

Lib. H. D. Ordr to be consulted by the Kings Lawyers abt the Nonests Ordered that it be Consulted by the Kings Lawyers what is to be done abt the Nonests Return'd and whether the Returns should not be according to the Laws of England within a small Compass of time, that Speedy Justice may be done.

The Same Came Reported as followes, Vizt

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To his Ex^{ncy} the Govern^r & Council &^{ca}

December the 14th 1696.

The Lawyers Opinion abt the Nonests &ca In Obedience to yo^r Ex^{ncys} Commands of the 11th instant for us to consult what is to be done abt the Nonests returned and whether the Returns should not be according to the Laws of England within a small Compass of time &^{ca} We humbly Offer that if any Sherriff hath made Returnes of Non est Inventus without doing his utmost Endeavour to take the party Def^t at the Kings Suit such Sherriff may be fined at the Kings suit upon the matter proved against him but in some cases such return's cannot be Avoyled; And as to the Making Shorter day's of Returnes We conceive that it cannot be reduced to the practice of England without great charge and inconveniency this Countrey under its p^sent Circumstances being not Capable of such a Course of Practice for want of a Publick Post Office to give Speedy conveyance of Proses into Every County and Return the same and without such Office or Speciall messenger for that purpose appointed we cannot see how this Countrey can comply with the practice of England.

Mr John Wight constituted Coroner in the Room of Mr Bradley. Vpon Rep^sentacōn Ordered that M^r John Wight be Constituted and appointed one of the Coroners for Prince Georges County in the Room and stead of M^r Dan^l Bradley and that the s^d Bradleys Name be Razed out of the Comission granted him (being here p^rsented) and the s^d Wight's name inserted therein, which was according done at the Board and given to the hon^rble Esq Brook's for to deliver to him.

Motion made by Sr Thomas abt process & Ord^r thereon Vpon motion made by the hon^rble Sr Thomas Laurence Baron^t Secretary whether process had and taken out of the Secretary's Office in behalfe of the King should be done ex Officio or not, and if to be paid how ffees for such process shall be paid and by whom; Rep^rsenting likewise that there were Several Sorts of process

Whitehall