than to turn the Bill into an Order, which required no Parliamentary approval? This practice was condemned so early as the year 1322, when Parliament was barely a quarter of a century old, by a solemn statute. Yet it continued, with varying success, till the beginning of the seventeenth century, when another famous opinion of Sir Edward Coke, the great Parliamentary lawyer, defined the limits of 'proclamations,' or prerogative legislation, on lines which have since been generally observed. These are that, while the King may, by his Proclamations or Orders, enjoin his subjects to observe existing laws, and, to this end, make regulations applying existing laws, yet he cannot in that way change any part of the 'common law,' or (especially) create any new offences, without the authority of Parliament. And, as the power of making regulations to carry out general laws is more easily and quickly exercised than the more intricate process of passing an Act of Parliament, it is, in fact, very frequently conferred by Act of Parliament itself, not only on the Crown, but on persons such as the holders of great offices, or a committee of judges, or even a municipal council. But in such legislation there is not the importance which attaches to an Act of the Imperial Parliament. The validity of the latter can never be questioned in any law court; while the provisions of any of the former can always be set aside, even in time of war, as *ultra vires*, i.e. beyond the power of its authors to make.

The Scottish Parliament

The necessity for the agreement of Parliament in legislation appears to have been clearly established in Scotland also, long before its union with England in 1707; though the Scottish Parliament never attained the importance of its English compeer. Consequently, when the two Parliaments were united in 1707, it went