as in the Complainants bill mentioned. and this defendant utterly denies his ever having mentioned and set up or cause to be set up stones or any other marks round the said lands or any part or parcel thereof with an intention of giving the aforesaid lands or any part thereof or of transfering his title of or in the said lands or any part or parcel thereof to the said complainants or either of them. This defendant further states that he never did issue or promise the said complainants or either of them, that he would convey to them or either of them the said lands or any part thereof. This Defendant denies that he ever put the complainants or either of them in possession of the said lands or any part thereof under and in pursuance of any engagement or promise to convey the same or any part thereof to them or either of them; But that Valentine Charles and Jacob Flegle three of the complainants in the aforesaid bill of complaint soon after they were married were permitted by this defendant to live on and work parts of this Defendants said lands that they lived on the said land off and on at different periods and gave him this defendant whatever they could spare for the privilege of living on the land. That Valentine one of the complainants lived first upon the land about twenty years ago, that after he moved on it this defendant assisted him in building a log house to take his wife to live in which house was built with the timber of this defendant that after the said Valentine had lived there several years and supported his family he wanted this defendant to give him the land which he lived upon which to do this defendant refused, soon afterwards said Valentine moved off the said land to Reisters Town and when he moved away pulled down the house and carried the materials to Reisters Town and therewith them built a house. That as to any improvements made by the said Valentine they were such only as were necessary to cultivate the land.

This defendant further states that Charles Flegle aforesaid lived on part of this Defendants land soon after he was first married that he built a small log house on it with the timber of this defendant, that he continued to live on it several years without exacting from him any stipulated rent, after living on it several years he moved off and leased land and that at the time he left the place this defendant paid him twenty pounds for building the house as to any other improvements made by the

said Charles they were such and such only as were necessary to work the land

This defendant further states that Jacob Flegle aforesaid soon after he was married lived upon this defendants land without paying any stipulated rent, and that he the said Jacob never made any improvements on the said land occupied by him except such as were necessary to cultivate the land.

This defendant further states that the complainant John Flegle never did settle or live upon any part of this Defendants land. This defendant states further that the complainants Valentine, Charles and Jacob Flegle, moved off the land of this defendant many years before the death of this defendants first wife the mother of the complainants. But that Jacob Flegle as well as this Defendant recollects came upon this defendants land about twelve months before this defendants wife died, and went into the house which had been built by the said Charles Flegle (which at the time was vacant) without his this Defendants consent being previously obtained and there lived upon and occupied part of Defendants land until the summer of seventeen hundred and ninety eight when this defendant dispossessed him as tenant at will under the act of seventeen hundred and ninety three chapter forty three.

This defendant further states that he never heard the complainants nor does he believe they ever did lay any claim to the said land or any part thereof until his first wife was dead, But after the death of his first wife, which happened as well as this Defendant recollects in the year seventeen hundred and ninety six or seven that then the said Complainants claimed this Defendants land, and a short time after his marriage with his present wife which was about eighteen months as well as this defendants recollects after the death of his first wife the complainants or some of them (as this Defendant is informed and believes in his absence and when this defendant had left home to go to Frederick Town on business) took some person on this defendants land and caused a survey to be made of the said land and laid the same off into subdivisions and each claimed his share of my land as carved out by themselves.

That this defendant on his return home was much astonished at the conduct of the said complainant in attempting to take from him his property and leaving him destitute of any thing wherewith to subsist upon; That as before stated Jacob was living