Depriving them of their office of Writers to the Signet. The writers are also accountable to the Lords of Session for any wrong step in the exercise of their office. Thus a Demur to the signet was, for signing a Caption upon a Demurrer not Executed before taking of the days of the Charge, for which by the Lords in 20 pound Sterling of Damages to the party injured by that precipitate Diligence 28 Novemb. 1710 contra Fullertoun. Because he was in culpa lata to sign a Caption without examining the Charge and Demurrer which were his warrant.

The Depute Keeper of the Signet, in absence of the Keeper presides at Meetings of the writers, and takes upon him to call to what is done. They have a Fiscal whose office is to Motion, every one do his duty and to cause cite Delinquents to appear before the Commissioners, a Clerk, treasurer and an officer who Warns the Parties to General Meetings or other meetings according to his orders. The said Keeper and Commissioners upon the 1st of November Yearly Name and appoint five Cautioners Honourable to be Examinators of Candidates for the office of writer to the Signet for the succeeding Year, place of three to be a quorum and Appoint one Commissioner to be procurator Fiscal for that Year which Examinators and Procurator Fiscal are their Assistants.

Extract writers to the signet should be of good fame and Education, and such as have served at least three Years by writer to the Signet, who are sufficiently qualified as Candidates if they have served their Apprentice three Years, whether with or without Indentures. They obtain first a Commission from the Keeper and then Apply for their trial to the Keeper and Commissioners, who Remit them to the Examinators in order to be tried in the writers Hall at least five days after. Where they must be Examined by three at least of the Examinators in presence of the Keeper and other Commissioners, who may also put such questions to the Candidate as they think fit to Be qualified after trial of their knowledge in the art, are admitted by the Keeper and Commissioners, and get an Act of Admission Delivered to them upon taking Oath de fideli, and Signing the Rules and Constitutions of the Society which they are bound Punctually to observe. Candidates for the office of writer to the signet may be examined and admitted either in the time of Session or Vacation, but must pay to the Treasurer of the Society a certain sum for the use of their poor and Report the Treasurers Discharge thereof before they can be allowed to enter upon their trial. Act of the writers to the Signet July 1722 Years.

The Signet office is a house belonging to the writers to the Signet, is kept open in session time from Nine to twelve in the forenoon, and from two to seven the afternoon, and on Saturday from ten till twelve and from two till four; except on Monday when it opens not either in Session or Vacation but two and shuts at four in the afternoon, and Saturday when it is open only in the forenoon.

Sect. 2.

The Great Seal.

The public seals in Scotland are that use to be appended to Grants from the Sovereign as Endowed as Charters upon such as procure signatures from the Sovereign by subscription or by Concealing the truth or Suppressing what is false which may be Stopped upon full ground of any of those Seals.

Charters of Lands are rights, and at Commissions not to be Granted by statute to passed by the Union passed under the Great Seal kept by the Lord Chancellor of Scotland, and now fines the Union passed under a Seal Affix in place of the Great Seal. Which may be Appended to Charters of Lands in Leaves of Parchment as formerly or by way of Book in Leaves in the Margin Act 4 Parl. 2 Sess. 3 Ch. 2. Where the custody of this Seal is committed to some Honourable person appointed by the King during pleasure, subject to any order from Council from time to time.

Sect. 3

The Quarter Seal & Privy Seal.

The Quarter Seal is a part of the great Seal, is appended to writs of Form of Right to that Seal Appointed to writs of Form of Right to that Seal passed the Great Seal and is therefore called the testimonial of the Great Seal. But the proceeds of Infeftment passed the quarter Seal, they must now for saving the necessary trouble and Expence be ingrossed in the Quarter passing the Great Seal, Act 4 Parl. 2 Sess. 3 Ch. 2.

The Privy Seal is used for precepts for Charters to be granted under the Great Seal, and to all private Rights granted by the King or writs which passes other Rights of Imperial Dignities, Dukedoms, Marquisates, Earldoms, Baronies, Baronetcies, Marriages, Bastardy, Ultimus Haeres and Escheat, Bar sinister, Marriages, Legitimations, as those of Master Mason, Master Wright, Master Taylor &c. but not gifts of Offices of the Crown, Dallas Styles page 183. The Custody thereof belongs to the Lord Privy Seal who has a Depute Attending all ways to Seal this Seal to writs passing under it. It may be affixed to such as are writ either on a broad Skin of parchment or by way of Book in Leaves of parchment upon a lie or bond going through all the Leaves in the Margin Act 4 Parl. 2 Sess. 3 Ch. 2. There is also a Writer or Clerk to the Privy Seal deriving his Commission from