

II. You shall swear, that you shall well and truly execute the Office of a Constable for the Town, &c. for the Year ensuing, and until another be sworn in your Room, or until you shall be legally discharged from the same.

*Presentments.*

Constable is bound to make true Presentments of all Offences within his Liberty ; but this is seldom done, for they usually make a formal Return, and carry it before a Justice of Peace to sign, and then he brings it to the High Constable, who at the Sessions makes Oath that he had it of the Petty Constable, and that 'tis not altered.

Now Inmates and unlawful Cottages are Offences which he ought to present ; and there are few Country Parishes without such Offenders and Offences, which must necessarily fall under the observation of the Petty Constable ; and yet those are seldom presented.

*Prisoners.*

Constable by a Warrant of one Justice may sell the Goods of a Criminal, to defray the Charges of carrying him to Gaol, the same being first appraised by some Inhabitants of the Place ; and if he hath no Goods, then the Town, where he was taken, must be at the Charge, and the Constable and three Inhabitants may set a Tax on every one dwelling there, which being allowed by a Justice, the Constable by Warrant may levy it on those who refuse ; and being appraised by four of the Inhabitants, may sell it.

If a Constable is sued, &c. he may plead the General Issue, and if he recover, shall have treble Costs.

*Rent.*