

2. That it is not yet drawn up in Form ; where, as Indictments are commonly drawn up, either by the Order of the Court, or at the Instance of some Prosecutor, and are brought before, and delivered unto the Grand Jury, and the Witnesses sworn attend them, who examine the said Witnesses, and, as they think fit, return the Indictments indors'd either *Billa Vera*, [that is, a true Bill,] or *Ignoramus*, [*We are Ignorant*] that is, we do not find the Matter, or there does not appear to us such sufficient Grounds for the Accusation, that the Persons Life and Reputation should be brought into Question.

From whence it appears, that the End of their Office is likewise two-fold. 1. To inquire after, and give Notice of all Crimes, Offences, Nuisances, &c. in the County for which they serve, which by reason of their Inhabitaney and Estates therein, they are presumed to have best opportunity to discover, and to find Bills against Malefactors, where there are good Grounds for the same, that so they may be brought to Trial if they are forth-coming, or may be proceeded against to the Outlawry, if they are fled for their said Offences. 2. To preserve the Innocent from the Disgrace and Hazards which ill Men may design to bring them to, out of Malice, or through Subornation, or other sinister Ends ; for so tender is the Law, of the Reputation and Life of a Man, that it will not suffer the one to be sullied, by the Party's holding up his Hand at the Bar, and the other indangered by a Trial, until first the Matter and Evidence against him have been scann'd, examined, and found by a Grand Jury, upon their Oaths, against him. Therefore you see by their Oaths, They are sworn not only to inquire but diligently to inquire, not to be negligent or  
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