Die Jovis May 31° et 1° Jacobi

Cam Jo: Watson & Jane his wife the Eldest Daughter of George Macdaell late of St Maryes Bowly dec. & admrs of his goods & chattels administred by Robt Graham & Ann his wife the Relict & Execrix of ye last will & Testam. of ye sd George Who by ye death of ye sd Execrix Ann Satisfied; And ye Watson & Jane ye admrs aforesaid Exhibited their answer to ye Libell Exhibited agst them by Robt Graham & Recorded — for 26° of this booke, which answer being sworne to by ye sd Watson & wife in this Court before Thomas Grimston Esq. was ordered to be Recorded, and followeth — in these words viz.

The Answer of Jo: Watson & Jane his wife admrs of ye goods & chattels of George Macdaell deceased administred by Robt Graham & Ann his wife Execrix of ye last will & Testam. of ye sd George, To ye Libell Exhibited agst them by the sd Robt in this Court before the honble Henry Vernall & Wm Digges Esqrs Judges for probate of Wills & Granting Adm.

The Respondents say that hee it is true that ye sd George Macdaell did make his last will & Testam. as mention'd in ye Libell set forth & did thereby Will that after his debts & funerall charges paid, ye severall Legacyes as mention'd in ye sd Will set forth & made his sd Wife Ann Sole Execr thereof & gave unto her ye Legacy therein mentioned, as by ye sd Will all at large doth appeare, But what induced him after ye making of ye sd Ann to sell two of ye sd Negroes, the Respondents know not, or that ye sd Estate did att any time after worse then att ye time of making ye sd Ann, but believe it did not, for that he lived long time after, & did sickell during ye time of his Sickness, & never made any alteration in ye sd Ann (which had it been) he would doubtless had done; That he dyed as in ye Libell set forth & ye sd Ann proved ye sd Will & Exhibited an Inventory of his sd Estate But that ye sd Ann did alter ou, they denye & doubt not to prove — but it amounted to a far greater Summe of tob. then in ye Libell mentioned, the sd Ann being altogether Ignorant of their sd husbands Estate, further then ye sd Robt would bring it to light being ye keeper of ye sd Estate books, & only privy to his sd Estate, who after his date designing to Marry her, had a fitt opportunity of serving his future Interest by — Concealing from her what Negroes he had sworn to ye Inventory, & also — for after ye sd Marriage, she being altogether incapable of imparting ye same, but soly trusting to him as appeared by ye Keys of Indian Corn tob & English grain made upon ye plantation that were ye sd Estate dyed, never appeared nor inventoryed — their being later wordings made upon ye Plantation, And the Respondents further — say that they att ye time & long before ye death of ye sd Estate was in England & ye sd Jane sue only admx, & that they are not privy to what debts ye sd Estate owed, & it may be ye sd Robt & Ann might pay & bound to pay severall debts of ye sd Estate where they was always willing to allow for ye as by Law they was obliged, which is — When they are truly & Legally proved to be ye sd Estate debt before ye honble ye Judges for probate of Wills &c. & truly & Legally paid or secured to be paid that so they may be discharged of ye same upon their passing their acct before ye sd Judges, but for ye summe of 47489 lbs of tob. alledged in ye sd Libell, to be paid there is not any part of it yett proved according to Law before ye sd Judges to be due to any ye pleaded sd. nor legally — proved to them nor soe much as any acct sworne to before them, which Respondents are ready & loyal in their Concepcion to them, & doubt not but to discover ye same, — ded for ye summe of 5226 lbs tob demanded for Salary, they humbly Conceive needs not Answer till ye summe paid is allowed, upon which it arises, for Phinee had Bill of 800 of tob they doubt not but proove it paid or may be paid there being fitt assets, as they are informed in his adm. hands, all which severall summes my ye whole amounting to ye summe of 71793 lbs of tob. nor any part of it though Legally proved paid ought not to be deducted by ye sd Robt out of ye sd Estate Exhibited in ye Inventory for ye satisfaction of himselfe either in law or Conscience ye sd debts being all paid out of ye profitts & produce of ye sd Estate & no: left the sd or Swan ye hand him to pay ye same in, and most of ye sd Gent. Great friends to ye sd Macdaell, who contributed for ye orphants good to stay till ye same was paid out of ye profitts of ye sd Estate without any suit or molestacon of ye sd Robt & Ann who was apparent to ye whole Neighbourhood unless any other ways — to pay ye same, having no Estate or very little to do it withall, but out of ye profitts — of ye sd Estate & out of which also he hath accrued to himselfe a competent Estate without Rendring any acct of ye profitts of ye same which he ought to do, the sd — Testat having by his will (as may be collected out of ye words of ye sd will) totally — debarred ye Execrix of ye benefitt of ye sd Profitts, & willed ye same to his Children Legatees in ye sd Will to be divided (when at age) Equally amongst them, she being unknown & not liable to outlive ye Guardianships of her sd Children, besides having left a suffi- Maintenance for her out of ye profitts of his sd Estate for her life upon his plantacon & ye sd Estate was left with Seven English hands & for abt Negroes with a good stock of Cattle & Ship with all things necessary for husbandry & a good plantacon in Excellent good Repaire the profitts in 3 years time would amount unto more then ye value of ye sd Estate Inventoryed, both of which if swallowed up by ye sd Robt vnd Colour of Marriage with ye sd Execrix & paying ye debts which he says — is 47000 lbs of tob. & the debtes in his hands out of ye sd Estate Inventoryed what is left which is only 14000 lbs & will not pay ye debts of ye sd George ye sd Testat & so both ye Rest of ye Creditors must be unpaid & ye Orphants be forced to — provide or beggar for a Livelihood, whilst ye sd Robt hath Doubly gott 47000 lbs of tob. out of ye sd Estate, besides what of it he privately Enjoyes. And the Respondents further say that there was any bill found in ye name of ye sd Testat after his death save only Phinees bill of 800 lbs of tob. there being one bill of James Greene for about 22 or 2300 lbs of tob. or thereabouts my name of ye sd Testat which ye sd Greene is Ready to prove as he informed the Respondents. And the respondents further say that ye sd Williams Rogers & Company mentioned did never legally prove ye ballance of their sd acct due from ye sd Testat as they ought to have done of 17822 lbs of tob. — yett ye sd Libellants allowed of ye same att which time he says in his libell he was their attorney, & att ye same time he acted as Execr of ye sd Testat & so as Execr he accounted to himselfe as their attorney, which was Legal without Collusion — between