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The Jurors on Kno[w]e the Said Gerard by writing and Speaking divers false, Scandalous and malitious, Scandalous and Seditious Endeavouring Words to Scandalize and may [illegible] good Subjects of this Province and Hinder therein the Government of the Said Government and Divers Merchants and Traders Trading into the Same and Raise Sedition and Contempt of his Ma[jes]ty Said Govern[or] and Governm[ent] and Disturbances and Troubles in the Said Province and to Lessen the Peace of the Same ag[ainst] and in Contempt of his Sacred Ma[jes]ty and his Dignity and Contrary to the Lawes of the Said Province and the Said Gerrard by James Tranfordlus Att[orney] by the Speciall favour of the Court admitted Comes and Defends the force and Injury, when he and Saith that he is not guilty in such manner and Forme as in the Freeholmen and is Saith Put himself upon the Country, and the Att[orney] Gen[eral] Prayed Judgment Wherefore Counsel shall he Come here to Answer the Said Gerrard Slye and Jurors to Speak the truth Concerning the Premisses upon their Oaths, Jury, that the Said Gerard Slye is not Guilty, whereupon the Said Att[orney] Gen[eral] prayed Said Lord the King moved by Court in Arrest of Judgment, which was granted him and Leave given Court to the Said Gerrard Slye and Jurors to Appear at this Day Sitting the Second Day of September in the Tenth Year of his Ma[jes]ty Reigne and in the year of our Lord One Thousand Six hundred Ninety and Eight. James Frankland Said George Walker Att[orney] Gen[eral] for our Said Lord the King as by Record Said Att[orney] Gen[eral] Exhibited his Reasons in Arrest of Judgment, viz[t]. The Defend[ant] Stand Indicted for maliciously and advisedly speaking Words and publishing Divers Scandalous Speeches and Sentences Defamatory to Gov[ernor] Sir Thomas Lawrence Knight his Ma[jes]ty Governor and Sent Thomas Lawrence Knight by the name of Sir Lawrence Rattle head a Man of the Arrest Charactes and by Speeches Scandalous by the Oath Nicholas Smith Jurors Sworn Sworn Robert Smith by Jn[o] Agnes Foreman of a Grand Jury to shewe the Matt[er] Jurors Sworne by Mr. Jun[r] Smith Mundy Advise Speaker and English as to the Matt[er] of Fact and as to the Other to Belong to Jurors by Jam[es] Watkins Wm Taylor Jurors to Mr. agree to be his Hand Writing Jos[eph] Hopkinson Jurors Depositions to be as meant by those Sentences Jurors Satisfaction and Beyond Doubt in the Minds and Opinions of all Seditious and Ambiguous Words the Defend[ant] in his Defence did not Set much as Denyed Ill nor make the least Dispute of it but insisted on these Objections

First

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First that there was no Such Act, Secondly that it was intended but for two years though appearing to be perpetual, thirdly that when Some of the words were said to be Spoken it was near a month after the Recall Speaking, Fourthly that the words was Spoke out of the Province, this being all points of Law not recognizable by the Jury, but the Court, and the fact, all fully proved which things they were only Judges of, but the Jury not using or considering the fact, which they ought, but wholely taking on them to Judge of the Law which they ought not returned by the foreman a verdict for the Defend[ant] which verdict being Too directly ag[ainst] the fact proved and built upon Such an Erronious principle is Utterly void in Law Wherefore to be Set aside - - -

2 - Two of the Jury say that Inhab[itants] of the Country for Prejudice and Contempt of the Laws of England and this Province and therefore their verdict Utterly void in Law and ought to be Set aside - - -

3 - William Hosier and Jerv[ase] others of the Jury were not qualified by Law to be of the Jury, being not Freeholders and therefore Incapable by Law and their verdict void in Law - - -

For which Ent[ries] and many others well known to the Court in the proceedings and verdict, ref[ere] and the Att[orney] Gen[eral] for Lord the King prayeth Judgment Verdict and may be Annulled and Set aside and our Said Lord the Kings right of prosecution of the Said Slye for his Notorious Offences reserved inviolable - - - which Reasons and being read and Arguments on both Sides being by the Court read and fully understood it is Considered by the Court that the reasons of Att[orney] are Sufficient in Law to annull and Set aside the verdict of the Jury aforesaid and that red Judgment ought to be given thereon and that the Kings Right of Prosecution be reserved - - -

The King against Gerard Slye

Maryland ss The Jurors of Our Sovereign Lord the King for the body of this Province upon their oaths do present Gerard Slye late of St. Mary's County Merch[ant] for that whereas by a Certaine Act of Assembly of this Province made at a Generall Assembly begunne and held at the City of St. Mary's the 10th day of May in the year of our Lord 1692: Entituled an Act against Divers[e] Offences among other things it is therein Contained that whereas after passing the Said Act, Some malitious and advisedly by Writing Speaking or otherwise Express publish publish utter or Declare any words Sentences or other thing or things tends to Defame or Scandall of their Ma[jes]ties Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being and their Council shall be Imprisoned Six months without Bail or Mainprize and Incur such forfeiture as the Justices before whom such Matt[er] is Proved shall adjudge not Exceeding the Sum of Ten thousand pounds of Tobacco to our Sovereign Lord and Lady the King and Queen their heirs and Successors for the Support of Government as by the Said Act yett in full force and Unrepealed more at large appeareth Yet nevertheless Standing which the Said Gerard Slye maliciously and advisedly - - - Contriving and Designing to Scandalize and Defame his Ex[cellency] Francis Nicholson Esq[uire] his - - -