

## AN ORIGINAL WRIT\*

To John Smith

His servants and agents, Victoria  
Sends Greeting. We trust that this process won't bore  
you.

Whereas one John Brown now lately hath filed  
A bill of complaint here, wherein are compiled  
An account of your doings, and saith he is grieved  
Thereat; and he asks that he may be relieved  
As against the aforementioned acts of iniquity,  
Because they're repugnant to conscience and equity;  
Now as it is shewn that the truth is the same as is  
Fully related by him in the premises,  
We've caused this to issue upon due inquiry  
*Secundum discretionem boni viri.*

And if you should ask us, *Vir bonus est quis?*  
Of our grace and mere motion we answer you this,  
(To which we may add, you by no means deserve it):—

*Qui patrum consulta qui juraque servat.*  
Considering therefore that Brown hath related  
The truth touching what in his bill he hath stated,  
We strictly enjoin upon you to refrain  
From the acts we referred to before, under pain  
Of incurring our heavy displeasure; and not  
Only that, but we'll make it exceedingly hot  
For you the aforesaid iniquitous Smith;  
For we'll order our Sheriff to take you forthwith,  
To conduct you to where we give plain lodging *gratis*  
And watch you with care till you cry out *jam satis*;  
There we'll cause you to live like a very recluse,  
While we meanwhile appropriate to our own use  
Your lands that you bought with your hardly earned pelf,  
Your carriages, horses, blue china and delf,  
Your ormolu clocks, your champagne and hocks,  
Your plate that you keep under two or three locks,  
And your profits from money invested in stocks,  
Your carpets, and Zooks! your piano and books,

\*Written at a time when writs of injunction were in use, threatening dire penalties for infraction thereof.