entitled to liberty and all the rights of a Free man; that your Petitioner has been most unjustly and wrongfully deprived of his liberty and is now held in slavery by Charles Carroll of Montgomery County; your Petitioner therefore most humbly prays your honors will take his case into consideration and grant him such relief as he is by Law and Justice entitled to, and that your honors will order a summons to issue to the said Charles Carroll to be and appear before this Honorable Court by a certain day to be therein mentioned to answer the premises, and your Petitioner as in duty bound will pray and so forth. —

S. T. Chase for Petitioner

Whereupon, the said Stephen Butler by his attorney aforesaid, prosecuted and sued forth out of the General Court here, the writ of the State of Maryland of Summons, against the said Charles Carroll, directed to the Sheriff of Montgomery County, in form following, towit. —

The State of Maryland towit. To the Sheriff of Montgomery County, Greeting. We command you that you summon Charles Carroll late of Montgomery County that all excuses and delays set aside he be and appear before the Judges of our General Court to be held at the City of Annapolis on the second Tuesday of May next to answer the Petition of Stephen Butler preferred against him for Freedom; Hereof he is not to fail, and fail not at your peril, and have you then and there this writ. Witness the Honorable Robert Hanson Harrison Esquire chief Judge of our said Court the 18th day of November Anno domini 1788. —

Issued the 28th day of March 1789. — J. T. C. — Jno. Gwinn Clk.

At which said second Tuesday of May being the Twelfth day of the said month in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty nine, and the day of the return of the aforegoing Summons, comes into the General Court here the said Stephen Butler by his attorney aforesaid, and the Sheriff of Montgomery County aforesaid to whom the said Summons was in form aforesaid directed, makes return thereof to the Court here thus endorsed towit, "N.C. Bey.a N. Jones, Shff". And the said Charles Carroll comes not into the General Court here, Whereupon, afterwards towit, on the Twenty eighth day of July in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety, the said Stephen Butler by his attorney aforesaid, prosecutes and sues forth out of the General Court here the second Writ of the State of Maryland of Summons, against the said Charles Carroll, directed to the Sheriff of Washington County in form

form following towit. — The State of Maryland to. To the Sheriff of Washington County Greeting: We command you that you summon Charles Carroll late of Washington County that all excuses and delays set aside he be and appear before the Judges of our General Court to be held at the City of Annapolis on the second Tuesday of October next, to answer the Petition of Stephen Butler preferred gainst him for Freedom; Hereof he is not to fail, and fail not at your peril, and have you then and there this writ. Witness the Honorable Thomas Johnson Esquire Chief Judge of our said Court the 17th day of June Anno domini 1790. —

Issued the 28th day of July 1790. — (J. T. C.) Jno. Gwinn Clk —

At which said second Tuesday October being the Twelfth day of the said month in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety, and the day of the return of the last aforegoing summons, comes again into the General Court here, the said Stephen Butler by Samuel Chase his attorney, and the Sheriff of Washington County aforesaid, to whom the said Summons was in form aforesaid directed, makes return thereof to the Court here thus endorsed towit; "Summoned — D. Stull, Sheriff." — Whereupon, comes into the General Court here, the said Charles Carroll by John Thomson Mason his attorney; Thereupon, further process of and upon the premises aforesaid, between the parties aforesaid, by order of the Court here, is continued until the second Tuesday of May next; the same day is given to the parties aforesaid, then, and so forth. —

At which said second Tuesday of May being the Tenth day of the said month in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety one come again into the General Court here, as well the said Stephen Butler by his attorney aforesaid, as the said Charles Carroll by his attorney aforesaid: Thereupon, further process of and upon the premises aforesaid between the parties aforesaid, by order of the Court here, is further continued until the second Tuesday of October next; the same day is given to the parties aforesaid, then, and so forth. —

And now (at this day towit, the) said second Tuesday October being the Eleventh day of the said month in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety one, come again into the General Court here, as well the said Stephen Butler by Gabriel Duvall his attorney, as the said Charles Carroll by John Thomson Mason and Thomas Buchanan his attornies: And the said Stephen Butler by his said attorney files in Court here the Deposition of John Gardiner, which is in form and of the tenor following towit:

The Deposition of John Gardiner of St. Mary's County aged sixty eight years