

the husband the same, or a larger, authority over his wife; allowing him, for some misdemeanors, *flagellis et fustibus acriter verberare uxorem*; for others, only *modicam castigationem adhibere*ⁿ. But, with us, in the politer reign of Charles the second, this power of correction began to be doubted^o: and a wife may now have security of the peace against her husband^p; or, in return, a husband against his wife^q. Yet the lower rank of people, who were always fond of the old common law, still claim and exert their antient privilege: and the courts of law will still permit a husband to restrain a wife of her liberty, in case of any gross misbehaviour^r.

THESE are the chief legal effects of marriage during the coverture; upon which we may observe, that even the disabilities, which the wife lies under, are for the most part intended for her protection and benefit. So great a favourite is the female sex of the laws of England.

ⁿ Nov. 117. c. 14. *Et Van Leeuwen in loc.*

^o 1 Sid. 113. 3 Keb. 433.

^p 2 Lev. 128.

^q Stra. 1207.

^r Stra. 478. 875.