hire the said John was by the Govrnmt of this province lawfully
constituted and appointed and sworne Clarke and Keeper of the
Records of somersett County by vertue whereof the the said John
the fourteenth day of March in the yeare of our Lord 1692: had
for a great and considerable time been and then was Clarke &
Keeper of the Records of somersett County by wch offices and
places and by his faithfull and diligent executing and
discharging the same the said John had gained and acquired
to himselfe verie great and considerable summe of tobacco and
money and diverse more great summe of tobacco and money
were likely to gaine and acquire by the said offices and places
to the support of his family and great and plentifull
entertaynm of his Guests Notwithstanding the said James Not being
ignorant of the premisses but envying the happy estate of
the said John minding and maliciously intending the
said John not only of his good name fame creditt and
estimacon aforesaid and the benefitt and advantage of his
said offices and places of Clerk and keeper of the records of
somersett County Court aforesaid totally to deprive but him
the said John to subject bring under and cause to suffer the
paines and penalty by the Lawes of England and this
Province provided against perjury false swearing and
against Clarks that shall keepe make or give false records
the said 14th day of march in the yeare of our Lord 1692:
at the Court held in somersett County aforesaid having
communicacon with their Majestyes Justices for somersett
County aforesaid concerning the said false feigned scandalous
and malicious words following in the prsence and hearing
of their majtyes Justices aforesaid, and many other good people
of the same County aforesaid concerning the said John did
grievously speake and utter that is to say Mr Wisse (the said
John meaning) hath kept false records (a Record of somersett
County meaning) and I (the said James Saughter meaning)
will prove it by reason whereof he (the said John likewise
meaning) was not worthy to keep the records of this County
(the said County of somersett meaning) by reason of which

(speaking

speaking and uttering of the said false and scandalous words aforesaid
the the said John is not only much hurt and damnified in his
said offices and place good name fame and estimacon and as
a Keeper of false records and thereby violating and breaking
the sacred Oath that he tooke for his due and faithfull execucon
of the said offices is reported judged and taken by very many
their Majtyes good subjects of somersett County both in mind
and body is much inquieted and disquieted to the
damage of the said John of Twenty thousand pounds of
tobacco and thereof he bringeth his suite./

And the said James Saughter by George Plater his Attorney
comes & defends the force and injury &c and prayed liberty
to imparle hereunto which is granted him
the same day is given to the said John Wisse likewise./

At which said next Court to wit the third day of October
in the fifth yeare of their Majtyes reigne &c Anno Dom
1693: Came the said partyes by their Attorneyes aforesaid and the
said James Saughter saith that he cannot say anything
in barr of the action aforesaid And for that the damages
sustained by the said John Wisse by reason of speaking
the false feigned & malicious words aforesaid are unreasonable
to the Court here — Therefore it is considered by the Justices
here that writt for Enquiry of what damages hee sustained
by the premisses &c.

It is therefore Comanded the Sheriffe of St Maryes County
that he cause to come here Twelve &c: by whome &c and
who neither &c: he cause after &c to recognize &c:

And now here at this day to wit the Twelfth day of
October last mencoed Came againe the said partyes by
their Attorneyes aforesaid and the Jurors impannelled to enquire
&c being called likewise Came to wit James Rowles, Mathew
Scarbrough, Peter Seul, Mathew Lewis, Thomas James, Edward
Balson, Jasper Hall, Michael Burkett, Mosse Groome, John
Henderson, Peter Whaplin and Thomas Faulkham who being
likewise tryed and sworne to enquire what damages the said

(John