Samuel Bond, in the words and of the tenor following, to wit:— To the Honorable Judges of the General Court; The Petition of William Butler, humbly sheweth that he is held as a Slave by Samuel Bond of Prince Georges County, altho' he is entitled to his Freedom, being descended from a free white woman whose name was Eleanor Butler; your Petitioner is the son of Sarah Butler, who was the Daughter of Eleanor Butler, who was the Daughter of Sarah Butler who was the Daughter of Eleanor Butler the Free white woman aforesaid: He therefore prays your Honors to take his case into consideration, and discharge him from the custody of the said Samuel Bond, and that Summonses may issue for his Witnesses &c forth. — H. Ridgely for Petitioner. — Thereupon, on motion of the said William Butler by his attorney aforesaid it is ruled and ordered by the Court here that the said Samuel Bond do not remove the said William Butler out of this State, nor obstruct him from attending this Court from time to time in support of his Petition for Freedom preferred to the Court here; and in the mean time to feed, cloath and use the said William Butler well: It is further ruled & ordered by the Court here, that the writ of the State of Maryland & Summons issue forth out of the General Court here against the said Samuel Bond to answer unto the said Petition of the said William Butler, which issues accordingly, directed to the Sheriff of Prince Georges County in the words and of the tenor following to wit: The State of Maryland Sc.t To the Sheriff of Prince Georges County, Greeting: We command you that you summon Samuel Bond late of Prince Georges 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 William 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 Thomas Johnson Esquire chief Judge of our said Court the 24th day of November Anno domini 1790. — — Issued the 7th day of December 1790. — (A.S.) John Irwin Clk.

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, and the day of the return of the aforegoing Summons, comes into the General Court here, the said William Butler by his

his attorney aforesaid; and the Sheriff of Prince Georges County aforesaid to whom the said Summons was in form aforesaid directed, makes return thereof to the Court here thus endorsed to wit: "Summoned — Edw.d Lloyd Wailes, Shff." — And the said Samuel Bond being so forewarned now comes into the General Court here, by Philip Barton Key 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 October next; the same day is given to the parties aforesaid then, and so forth. —

At which said second Tuesday of 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 William Butler by his attorney aforesaid, as the said Samuel Bond 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 May next; the same day is given to the parties aforesaid then, and so forth. —

And now at this day to wit, the said second Tuesday of May being the Eighth day of the said month in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety two, come again into the General Court here as well the said William Butler by his attorney aforesaid, as the said Samuel Bond by his attorney aforesaid: And the said William Butler by his attorney aforesaid files in Court here, the Deposition of Joseph Butler, which is in form following to wit: —

Jane Butler vs Joseph Sim } Joseph Butler aged fifty one or two years, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God deposeth & saith, that he well knows Jane the Petitioner against Joseph Sim, she is the sister of Nace who obtained his Freedom on a Petition against the said Joseph Sim, and is Daughter of Rebecca who obtained her Freedom against Mr. Sherwin. — And he further saith that he well knows Will Butler who Petitioned against John Laidler; he is son of Sarah who is Daughter of Betty, & sister of Jacob Butler who obtained his Freedom on a Petition against Eleanor Taney. — And he further saith that he well knows Lydia Butler aged about seventeen years who petitioned against Anne Digges of Charles County and Sarah Butler sister of the said Lydia who petitioned against the same person; they are the Daughters of Letty, sister of the Deponent, which Letty is daughter of Sarah who was Daughter of Sarah who was Daughter of Eleanor Butler a free