

*Directions for Coroners; his Fees, &c.*

A Coroner's Office is very ancient, and has been, and yet is, held in high Esteem; for the Lord Mayor of London is held to be Coroner there. 2 *Pro.* 531. And the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench is Sovereign Coroner of all England. 4 *Po.* 57, *b.* And he upon View of the Body of one killed in open View, as a Coroner, may make a Record returnable in the King's Bench *Ibid.*

But to come nearer to the intended Purpose; amongst other Matters, it is the Coroner's Business to view the Bodies of such as come to Casual Deaths, make away themselves, or are made away by others, or suspected to be put out of the World by a violent Death, or dying languishing in Prison, where there may be any Suspicion the Party died not naturally, but by hard Usage, Starving, or that the Imprisonment caused his Death, &c. For he is to know, and certifie, how the King came to lose a Subject.

He is to have *Visum Corporis* of a Prisoner dying in a Gaol, by reason of Dureſs. And the Jury or Inquest, before the Coroner, is to be of Persons within the four next adjacent Villages, made by the Bailiffs or Constables; and no Challenge lies to any of them so legally summoned on the Inquest, 1 *Gro.* 135. And upon a View of the Body, and a strict Examination how the Party came by his Death, they must give in their Verdict to the best of their Judgment, according to the Evidence, or other Matters appearing to them, whether it be *Felo de se*, he killed or drowned himself, &c. or died by the Hand of other