good faithfull and honest Men of Talbott County as divers others Ligg. of
our said Lord the King within this Province and of good Name Fame and Credit
in Population and Estimation by all the time aforthatched Continued and be
haved himself and hath been always held deemed and reputed as a good
faithfull and honest man by those in whome he hath live and Continued
and by whome he was well knowne without any Manner of Will approach
Felony Perjury deceitfull dealing or any other Unfaithfull Fraud or any hypocrisie
of the Same whereby he hath remained and Continued and his good Name Fame
Credit Population and Estimation hath by all the time aforesaid been Confirmed by
means whereof the said John Rides hath not only deserved by good and obtained the
good will Favour and Esteeming of all his Neighbours Kin other Faithfull and honest Persons
in whome he hath live and Conversed but was also admitted by the Justices of Talbott
County Court to be an Attorney and to practise in the Court to his no small gain Profitt
and advantage in the well maintaining and Support of his family and himself for Divers
Years past the said Tom Surlee of the County aforesaid being in no wise ignorant but designing the Ruin
poy and prosperous Condition and Estate of him the said John Rides and in body Malice
Envie to bring to bring in and indeed the said John Rides and only to loose and forfeit his good
his practise of an Attorney of the said Court and to cause him to be Sworn over by
Starr and to procure the said Court for Your Cause all for to cause him innocently
to suffer a Corporall Paine the 20 day of August in the Year of our Lord 1697
at Great Towne in Talbott County the said William Surlee having Commenced a
Suit in Talbott County Court against the said John Rides for the Sum of Seven hundred
and fifty pounds of Tobacco and thirteen shillings and Six pence and upon the
Tryall of the said Suit before the Justices of the Board of the said County there
Sitting in Court the said John Rides prayed the Allowance of a Certain Accom
lote allowed him which he then in Court pleaded in defence of the said William
Surlees claime against him according to the Act of Assembly and he prayed the
same Justices that he might be admitted to prove his Accompt by his corporall
oath to whereupon the said Tom Surlee then in the Presence and Hearing of the
same Justices and divers others of the good and faithfull Subjects of our
said Lord the King in the said Court then being those false feigned Scandalous
and opprobrious words with a loud and audible voyce did declare publiquely
that the said John Rides (the said plaintiff meaning) art a Rouge and a
Rouge and that he the said William Surlee would Ruine him the said John
Rides the plaintiff meaning if two hundred pounds Sterling would do it

and that he the said Tom Surlee would make him the said John Rides the plaintiff
a wandring Runaway and the said John Rides in fact saith that by reason of the
speaking of the false feigned and Scandalous words aforesaid the said Justices did
refuse to admit him to prove his said Accompt by his Oaths aforesaid and did not
allow the said Accompt although just and true in disconsent as the said John Rides
had prayed but gave Judgement against him for the said Tom Surlee without any re
guard had long Credit aforesaid and the said John is also further prejudiced in his
practise as an Attorney and in his Reputation and dealing with his Neighbours
who doe now since the speaking of the said words withdraw themselves from his
conversation to his very great loss and Damage and he saith that he is
Damnified and hath sustained loss by reason of 10000 lbs and thereupon
brings his Suit against the said William Surlee by Writ Dedimus his attorney comes and
defendeth the Force and Injury when and saith that he is not guilty of Ma
licious and false speaking the aforesaid words in the Declaration aforesaid
mentioned and of this he puttethe himself upon his Country and the plain
tiff also demanded was therefore given to the Sheriff of Anne Arundell County
that forthwith he Cause to come twelve men of his Bailiwick
whether they be Freeholders or Merchants and the said Sheriff made return
thereof that he had thereupon ready twelve men by his precept he was commanded
(viz) Michaell Miller Gabriell Parrott Edward Gibson John Duvall
James Ott Todd Sammott Smith Philip Smith Philip Howard Junior Par
Edward Dorsey Josiah Gilliam George Parker Arnold Elliot
Now therefore this day to wit the Eighth day of September Anno Domini
1697 Came the Plaintiff by their attorney aforesaid and the Jurors aforesaid being called
Elsewise came who being Elected tryed and Sworne to speake the truth
concerning the Premises upon their oaths doe say three of the Jury
Find for the Defendant to whom it is considered by the Court here that
the said John Rides take nothing by his Writ aforesaid but be in Mercy for his
false Clamour and that the said William Surlee goe thereof without day
and it is further considered that the said William Surlee recover against the
said John Rides the Sum of Fourteen hundred and Fifteen pounds of to
bacco by the Court here adjudged him for his Cost and Charges
in this behalf Expended and Expended according to the forme of the
Statute in such Case made and provided