

Lev. 182), were declared to be no longer law, though Lord Justice Buckley made a heroic attempt to distinguish the former case. What weighed very much with the court was the fact that limited administration was frequently granted, *e.g.*, during the absence or infancy of a person, during a case or even until a will was brought in for probate. It was impossible to suppose that the authority thus conferred on the administrator was nugatory, and yet, if the property had vested in the executor (possibly an unknown executor) at the death of the deceased, this seemed to be the necessary conclusion. Lord Justice Buckley felt the difficulty of an administrator dealing with the property, even for the purposes of paying funeral expenses and debts, if no property vested in him. An answer to this could be made, as trustees with a power of sale under a strict settlement have no property vested in them and still can sell. So there is a logical way out of the Lord Justice's difficulty (namely) by regarding the estate as vested in the unknown executors from the death of the deceased, but allowing the administrator to dispose of it under his implied power of sale for the purposes of administration. This would put the purchaser on inquiry as to whether the sale was for the purposes of administration or whether it was merely for the convenience of the widow and the co-heiresses. In the former case it would be good, in the latter bad. As a matter of practice it is extremely inconvenient to have to inquire whether as a fact the debts and testamentary expenses have been paid. All of this is avoided by holding that whatever interest is in the unknown executors is divested by the letters of administration and vested again in the executors when the letters are revoked. Meanwhile the administrator can deal with the property of the deceased as if there was no will in existence.

We have referred to the decision as if it only affected administrators, but it also affects executors, as there is almost always the possibility of a subsequent will or codicil appointing other executors being discovered. In which case the estate would have been wrongly dealt with by the former ones, if the