

(EXTINCTION.)

No 13.

presume that he hath lifted from all, by his decreet, and that he was not impeded; and if, by fraud or collusion, he hath neglected some of the tenants, or suffered the common debtor to lift the rents, *sibi imputet*, he must account for them as if he had lifted them.

Which the LORDS found relevant, and found the defender liable to account for all the tenants contained in his decreet, unless he instruct how he was excluded; but as for the common debtor's possession by his own labourage, which the posterior apprisers might visibly know, there was nothing alleged to be in the decreet concerning the common debtor, and so nothing was determined as to that point, but that the defender was to be accountable for all the tenants contained in his decreet, lying contiguous in one tenement, whereof the possession of the greatest part was acknowledged.

*Stair, v. 2. p. 833.*

1720. January.

WALKER against MACPHERSON and FORRESTER.

No 14.

An adjudication, through informality, being reduced to a security, the intromissions had, *medio tempore*, are imputed in extinction thereof.

AN adjudication of a tenement, by progress in the persons of Macpherson and Forrester, having been restricted to a security, at the instance of John Walker, merchant in Edinburgh, because more was adjudged for than was due; the pursuer contended, That the adjudication was extinguished by the defenders and their authors intromissions, even those had after the legal reversion of ten years; because the adjudication having been found only a right in security, and the legal still open, it must be extinguishable by intromission, whether the original creditor intromit, or his singular successor; for such is the nature of rights in security and payment.

The defenders *pled*, That possession having been attained after the legal was expired, the *fructus bona fide precepti et consumpti*, while they had reason to believe themselves proprietors *unaccountable*, could not be imputed to extinguish the principal sums in their adjudication; which, in this case, would be particularly hard, because if they be bound to account, it must be by a rental; and, meantime, possessing *tanquam domini*, they have neither preserved vouchers nor documents of public burdens, reparations, wastes, bankrupt tenants, &c. to diminish the same. If, then, the pursuer's plea obtain, no man shall ever possess quietly or securely upon an adjudication; for it will not be said, that the law ties an adjudger to keep accounts of his actual intromissions, dead, waste and poor for ever; and yet no man can be secure, but minorities may interrupt for a long time beyond the course of prescription, during which, an adjudger, or purchaser of an estate from an adjudger, (and many estates in Scotland, have no other foundation,) shall not know whether he is master of an opulent estate, or if he is not worth a shilling in the world.

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To which it was *answered*, That while the pursuer pleads *extinction* only, and not *repetition*, he pleads nothing inconsistent with the *bona fides* of the defenders; which will be plain, by taking a view of the effect of *bonæ fidei* possession in voluntary rights. Where one purchases a voluntary irredeemable right, and upon the faith of its being an effectual purchase, pays the price; another appearing, and excluding him with a better right, his *bona fide* possession can have no other effect, but to exclude repetition of what he has uplifted and consumed: His price is lost, unless he can recover it off his author upon the warrandice; and all he can plead, is, to retain what he hath *bona fide* intromitted with: It is the same when an adjudication is purchased, which is afterwards excluded by preferable diligence. If then this be the only effect of *bona fides*, when the right acquired is excluded by preferable right: For what reason should it have a further effect, when one has laid out his money upon the purchase of a right that of its own nature is extinguishable, and is by intromission actually extinguished? When it is found extinguished, he is in the same case that the *bonæ fidei* possessor is, whose right is excluded by one preferable; he loses his price, and is only saved from repetition of what he has intromitted with and consumed. Hence, it is evident, that the benefit pleaded by the pursuer, of having his debt extinguished by intromission, which arises from the nature of the right, does noways lessen or encroach upon the favour allowed to *bonæ fidei* possession: For still the *bonæ fidei* possessor is in the same state he would be, had he been excluded by another right; and consequently has all the benefit of his *bona fides*, though his intromissions be imputed in extinction of his adjudication, that *bona fides* gives in any other case.

It was *replied* for the defenders, They lay not their defence here simply upon their *bona fides* but upon the nature of their intromission: When one intromits by virtue of a right in security, which he *bona fide* considers as a right of property, the intromissions cannot *impute* in *extinction* of the right, for these reasons, That it is not the *fact* of intromitting in any case that extinguishes the right, but the creditor's intromitting in virtue of that right; and as having such a right, his *application* of the intromissions thereto: Just as in the common case of payment, it is not the debtor's telling over the money that extinguishes the obligation, but the creditor's acceptance *in solutum*. Thus one having a right in security, which leads him to intromit, if he intromit not as in that right, but as in some other right, or perhaps as doer for another, or as *prædo* without any right at all; however he may be accountable for his intromissions, they cannot directly *impute* to the *extinction* of the right upon which he did not intromit. In this case, indeed, the intromission was had in virtue of that right itself, which is craved to be extinguished by the intromission; but still, since the intromitter took himself to be proprietor, and never considered his right as in security only, and therefore never once dreamed to make the *application* of his intromissions to the *extinction* of that right, either *animo*, or by any other external deed; it may be thought that it comes to the same, as if he had intromitted by any separate right; the bare *fact* of intromit-

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' THE LORDS found the intromissions imputable.'

*Rem. Dec. v. 1. No 18. p. 38.*

1752. January 14.

DALRYMPLE *against* LYON.

No 15.

In accounting for intromissions, in consequence of an adjudication on a bond, which contained a penalty exceeding the fifth part of the principal sum, the excess was disallowed.

JOHN LYON and Robert Dalrymple having severally obtained adjudications within year and day of each other, of certain houses in Port-Glasgow, against their debtors Alexander Watsons, elder and younger; Lyon obtained a decree of mails and duties, and thereupon entered to the possession of the whole subjects contained in his adjudication.

When Robert Dalrymple understood him to be paid by his intromissions, he brought a process of reduction and declarator of extinction against Lyon, wherein the following questions *inter alia* occurred.

It was *objected* by the pursuer to one of the grounds of the defender's adjudication, being a bond for 200 merks, That it contained a penalty of L. 40 Scots, and that the same ought to be restricted to a fifth part of the principal sum.

*Answered* for the defender, That though the Lords may in some cases have restricted exorbitant penalties to a fifth part, yet that is not on account of any law that penalties shall not exceed a fifth part, but from an equitable consideration of the interest of parties, that the penalty may not exceed the necessary expence in recovering payment; and as for that reason, where the sum is great, it might not be wrong, even to restrict the penalty to a less sum, so where the sum is small, as in this case, and that the penalty of a fifth part cannot defray the necessary expence, there is no equity in restricting the penalty, which has, by consent of parties, been agreed on.

THE ORDINARY ' restricted the penalty to a fifth part of the principal sum, and found, That L. 13:6:8 Scots, in which it exceeded the said fifth part, was to be deduced from the accumulate sum in the adjudication.' And the LORDS ' adhered.'

In what case an adjudger accounts by a rental, and from what period his intromission imputes.

A more material question was determined concerning the method of the defender's accounting for the rents, Whether he was to account by a rental, and from what time he was to be charged with the year's rent?

With respect to which the ORDINARY ' found, That the defender having entered to the total possession of the subjects adjudged, upon a decree of mails and duties, he was not only accountable by a rental, but was obliged to have done exact diligence for recovering the rents from the tenants, and to have let the