to be left to the discretion and Judgment of such Magistrate before whome such
person as aforesaid shall be brought to Judge thereof and if before such Magistrate or
Magistrates brought shall be found and adjudged a Runaway that shall suffer such
penalties and punishments as in the said Act is provided against runaways, and for the
better encouragement of all Persons to bring and take up such Runaways It was also
Enacted that all and every person and persons apprehending and taking up such
Runaways or persons travelling without passes as aforesaid shall be to give
a sufficient account of themselves as aforesaid shall have and receive the hundred
pounds of Tobacco to be paid by the owner of such runaway for apprehending and taking
up of a servant and the servant refusing to pay the same then to make satisfaction by
corporall punishment or otherwise as the Justices of this Provinces or County Court in such
persons shall be for apprehending & taking up shall think fit and it was likewise by
the authority aforesaid Enacted that at what time soever any of the said servants
Runaways shall be found by any person or persons within this Province such
person or persons so finding and apprehending the same shall bring or cause him
or them to be brought before the next Magistrate or Justice of the County wherein
such runaway is apprehended who is hereby impowered to take into his custody or
otherwise him her or them to secure and dispose as he shall think fit untill
such person or persons so seized or apprehended shall give security to answer the
Premisses through Court that shall first sitte in the said County and he is also to secure
such person or persons till he or they can make satisfaction to the party that shall
so apprehend & seize such runaway or other person as by the said Act is required as by
the said Act Remaining still in force may more at large appeare And the said John
Rousby in fact saith that Whereas the said John Rousby being an Inhabitant of this
Province was upon the Thirteenth day of June Anno Dom. 1680 possessed of two men
servants called and known by the Names of Christopher Butler a servant & Symon
Stayner a Butcher both w[ith] servants to the said John bought and purchased of
Gilbert Murray Merchant the twelfth day of December 1679 for the summe of Six
Thousand pounds of Tobacco for the term of foure yeares from thence next
ensueing and being for as aforesaid possess of the said two servants they the said two
servants upon the said thirteenth day of June 1680 aforesaid did Runaway and
unlawfully absent themselves from the service of the said John and being afterwards
to wit the fifteenth day of June aforesaid service taken up and apprehended by one
William Price of the Prince Georges in Potomia hundred in Charles County aforesaid & by him
secured as Runaways and brought in the custody of the said William Price the
said Joseph Sprinson having Notice of such Runaways being there afterwards
to wit the One or two and twentyth day of Jun aforesaid being justices of
Potomia hundred aforesaid did (with others whome for that purpose he comanded to assist
him) go to the house of the said William Price and there Seize & apprehend the
said Christopher Butler and Symon Stayner & in his custody them kept & secured
and from the house of the said William Price them did lead and carry away But
the said Joseph Sprinson the said Act not at all regarding the said servants so
in his custody being did wilfully neglect to carry the said servants before the
next Magistrate or Justice as by the said Act is directed there to be disposed of
according to Law, but did carry them to his owne house in the hundred & County
aforesaid & there did wittingly and willingly (knowing them to be Runaways
as aforesaid) Entertaine them in his said house & set them on worke to wood out
his terms time, & having kept them for the space of foure days & nights did voluntarily

against

against permitted suffer them to escape and Runaway out of this Province Contrary to the said Act of
Assembly to the damage whereof the said John hath not only lost the service for the said years 1680
but also all future service of the said servants both Damage of the said John to one thousand
pounds of Tobacco and thereupon he brought his Suite

And the said Joseph Sprinson by Robert Ogle his Attorney cometh and defendeth the force and
injury when and wrongs and prayeth leave to imparle hereunto untill next Provincial Court and it
is granted unto him the same day is given to both Parties.

At the said next Provincial Court came the said parties by their Attorneys aforesaid, and the
said Joseph Sprinson by his said Attorney saith that he is not nor was at the time of the premisses
above imposed upon him in manner and forme as the said John in his Declaration against him
hath complained & of this he puts himself upon the Country, and the Plaintiff likewise
doth the like therefore commanded the Sheriff of St Maryes County that he cause to come here twelve
by honest and lawfull men and who neither of the Parties are kinsmen to the Parties as well of
the Plaintiff as of the Defendant to the Court here at this day to wit this seventh day of November in the Twelfth year of the Dominion
of the Right Honble Charles Lord Baltimore &c Anno Dom 1681 came the said Parties by their
Attorneys aforesaid and the said twelve jurymen being called & sworne to wit Samuel Stapleford
William Thomas Joseph Eglee Jacob Lowry William Smith Jonas Graham William Gale
Andrew Newton Richard Lord Timothy Thompson Henry Dynaven & John Bailey who being
sworne and sworne to say the truth in the premisses Upon their oaths do say that
the said Joseph Sprinson is guilty of the Damages above imposed upon him in manner and forme
as the said John in his declaration aforesaid against him hath complained & they assess the
Damages of the said John Rousby to Six thousand pounds of Tobacco, which verdict of the
Jury aforesaid being read and heard the said Joseph Sprinson by his Attorney aforesaid moved the Court
here in Arrest of Judgment Upon this motion of the said aforesaid Plaintiff Day untill the next
Provincial Court and it is granted unto him the same Day is given to the Plaintiff Likewise

At the said next Provincial Court to wit the third day of March in the twentieth year of
the Dominion of the Right Honble Charles Lord Baltimore Anno Dom 1681 came the
said John Rousby in his proper person and offered himself against the said Joseph
Sprinson and upon the Premisses and prayed that Judgment upon the Verdict of the Jury
aforesaid may be entered, but the said Joseph Sprinson saith not nor made disclaim, Therefore
It is considered by the Court here that the said John Rousby recover against the said Joseph
Sprinson as aforesaid the summe of Six thousand pounds of Tobacco Damages by the Jury
aforesaid in forme aforesaid assessed as also the summe of One thousand two hundred
forty foure pounds of Tobacco for costs of Suite and the said Deft in Mercy &c.

Michael Miller against Clement Hill

Clement Hill late of St Maryes County gent was arrested to answer unto Michael
Miller in a Plea of Trespass upon the Case

And thereupon the said Michael Miller by Nicholas Sewell his Attorney complained
that whereas the said Michael Miller the Nineteenth day of April in the second year
of the Dominion of Charles &c and in the year of our Lord 1677 at the County within the
Province aforesaid was possessed of a certaine boy servant called by the Name of Thomas Gurney
of about the age of twelve yeares as the proper servant of him the said Michael to serve him
the said Michael for such term of years as is judged & adjudgeth by the Laws of this Province for
servants transported into this Province in the circumstances of the age aforesaid, of the value
of three thousand pounds of tobacco, and he being thereof possessed the said boy servant of
him the said Michael as aforesaid the said Michael afterwards to wit the tenth day of
May in the year aforesaid out of the possession and service of him the said Michael Contrary
Law, with the said servant afterwards to wit the twelfth day of May in the year of our Lord

aforesaid