

Seventh rule. The seventh and last rule of descent is, that in collateral inheritances, the male stocks shall be preferred before the female, that is, kindred derived from the blood of the male ancestor, shall be admitted before those from the blood of the female; unless when the lands have actually descended from a female. Thus the relations on the father's side are admitted, in *infinitum*, before those on the mother's side are admitted at all, and the relations of the father's father, before those of the father's mother; and so on.

Illustration of
the above
rules.

The above are the general rules relating to descent; but it may be necessary to subjoin thereto an observation, or two, to prevent a misapplication of those rules.—It appears above, that inheritances shall not ascend, and therefore the father shall not be entitled as the heir to his son; that the half blood shall be excluded; and that a person claiming as heir must be of the whole blood of the first purchaser; but it is to be observed, that when there is a feifin, the rule being for the heir of the person last feifed to inherit, a consequence follows from this rule, different from what might be expected, on a speculative consideration of the general rules of descent. The legal maxim is that, *seifera facit stirpem*—that is, feifin makes the