

Superscribed by the King and Directed either to parliament privy Council Exchequer session or any other court and subscribed by the secretary. He keeps the Kings signet, but commits the care thereof to his Deputies. All that ordinarily passeth the signet is written and subscribed by persons thence called Writers or Clerks to the signet, who derive their Commissions from the secretary. Out of these he at pleasure appoints some to be of his council, called commissioners of the signet. The whole dues of the signet belong to the secretary. He grants commissions to all officers at the Kings disposal. And Sheriff Clerks may be named by him, when the Sheriffs have not that power Express in their Charters or have table Rights 17 July 1705 Richardson contra E. Eglington

### sect. 2.

The lesser officers of state.

These are the Lord Register, the Lord Advocate, the Lord Treasurer Deputee, and the Lord Justice Clerk. The Lord Register is the first of the lesser officers of state, he was Clerk to the parliament, Convention of Estates, session treasury and Exchequer and keeper of all the publick Records Registers & Chells.

The Lord Advocate (whose office answers to that of the Attorney General in England, and the Advocatus fidei among the Romans) is the second lesser officer of state. He was distinguished in the Civil law with the title of Comes l. 3 C. 2. Novales Divers. Judic. which is now Earl. And this seems to have given Rise to our calling him Lord Advocate. See Kenzie of jurisprudence pag. 43. The Kings Advocate is a privy counsellor by virtue of his office, when it is ibid.

The Lord Treasurer Deputee is the third lesser officer of state, whose Commission did Run in the same terms with that given to the Lord high treasurer or Commissioner of treasury on whom his office was chiefly intended to be a Check, as well as an Assistance to them. He presides in the Exchequer in absence of the Lord high treasurer.

The Lord Justice Clerk is the fourth lesser officer of state. He is the second person in the Court of Justiciary next to the Justice General, in whose absence he presides there.

### tit. 2.

Concerning the officers of the Crown.

These are the Lord high Chamberlain, the Lord high Steward, the Lord high Constable, the Lord Marshal and the Lord high Admirals, who had no Interest to sit and Vote in any publick Meetings by Virtue of their Office. The Lord high Chamberlain (Camerarius Domini Regis) is in all the acts written placed as Witness next to the Lord Chancellor. His Commission passeth the great seal and