

rize you to find a bill. You may also apply to the clerk of the Crown and to the officers prosecuting on behalf of the Crown for advice on questions of law or of procedure which may arise during your proceedings.

It is the province of the court to see that you perform your duty and exercise your powers in a legal manner and to direct you to that end, but the court neither keeps your conscience nor should control you in finding facts, or exercise any influence for that purpose.

The calendar speaks well for the general good behaviour of the inhabitants of this district during the past half year, and I am happy to be able to congratulate you upon the state of the district generally.

The oath which you have just taken will have strongly impressed upon you, too, amongst other obligations which lie upon you as grand jurors:—one, to preserve inviolate the secrets of the grand jury room, and the other, to act in the fulfilment of your duties without envy, hatred or malice, and without fear, favor or affection or hope of reward. The interests of justice do not require that it should be disclosed what particular jurors concurred in or opposed the findings of an indictment, while the feeling that everything which takes place in the grand jury room is under the obligation of secrecy must produce a sense of security and an independence of action on the part of the jurors which might otherwise be wanting. But the interests of justice and good conscience require that every action and every decision of the grand jury should be produced by the dictates of duty, a strict discrimination between right and wrong, and the exercise of impartiality. And in this connection there is one thing which I feel it my duty to impress upon you,—it is to ignore all party division, to suppress all political feeling or bias, and in acting on bills laid before you to close your eyes as regards the individuality of persons and to scrutinize only their acts. You must not allow yourselves to be approached on any matter