

in both houses and had not the Royal Assent to them, may fall, and at the Reassembling of the parliament if brought in again, begin a new. When the parliament is dissolved without any Act or Judgement passed, it is no session, but a ~~Constitution~~ Convention Code, J. 110 a.

It was formerly appointed, that a parliament should be holden once in three Years at Least, and should not continue longer than three Years from the day on which by the writs it was appointed to Meet 6 W. 3. M. cap. 2 because frequent and New Parliaments tended very Much to the happy Union and Good agreement of the King and people. But that Regulation having proved Grievous and Burdensome by occasioning Great Expences in order to Election of Members, and violent and lasting heats Among the Subjects and being of dangerous Consequence to the peace and security of the Government in case of an Invasion from Abroad, the Continuance of a Parliament was enlarged to seven Years from the day on which by the writ of Summons it is appointed to Meet, unless it be sooner dissolved by the Sovereign 1 G. 1. cap. 38 § 1.

To prevent tumults and Confusions that might happen upon the Sovereigns death, it is provided by Law, that a parliament sitting at the Kings Demise, may continue to Meet for six Months, unless sooner prorogued or dissolved by the successor to the Crown; and a Parliament then under Adjournment or prorogation, or if there be no parliament in being the last preceding parliament may Meet Immediately and continue to Meet at aforesaid. And if such Parliament shall be prorogued by the successor to the Crown, it may Meet and sit upon the Day to which it is prorogued, and continue for the Residue of the said six Months unless the same be sooner prorogued or dissolved as aforesaid 6 A. cap. 7 § 4 5. 6

Chap. 4.

Of the Convention of Estates.

A Convention of the Estates in Scotland, is a Meeting of the 3 Estates invited by the King or twenty Days for proposing taxation and Making Acts for supplying thereof without any power to Make laws. The Elective Members thereof were chosen after the same Manner and had the same powers, as Commissioners to the Parliament. The King was either present at their Meeting in person, or by his high Commissioner. The Convention of Estates proceeded in their Acting as the Parliament did, and their Acts were published after the same Manner, as Acts of Parliament.

Upon the Death, Abdication or Incapacity of any of our Kings, there was always an extraordinary Meeting of the three Estates, who appointed a Regent or Governor of the Realm during the Interregnum, and caused proclaim the next King. Such a Convention of the Estates was upon the Abdication of King James the seventh called in March 1659 by Sir Walter Scott from the prince of Orange, for securing the protestant Religion the ancient Laws and Liberties of Scotland. And Sir Thomas Craig (Gen. lib. 1. tit. 3. § 56 in fin.) says, there were Conventions of Estates in Scotland, whose Acts were observed as Laws before Parliaments were in use here. But there is now little Necessity for the calling of Conventions of the Estates, when the Government submits for six Months after the Sovereigns Demise, in the same State it was in before, unless Alterations be Made within that time by the successor to the Crown, 6 A. cap. 7.