marriage continue Year and Day undissolved or if there be a Child heirdory, tho gotten and born before the Marriage, seeing it is legitimate tho however short time the Marriage endure. (§)

A Second Husband has good Right as the first to a Courtesy. Feme fid. Stair fid. Which Craig (fid. vers. Nec interest virua) will have to take place tho there be Children of the former Marriage living. But it was found that a Second Husband cannot have the Courtesy, where his Wife hath an Heir of the first Marriage surviving December 1702 Darlichton contra Campbell. Because the Courtesy falls to the Father thro his Child's being apparent Heir of the Fee. And if it were otherwise, a fourth or fifth Husband might claim the Liferent by Courtesy of his Wife's whole Estate, and none of her Chil-

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dren of the former Marriages get any thing. A Husband hath Right to his Courtesy ipso jure mariti summarily without Service or payment, as he may dispose, and remove Tenants, &c. Whereas it were as consti-  
~~lute by Service and Hennings. And if such a Man was held in reparation law-  
ful Husband to such an Heire, without any Question about his Viria it  
her in her Lifetime he will have Right to the Courtesy till her Marriage be  
declared null. Arg. Act 47. Par. 6. f. 4. McKenzie Observ. on d. Act 47.~~

Craig (ibid. vers. Nec interest) and the Lord Stair (ibid. 9. 14. pr.) are of opinion, that the Husband's Courtesy extends to all his Wife's Hereditages whether Ward Fee or Burgage. And so it seems to have formerly obtained 19 January 1636. Murray contra Watson. But the Lord more lately gives no Courtesy in Burgage Lands 16 June 1715 Gordon contra Clerk. John. Feme fidejussion in her right to be in the same manner as in Ward or Linen, &c. or Provision before receiving the Husband's right in it at which are acquired by singular title 22 June 1719 Inglan contra a certain Feme fid. Craig fid. V. s. Nec interest. Viz. 15 July 1611. wife, mother & cur-  
sor. If the payment to a Woman per præstationem habuit illis, is when a Man in left his Daughter and apparent Heir reserving his own Liferent with power to dispose, will afford a Courtesy Stair fid. Ibid. Where in his title. Because his wife is not thereby His wife, and such an Estate is not real nor hereditary but Conquest; yet she is his passive, and there is more reason that his Husband should enjoy his Liferent of his Estate, than it is that he, even thence, heir of provision or curtesy, whereby failing her and her issue, others not nearest of blood to her might probably succeed. Not her Heir of curtesy reigns with more Acquaintance her Husband's Liferent by the Courtesy, than his own Children his Heir of Lin to her Father, could controul his Liferent in the same manner as was in left by her Father or other Predecessor to whom she was apparent Heir.

Liferenters by the Courtesy may elect and be elected Commissioners for Shires or Stewartries to the Parliament or a Convention of Estates. Act 21. Par. 3. Ch. 2.

A Husband possessing his Wife's Lands by the Courtesy, is liable to pay the current Annuities of her personal as well as real Estate, to the Value of the Rents he enjoyed by the Courtesy 3 January 1716 Anna Montalt contra her nearest of Kin and Creditors. Because a Husband both not only enjoys a Life-rent of his Wife's inheritance, but also any Honour and Dignity of the Family belonging to her and hath Seat in Parliament and all other Privileges that would have belonged to her had she been a Man. So that he who represents his Wife's Family, should in Reason and Equity leave it to he got it. And if it were not so the Estate might be snatched by Diligences for personal debts. Hence Sir John Feme (Annot. in cap. 3. Lib. 2. Reg. Majest.) calls the Courtesy, forma cuiusdam quasi Successionis a kind of Succession, and not a proper Succession, because it subjects the Husband to the Payment of all current yearly Burdens, only where there is no other Fund or Dower out of which or by whom the same may be paid.