Seed time and Harvest.

Before the Year 1636 the court of session was held in a place called the Tolbooth, which is above that Room where now the court of Justiciary sits. But since that time it hath been held in a stately house then built, called the session house, and Commonly the Parliament house because the Parliament of Scotland did sit there. This Noble fabrick consists of an Inner and Outter house.

The Inner house is a large square Room, to which the Lords Enter thro' a waiting Room on the North side, where they, the Advocates, and Principal Clerks, put on their gowns. Every Lord hath a [illegible] Box standing upon a table in this waiting Room from two till four in the Afternoon, and upon the penult day of the session [illegible] [illegible] wherein all who have Informations [illegible] to petitions to offer, may put them in by a slit in the Cover [illegible] of Sedt. 29 Novemb. 1690 & 2 June 1691 which ease the the Lords of the trouble of going to the Lords Lodgings with their papers [illegible] gives less occasion for sollicitation. Each of the Inner House Clerks has also such a Box set out there at the same time, wherein are put the papers Relating to causes he is Clerk to, that he may have time to Consider them with the process to which they Relate, [illegible] of Sedt. 1 July 1709. The Lords Ordinary & Extraordinary vested with Robes, the former with Robes of purple faced with Scarlet, [illegible] the latter with

Sit in the inner house in a body at a Semicircular Bench in the form of an amphitheatre, and are served by six principal Clerks [illegible] black gowns sitting at the table before them, whereat also the Lord Register sits, when he thinks fit to attend, in his gown. The Bar at which the Advocates stand and plead like a Diameter line opposite to the Bench. Before the Union no person of what quality ever was permitted to come within this Bar, during the time of Debating causes except his Majesties Advocate, the Clerks of Session, Clerk of the Bills and his deputy, and one Macer. But now since the Union all Noblemen are priviledged to sit there Covered, that is, all Peers of Scotland or England, for Irish Peers have no such priviledge. At the East Corner of the Inner house a Lord sitts [illegible] on the Bills at a table Attended by the Clerk of the Bills or his Deputy. Two doors at the west side of this house open to the Outter house. By the southern door of Communication, the ordinary Lords and the Clerks do pass and Repass; and by the other Communication door, Advocates and parties Concerned go to and from the Inner house Bar as they have Occasion.

In the Middle of the south side of the Outter house, at a little distance from the Wall, there is an high bench Erected where the Lord ordinary of that house for the time sits, and is served by Six Under Clerks wanting Gowns, called Clerks of



the Outter house seated at a long table before him. In a Desk adjoining to this Bench on the left hand the Clerk or keeper of the Minute Book sits and Marks what is done. Opposite to the Bench there is a Bar called the fore Bar (with Respect to ~~two~~ less Conspicuous called the side Bars) where the Advocates plead. Behind the fore Bar and the Clerks table, there is a void passage where parties and witnesses come in to Make faith called the innermost bar of the Outter house. Within which no person is allowed to Enter or stay, except the Kings Advocate and sollicitor, and one servant appointed by his Majesties advocate, upon pain of paying half a Dollar toties quoties to the poors Box, which the Macers are to Exact or to be liable for themselves Act of Sedt. 6 November 1690. At the East and west sides of this fore Bar, there are several Gradual Rows or forms where the servants of Advocates sit. Behind the fore bar there is a large [illegible] [illegible] where the Advocates attend till they are called to plead, [illegible] with Rails & seats to which they enter by a Common [illegible] on the North side thereof kept by a publick servant of the [illegible] [illegible] Advocates wearing a Black Gown and Carrying a Brass Baton Mounted with silver Bars in his hands, but lets none enter but Advocates, writers to the signet, or persons of Note. In the East side of this Area ~~a stair leading up to a Loft in the Inner House whence persons may hear and see what passeth there. Between which stair and the first door opening to the Inner House stands the new Bench or Bar; and on t'other side of the said door is the side Bar, within which there is also a place for the ordinary upon the Bills.~~ [illegible] Above the Area on the West side, there is a high place where the Outter house Clerks intimate at twelve o'clock every session day [illegible] After the Lords rise, deliverances on bills &c. And where the Minute book is read, Act of Sedt. 3 Novemb. 1671.

His Majesties Advocate has a Chair within every one of the Bars both in the Inner and Outter house where he sits as he has occasion, and pleads always with his hat on, tho other Advocates plead [illegible] uncovered.

In treating of the court of session, I shall first speak of the persons of whom it is Composed Immediately; and then of the offices and officers Relative and subservient to it.

The persons Directly Constituting the session, are the Judges, advocates, Clerks, Macers, ~~and~~ keepers of the Rolls, and Agents. -

Tit. 1.

Of Judges in the session.

By the Constitution, the Judges of the session, stiled senators of the Colledge of Justice, or Lords of Councill and session, for that they are vested with the whole Authority and powers of the old session and daily councill, did at first consist of fourteen ordinary Lords half spirituall and half temporall, with an Ecclesiastical Prelate as President, besides the Chancellor