afterwards he should be thereunto required. nevertheless the aforesaid George Dent (although often thereunto required) the aforesaid sum of two hundred and sixty one pounds and three pence current money to them the said Alexander, Robert and John or to either of them hath not rendered or paid but the same or any part thereof to them the said Alexander Robert and John or to either of them hitherto to render or pay he hath altogether refused and still doth refuse. wherefore the said Alexander, Robert and John say they are the worse and have damage to the value of five hundred pounds current money and therefore they bring suit and so forth, and bring here into Court the writing obligatory aforesaid sealed with the Seal of the aforesaid George Dent which the debt aforesaid in form aforesaid witnesseth. the date whereof is the day and year aforesaid and so forth.

Philip B Key for Plaintiffs pledges &c. John Doe and Richard Roe.

And the said George Dent by his Attorney aforesaid comes and defends the force and injury when and so forth, and prays an hearing of the writing obligatory aforesaid, and of the condition thereof, and to him they are read, in these words, to wit

Know all men by these presents that I George Dent of William of Charles County in the state of Maryland at present in the Commonwealth of Virginia am held and firmly bound unto Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson in the full sum of two hundred and sixty one pounds and three pence current money of Maryland to be paid to the said Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson their Attorney executors administrators or assigns, to the which payment well and truly to be made and done I bind myself my heirs executors and administrators firmly by these presents sealed with my seal and dated this twentieth day of July one thousand seven hundred and ninety six.

The Condition of the above obligation is such that if the above bound George Dent his heirs executors or administrators do well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson their certain attorney Executors administrators or assigns the just and full sum of one hundred and thirty pounds ten shillings and one penny half penny current money aforesaid with legal interest of Maryland thereon then this obligation to be void else to remain and be in full force and virtue in Law.

Geo: Dent (Seal)

Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of Will Vincent

on the back of the aforegoing writing obligatory was this written, to wit

State of Maryland, Charles County, sct. 26th September 1796. came before me one of the Justices for Charles County aforesaid Robert Ferguson agent for Henderson Ferguson and Gibson in maryland, and made oath on the holy Evangells of almighty God that to his knowledge neither Henderson Ferguson and Gibson or any other person for their use have received any part or parcell of the within bond and that the whole principal and Interest is justly due and owing

James Freeman

And thereupon on the motion of the aforesaid Alexander Henderson

Robert Ferguson and John Gibson by their Attorney aforesaid. It is ruled by the Court here, that the said George Dent answer to the declaration aforesaid of the aforesaid Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson in the plea aforesaid, or Judgment by the Court here will be entered against him in default thereof; and the said George Dent by his Attorney aforesaid defends the force and injury when and so forth, and prays leave of the Court here to imparle until the second tuesday of October next, and then to answer to the declaration aforesaid of the aforesaid Alexander Henderson Robert Ferguson and John Gibson in the plea aforesaid, and to him it is granted, the same day is given to the aforesaid Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson also.

At which said second tuesday of October being the tenth day of the same month in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, to which said day the said George Dent had leave to imparl and then to answer to the declaration of the aforesaid Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson in the plea, come again into the General Court here as well the aforesaid Alexander Henderson Robert Ferguson, and John Gibson by their attorney aforesaid, as the said George Dent by his attorney aforesaid; and the said George Dent by his Attorney aforesaid as before defends the force and injury when and so forth, and saith that the aforesaid Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson their action aforesaid against him to have or maintain ought not &c. because he saith that he the said George Dent did pay unto the aforesaid Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson the said sum of money in the condition of the said writing obligatory mentioned with legal interest thereon according to the form and effect of the condition of the said writing obligatory and this he is ready to verify, wherefore he prays Judgment if the aforesaid Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson their action aforesaid against him to have or maintain ought &c.

And the aforesaid Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson by their Attorney aforesaid say that they by any thing by the said George Dent above in pleading alledged from having or maintaining their action aforesaid against him ought not to be precluded because they say that the said George Dent did not pay unto them the aforesaid Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson and John Gibson the aforesaid sum of money in the Condition aforesaid mentioned with the interest thereon in such manner and form as the said George Dent above by pleading hath alledged, and of this they pray may be enquired of by the Country; and the said George Dent in like manner and so forth. Therefore let a Jury thereon appear before the Court here, on the second tuesday of may next, by whom and so forth, and who neither and so forth, to recognize and so forth, because as well and so forth, the same day is given to the said parties then and there and so forth.

And now, at this day to wit the said second tuesday of may being the eighth day of the same month in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight come again into the General Court here, as well the aforesaid Alexander Henderson, Robert Ferguson