

our Trade and Navigation, much to the Publick Damage of the Province; Be it Enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of Her Majesty's Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That if any Person or Persons, from and after the Publication hereof, shall desire to set up a Water Mill upon any Land next adjoyning to any Run of Water within this Province, not being the proper Possession or Freehold of such Person or Persons, nor leased to them, to the Intent thereon to set a Water Mill, they shall purchase a Writ out of Chancery directed to the Sheriff of the County where such Land lieth, requiring him, by the Oath of Twelve Men of his County, to enquire what Damage it would be to Her Majesty, or others, to have a Mill set up in such Place, as aforesaid; The Form of which Writ followeth, *Viz.*

**A** N N E, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c. To the Sheriff of A. County, Greeting; We Command you, That by the Oaths of Twelve honest and lawful Men of the County, by whom the Truth of the Matter may be better known, you diligently enquire if it be to the Damage of Us, or others, if We grant N. N. of N. County, Twenty Acres of Land, lying at N. in the County aforesaid; (*Viz.*) Ten Acres on the one Side such Run, and Ten Acres on the other Side of such Run of Water, together with Liberty to take, fall, cut down, and carry away, either by Land or Water, any Wood or Timber fit for Building a Mill, other than Timber fit to split into Clapboards, upon any the Lands next adjoyning to the said Twenty Acres of Land lying on each Side of the said Run of Water at N. N. aforesaid, in the County aforesaid: And if it be to the Damage and Prejudice of Us, or others, then to what Damage and Prejudice of Us, and to what Damage and Prejudice of others, and of whom, and in what Manner, and how, and of what Value they are by the Year, according to the true Value thereof now, before any other Improvement of the said Twenty Acres of Land; and who are the present Possessors of the said Twenty Acres of Land; and what Lands and Tenements remain to the present Possessor over the said Twenty Acres; and if the said Land remaining to the present Possessors, over the said Twenty Acres, will suffice to uphold their Manor, (*Viz.*) The Sixth Part of their Manor allotted them by the Conditions of Plantations for the Demesne as before the Alienation, so as the County by the Alienation aforesaid, in Default of the present Possession, more than was wont, be not charged and grieved; and the Inquisition thereupon, openly and distinctly made to Us in Our Chancery, under the Seal, and the Seals of them by whom it was made, without Delay, send, &c.

U P O N Return of which Writ, in case the Person or Persons, who by the said Inquest shall be found to be the true Owners and Possessors of the Land fit to build a Mill upon, shall refuse to build a Mill thereon within One Year, from that Day to be computed and reckoned, and give Security the same Building to prosecute and finish within Two Years after the said Beginning or Laying the Foundation, as aforesaid, for the Publick Good of the Province; It shall and may be lawful for Her said Majesty, Her Heirs or Successors, or for their Chief Governor here for the time being, from time to time, to grant any such Twenty Acres of Land, fit to build a Water Mill upon, as aforesaid, together with free Egress and Regress to the said Water Mill, either by Land through any Man's Land next adjoyning, or else by Water; together with Liberty to fall any Timber for Building the said Water Mill, other than Board Timber fit to split or cleave into Clapboards, for any Time or Term not exceeding Eighty Years then next to come, under the Yearly Rent of the Land, then, by the Oath of Twelve Men, by Virtue of the Writ aforesaid returned, to be paid to the Owner of the said Land so found and returned, as aforesaid: Which said Grant from Her said Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, or from the Governor