

1691

William and Mary by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King and Queen
of the faith or to our sherriff of Somerset Emely the Constable of Dorset's hundred and all other
of the severall hundredes, within this County and all other Ministers in this County as well within libertie as
without greeting. Herasmitz ad John: Emmott detribale Holms Port. John: Bygroun and Martha a
servant to George Layfield Esq. Kate some before us Francis: Courtis. Thomas: Newbold & George: Layfield
head of our Justice of the Peace within this said County, as their duty in trouble on their Conscience
discharge the same have made known by information to us (to wit) that on the third day of this Instant
month of April at the house of John: Emmott Howard the said John: Emmott detribale Holms &
John: Bygroun and the said Emely Constable at another time and place also that John: Merris of Eviding (son of
hundred Labourer, not having the fear of God before his eyes, did in a most wicked profane and
wicked manner vilify and damnably blaspheme our most sacred and blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, as well as other
divers other execrable Catholick and Curst, words being reproved for, and asked how he could answer
the same before the great Judge at the last day. Replied God damn the Judge with many other unchristian
and ungodly words against the Honour of Almighty God and against the good and Christian
Laws provided, as also against the welfare and prosperity of the good people of this County
Therefore we Command you joyfully and liberally that immediately upon sight hereof you apprehend and cause
said John: Merris to come before us or any two of us who have hereunto subscribed at the house of the above
said George: Layfield to answer to the promises in what shall be taken and done for the Honour of God and the
Peace and tranquillity of this County, also for the Honour of God and the Peace and tranquillity of
this County as aforesaid and that you cause the above said John: Emmott, detribale Holms, &
John: Bygroun and his Daughter Anne with his wife Martha a servant to appear at the same time and
place you have your prisoners at home to give Evidence against the said Merris touching the promises, and hereof
nor any of you are not to fail as you will answer the contempt at your peril as without the said and said
of the said Francis Courtis, Thomas Newbold and George Layfield this twelveth day of April in the 10th year
of the said Francis Courtis, Thomas Newbold and George Layfield this twelveth day of April in the 10th year
of the sherriff of Somerset Emely
the Constable of Dorset's hundred
and all other Constables Ministers
within this Somerset County as well
without libertie as within - this:



Francis Courtis & Seal
Thomas: Newbold & Seal
George: Layfield & Seal

Memorandum. That upon the second of this present April in 1691. there being a funeral sermon
preached at Redebate Church by Mr Francis Martonny Minister towards night on the day aforesaid, the said
Merris came over to the house of Mr Edmund Howard near Redebate Down, the said Merris began to curse
and swear before all the people and the said Martonny calling him fool and longer head and puppy with other ill
language saying dam he could preach a better sermon than that fool could do upon such a subject as death
at last the said Merris laid down to sleep, in the night he got up again he did judge it to be about 12: or 1. a
Clock, the said Merris proceeded much after the aforesaid language with many horrible Catholick words
dam him was very frequent in his words, at length he repeated several words concerning the devil & hell
that he could fool them and death, and Christ our judge damn him with several other At this time and
blasphemous expressions, as the last evening that shall be destroyed is death, by whom our judge damn him
that he hold on by his self wals me up and down the room until he talked to some body to show him