

hand, to enquire concerning the blood of persons supposed to have come to their death by means, and in a manner, the very secrecy of which, has naturally struck terror into the minds of the country; so is it, upon the other, to put the subject upon his trial for a crime, *a due conviction* of which admits not a possibility of mercy here upon earth: since, whatever differences of opinion may have subsisted as to the punishment of other offences, the crime of *Murder*, coming home, as it does, to every man's existence, crying in every ear, and exciting but one sympathy in every breast, the practice of mankind, in conformity with the express law of God, has invariably pursued with death.

His Excellency's paternal care for the welfare of the province, would not permit him to suffer such a cry to remain longer unexamined into, than the immediate engagements of the term at Halifax obliged him to wait, for such assistance in the prosecution of it, as the Supreme Court could furnish: And he has, accordingly, lost no time, in assigning my learned Brother and self, (joining with us, for our assistance, the respectable Magistrates who sit beside us) to enquire into it, for the *satisfaction*, as well as for the *convenience* of the country, *upon the spot*.

For this purpose, we are invested with, and you are assembled under, a commission, empowering us, with the intervention of proper juries, to hear and determine of such crimes and offences, as may be objected against persons now in the county goal, and to deliver the same.

The first step, therefore, now, in the execution of it, will be for you, Gentlemen, with a view to enquiry, to receive information, upon oath, from such as shall be prepared to give it to you, of whatever offence or offences, exist to be objected to any, that are now in your county goal.

Though the commission has a wider scope, I need scarcely inform you, that its main object is, to enquire concerning the blood of an unfortunate family, late no more in this part of the province, supposed to have come to their death, by *Murder*.

Without entering into a nice exposition of the several definitions or descriptions of murder, as they are found
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