Sum yearly by whom he had several base children and in the mean time your Petitioner with her children were reduced to great poverty for want, she partly by and partly your Petitioner's labour hath maintained ever since your Petitioner's husband left her, all which can make proof of and will by the Records of Somerset County Court and other sufficient witnesses.

Now may it please your Honor for it is that in or about the month of November last past your Petitioner's husband John Cropper departed this life seized of several tracts of land lying in this Province and lawfully possessed of sundry goods and chattels, the greater part thereof he by his last Will & Testament bequeathed to those two bastard children and made the said Rhoda Hammett sole Executrix, of which estate she is now possessed and hath not left any thing to your Petitioner, and although your Petitioner hath demanded her Dower (which she humbly conceives to be her Right) yet she the said Rhoda Hammett utterly refuseth to give your Petitioner any thing of the said husbands estate, whereby your Petitioner is likely to suffer by great want and poverty.

Wherefore your Petitioner humbly prayeth that the probat of the said Will may be suspended untill your Petitioner hath made proofe of what is here declared, for which she humbly supplicates a convenient time and place may be appointed, the Defendant being remote and several inhabitants in Virginia, and that in the meantime the estate formerly belonging to your Petitioner's husband aforesaid may be secured from further waste and embezzlement, and the said Rhoda Hammett give a just account upon oath of what goods and chattels came to her hands, which your Petitioner has been dyed possessed, since his death, and that your Honor will consider of what remained your Petitioner may have her right, and as in duty bound &c.

March 1st. 1686. Eq: Proposer:

The aforegoing Petition being read, and by the Judges heard and fully understood the prayer of the said Petitioner was granted:

And that Probat of the Petitioner's Husband's Will be suspended till Contested. — — } W. Taylard Reg.

And thereupon the same day it was Order that the following Information be Recorded Viz.

To the

To the Honr.ble Judges for Probat of Wills &c:

At the Instance and request of Gertrude Cropper the Relict and widdow and Relict of John Cropper dead, the subscriber was desired humbly to informe your Honors: of what is contained in a Petition lately exhibited unto your Honors in the name of the said Gertrude, a great part of what is therein contained is known to me to be the truth and therefore my duty to pray your Honors &c: according to the purport of the said Petition, at the Instance aforesaid was the Informacon of your Honors humble servant:

Wm Whittington

March 4. 1686:

Therefore It was Ordered by the Honr.ble Judges that the following Commission issue according to the Prayer of the said Petitioner in these words Viz.

Henry Darnall and Clement Hill Esqrs. Judges for Probat of Wills and granting Administrations within the Province of Maryland. To the Justices of Somerset County or any four of them in Court sitting: Greeting Whereas this day to wit the second day of March in the Twelfth year of the Dominion of this Right Honr.able Charles Lord Baron of Baltimore &c. Anno Dni 1686: was Exhibited before us the humble Petition of Gertrude Cropper the Relict and Widdow of John Cropper late of Somerset County aforesaid dead Wherein she set forth and shewed unto us that &c. [(Here the Petition and Order was Verbatim as the same is here Recorded)] And for that William Whittington of Somerset County aforesaid having informed us of the truth of what is alledged in the aforesaid Petition We have taken the premises into our Consideracon and thought meet to grant the Prayer of the said Petitioner. We therefore give and grant unto you the said Justices or any four of you in Court sitting full power and authority to call before you the said Rhoda Hammett and demand of her the goods and chattels of the said dead to be unto you delivered or upon her refusale for to do We do empower you to seize upon the same and the said goods chattels and debts of the said dead you must forthwith to be improved by such person as you shall appoint and take it into your Custody or take the same and every part thereof to be well and sufficiently secured and kept from waste for the benefitt of such to whom the right of

(Mendacon: