

Methods for Undertakers of Iron-works, to procure Lands fit for that Purpose.

next adjoining to any Run of Water within this Province, not being the Estate of the Inheritance of such Undertakers, nor Leased to them, to the Intent thereon to set such Forging-Mill, and other Conveniencies for the carrying on such Iron Works, they may 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 inquire what Damage it would be to his Lordship, or others, to have such Builders or Undertakers invested with an absolute Estate of inheritance in One Hundred Acres of such Land, proper for the setting up such Forging-Mill, and other Conveniencies for the carrying on such Iron Works as aforesaid. : The Form of which Writ followeth, viz.

The Form of a Writ of Enquiry about Lands for Iron-Works.

CHARLES, absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baron of Baltimore, &c. To the Sheriff of—County, Greeting, We command you, That by the Oath 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 unto N. N. of N. County, One Hundred Acres of Land lying at-----in the County aforesaid, as may be most convenient for the building and setting-up a Forge-Mill, and other Conveniencies, as shall be necessary for the carrying on an Iron-Work. 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 the same Land is now, before any other Improvement of the said One Hundred Acres of Land, and who are the present Possessors of the said One Hundred Acres of Land, and who have the Fee-Simple thereof, and what Lands and Tenements remain to the present Possessor, over and above the said One Hundred Acres of Land, and if the said Land remaining to the present Possessors, over and above the said One Hundred 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 not to be charged and grieved; and the Inquisition thereupon openly and distinctly made to Us in our High Court of Chancery, under the Seal and Seals of them by whom it was made, without Delay send, &c.

On Refusal of the Owners of such Land to Build Iron-Works thereon,

The Lord Proprietor may grant it to any others that will.

Upon 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 Forge-Mill and other Conveniencies necessary for carrying on an Iron Work, shall refuse to build such Forge-Mill and other Conveniencies for such Iron-Work thereon, within Six Months from that Date to be computed and reckon'd, and give Security the same Building to Prosecute and Finish within Four Years after the beginning and laying the Foundation of such Forge-Mill; It shall and may be Lawful for his said Lordship, his Heirs and Successors, or for the Governour here, for the Time being, from Time to Time, to grant any such One Hundred Acres of Land fit to build a Forge-Mill and Conveniencies for an Iron-Work, as aforesaid, together with free Egress and Regress to the said Mill, thro' any Man's Land next adjoining, by the 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 to be made as aforesaid,