

ure of papers must, in every case, be very great, and in many, infinite and irreparable."

"Every man who has papers, has his secret and confidential correspondence, his private studies, researches, and pursuits, whether of profit, entertainment or improvement. The merchant has his secrets of trade, the philosopher his discoveries in science. Every accurate man has the impenetrable secret of his circumstances, the state of his affairs. Many have their wills, settlements, and dispositions of their estates sealed up in silence, not to be broken open but with their own heart-strings. These are to be found amongst their papers. A man's riches may be there in things known only to himself; and his poverty may, from thence only appear, the unseasonable discovery of which may involve him in irretrievable ruin. Our honour and fame, our estates, our amusements, our enjoyments, our friendships, *are*, and even our vices, *may be*, there: things that men trust none with but themselves; things upon which the peace and quiet of families, the love and union of relations, the preservation and value of friends, depend. Secrets that may cost a man's life; secrets, (of which there are many) that, though they neither affect life nor liberty, yet some men would rather die than have discovered."

"It is for these reasons that wise men not only keep their papers with the greatest care, but, at convenient seasons, purge their repositories, and destroy those that ought not to be preserved after the immediate purposes of them are answered. They have, above all, a special care, into whose hands their secret papers shall come after they are dead, a precaution that every man owes, not only