-ington leity the sum of eighty five pounds Sterling being the amount in the aggre-
-gate of certain sums of money which in and by the last Will and Testament of my
father Samuel Townshend deceased are directed to be paid out of his estate to
certain persons therein named being at that time citizens of London, in England,
all of which will more fully appear reference being had to the said last will and
Testament now remaining of record in the office of the Register of Wills of Prince
George's County - The said amount of eighty five pounds sterling to be distributed
and paid as far as may be practicable, by the said Minister, to and among the
persons in the said Will mentioned or their legal representatives according to the
sum therein stated to be due them respettively and if any of the said persons or
their legal representatives cannot be found the amount payable to them to be
distributed among poor objects of charity in the leity of London aforesaid. I
wish it to be expressly understood that I do not direct the payment of this money
because of any obligation imposed on me to that effect, but simply because I
consider the same to have been honestly due by my father who desired it to be paid,
and my brother Leonard who was the Executor of my father having neglected to
pay it. I have thought proper to do so - This direction however is by me expressly
confined to the principal sum aforesaid and no interest whatever is to be paid
by my Executors thereon :- Item - I give and bequeath to all my negroes or
servants old and young and their increase their freedom and do direct that
my Executors hereinafter named shall immediately after my demise procure
and deliver to them respectively from the proper office in said County such cer-
-tificates as may be necessary to secure to them their full enjoyment of their free-
-dom - The said certificates when thus procured to be paid for by my Executors
out of my estate - And whereas also in and by a certain Deed of Manumis-
-sion by me heretofore executed bearing date the 24th day of December in the
year of our Lord 1831 - and recorded in the office of the Clerk of Prince George's
County Court on the 20th day of March in the year of our Lord 1832, my said
negroes, and their increase to be liberated manumitted and set free from
and after the time of my death, and some doubts have been expressed as to the
validity of said deed I have for remedy thereof inserted the aforegoing clause
herein, and in case the said deed and this my Will should be insufficient to
manumit and free from slavery my said negroes and their said increase
I hereby give and bequeath them and their said increase to my Nephew Jeremiah
Townshend and his heirs, not for the use of himself and his heirs, but for the
use of the said negroes and their increase, save the amount of one cent per
capita per annum which the said slaves and their said increase are hereby
required to pay forever hereafter to the said Jeremiah Townshend and his
heirs - Item - I give devise and bequeath to my said negroes and their
said increase all my property both real and personal to be divided a-
-mongst them equally share and share alike to them and their heirs forever.
This devise and bequest is to take effect even if for any cause at all at present un-
-forseen by me the said negroes or their said increase should after my death
be deprived of their said freedom and held in bondage. And lastly I do hereby
constitute and appoint the said Jeremiah Townshend and John B. Brooke
Executors of this my last Will and Testament - Hereby revoking and annulling
all former Wills by me heretofore made declaring this and none other to be
my last will and Testament. - In Testament whereof I have hereunto set
my hand and seal this 17th day of September in the year of our Lord 1844 -

John Townshend, (Seal)

signed sealed published and declared as and for his last Will and Testament
by the said John Townshend the above named testator in presence of
us who at his request in his presence and in presence of each have signed our
names as witnesses thereto. -

Phil Lehlw,
W. B. C. Worthington,
James T. Lehew

And thereupon to wit, William Townshend George S. Townshend
and John L. Townshend by their Solicitors William H. Tuck, and Thomas
F. Bowie, Esquires come into Court here on the eighth day of June in the year of our
Lord eighteen hundred and forty six, and file their petition in writing which
petition is in the following words to wit: -

"To the Honorable the Judges of the orphan's Court of Prince George's
County. The petition of William Townshend George S. Townshend and
John L. Townshend in behalf of themselves and all others who are heirs
and representatives of John Townshend, late of said County deceased
humbly represents that the said William was the brother and the said
George S. and John L. the Nephew, of the said deceased being sons of
Leonard Townshend a brother of said deceased who died before the
said John, that the said John Townshend departed this life on or about
the —— day of May last in the eighty first year of his age, having on the
Seventeenth day of September eighteen hundred and forty four, made
and executed an instrument of writing in the nature of and purporting
to be his last Will and Testament, and which has since his death been
lodged in the office of the Register of Wills of said County for probate,
and under and by virtue of which John B. Brooke, and Jeremiah
Townshend named therein as Executors will apply for, as your petitioners
are informed letters Testamentary on his estate - Your petitioners represent
that at the date of the said instrument of writing and for many years be-
-fore and ever since to the time of his death, the said John Townshend was
continually and without intermission in a state of mental derange-
-ment and insanity and utterly incapable of making a valid disposi-
-tion of his property by last Will and Testament by reason of his un-
-soundness of mind as aforesaid, and they aver and charge that the
said instrument of writing purporting as aforesaid for the cause
aforesaid is utterly null and void and they therefore enter this their
Caveat against the probate thereof as and for the last Will and Testa-
-ment of the said deceased. -

And your petitioners also represent that by the said paper
purporting as aforesaid the said deceased devised and bequeathed
nearly all his property of every kind and description to his negroes
to the exclusion of all his heirs and next of kin, that for many years prior
to his death and at the time of making the said pretended Will the said de-
-ceased was so much under the influence and control of certain opinions
and feelings originating in a morbid and unsound state of mind in re-
-ference to the safety of his soul and his duty in regard to his slaves, as made
him a monomaniac on those subjects (even if he were of sound and disposing
mind on other subjects, which these petitioners wholly deny) and from these
peculiar feelings and opinions created and operated upon by the acts and
fraudulent persuasions of his negroes or some of them who had acquired
a predominant control and influence over him in all that related to themselves, he