and property of him the said Joseph (in which said Writing is contained that the said James Howard on the ninth day of November in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy two was held and firmly bound unto the said Joseph in the sum of One hundred and twenty pounds Current Money of Maryland to be released upon certain Conditions to the said Writing Obligatory annexed, the said Writing Obligatory by the said James to be taken care of and safely kept and to be redelivered to him the said Joseph when afterwards he the said James should be thereto requested which said Writing Obligatory hath by the death of the said James towit on the twenty fourth day of February in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty eight come into the hands and possession of the said Ephraim and Joshua the Executors of the Testament and last Will of the said James who have taken upon them the Burthen and Execution of the said Testament and last Will and to whom Letters Testamentary in due form of Law and Administration thereof hath been committed and the said Joseph doth in fact aver and say that the said Writing Obligatory, at the time of the delivery thereof to the said James towit on the Ninth day of August in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy three was and ever since hath been and now is of the value of One hundred and twenty pounds Current Money towit at the County aforesaid Nevertheless the said James in his life time and the said Ephraim and the said Joshua since the death of the said James although often afterwards thereto requested the said Writing Obligatory to the said Joseph hath not yet delivered or restored but the same to restore and deliver to the said Joseph the said James in his lifetime and the said Ephraim and Joshua since his Death have heretofore refused and the said Ephraim and Joshua still do refuse but unjustly detain the same to the damage of the said Joseph Two hundred pounds Current Money of Maryland and thereupon he bringeth suit and so forth.

Jeb. Hollingsworth Attorney for the Plff. John Doe, Richard Roe } pledges to prosecute

A Copy of which aforegoing Declaration was made and sent with the Writ which issued in the plea aforesaid.

At which said Mentioned second tuesday of May being the thirteenth day of the same Month Anno Domini seventeen hundred and eighty eight and the day of the return of the aforegoing Writ comes here into our General Court here the aforesaid Joseph Hicking by Jebulon Hollingsworth his Attorney aforesaid And the Sheriff of Anne Arundel County to whom the aforegoing Writ was made and

(directed)

directed likewise comes and makes return thereof to the Court here Thus endorsed towit. Cepi Ephraim. N.E. Joshua. Copys left the 17th April 88. D. Stewart Shff.

And the said Ephraim Howard and Joshua Howard Executors aforesaid by Richard Ridgely their Attorney come and defend the force and injury when and so forth and pray leave of the Court to imparle hereunto untill next Court, and they have it, and the same day is given to the plaintiff also.

At which next Court towit the second tuesday of October being the fourteenth day of the same Month Anno Domini seventeen hundred and eighty eight comes again here into our General Court as well the aforesaid Joseph Hicking by his Attorney aforesaid as the aforesaid Ephraim Howard and Joshua Howard Executors aforesaid by their Attorney aforesaid And the aforesaid Ephraim Howard and Joshua Howard Executors aforesaid by their Attorney aforesaid as before defend the force and injury when and so forth and pray further leave of the Court to imparle hereunto untill next Court and they have it, and the same day is given to the plaintiff also.

At which said next Court towit the second Tuesday of May being the twelfth day of the same Month Anno Domini seventeen hundred and eighty nine comes again here into our General Court as well the aforesaid Joseph Hicking by his Attorney aforesaid as the aforesaid Ephraim Howard and Joshua Howard Executors aforesaid by their Attorney aforesaid And the aforesaid Ephraim Howard and Joshua Howard Executors aforesaid by their Attorney aforesaid as before defend the force and injury when and so forth, and say that they do not detain from him the said Joseph the said Goods and Chattles in the said declaration specified in the manner and form as he the said Joseph above complains against them and of this they put themselves upon the Country And the aforesaid Joseph Hicking in like manner and so forth.

Therefore let a jury thereon appear before the Judges of our General Court here on the second tuesday of October next by whom &c. and who neither &c. to recognize &c. because as well &c. the same day is given to the said parties then and there &c.

And now here at this day towit the said second tuesday of October being the thirteenth day of the same Month Anno Domini seventeen hundred and eighty nine comes again here into our General Court as well the said Joseph Hicking by his Attorney aforesaid as the said Ephraim Howard and Joshua Howard Executors aforesaid by David McMechen their Attorney. And the aforesaid Joseph Hicking by his Attorney aforesaid files in Court here the following Copy of a Bond towit. Know all Men by these presents that I James Howard am held & firmly bound unto Jo. Hickings in the full and just sum of One hundred

(and)