prosecution of her said Petition, in this behalf laid out and expended, and that she have thereof her Execution, andsofoth. —

Test John Irwin Clerk.

Benjamin Butler, Stephen Butler, Samuel Butler, Nell Butler, Hopey Butler, Jenny Butler, Nancy Butler and Milly Butler. against Henrietta Plowden.

Be it remembered, that heretofore to wit: on the Seventh day of December in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety; Benjamin Butler, Stephen Butler, Sam Butler, Nell Butler, Hopey Butler, Jenny Butler, Nancy Butler and Milley Butler by Henry Ridgely their attorney, preferred and filed in the General Court here, their Petition for Freedom against Henrietta Plowden, which is in form following, to wit. — To the Honorable the Judges of the General Court. The Petition of Benjamin Butler, Stephen Butler, Sam Butler, Nell Butler, Hopey Butler, Jenny Butler, Nancy Butler and Milly Butler humbly sheweth, that they are held as Slaves, by a certain Henrietta Plowden of Saint Marys County, altho' they are entitled to their Freedom, being all descended from a Free White Woman, whose name was Eleanor Butler. Your Petitioners are the sons and Daughters of Abigail, who was the Daughter of Nelly, who was the Daughter of Sarah, who was the Daughter of Eleanor Butler the Free White Woman aforesaid: they therefore pray your honors to take their Case into Consideration and to discharge them from the Custody of the said Henrietta Plowden, and that Summonses may issue for their Witnesses, andsofoth. — H. Ridgely for the Petitioners. — (Enter the remainder of the proceedings in this Case, Mutatis Mutandis, as in the case of Abigail Butler against Henrietta Plowden, page 95. in this Book.) — Test John Irwin Clerk. —

Abraham Butler. against Elizabeth Ridgate admx of Thomas How Ridgate.

Be it remembered, that at this Term to wit, the second Tuesday of May, being the Eleventh day of the said month, in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety; Abraham Butler by Gabriel Duvall his attorney, preferred and filed in (the

the General Court here, his Petition for Freedom against Elizabeth Ridgate administratrix of the Testament and last will of Thomas How Ridgate, which is in form following to wit: To the Honorable the Judges of the General Court. The Petition of Abraham Butler, humbly sheweth, that he is held in Slavery by Elizabeth Ridgate of Charles County, administratrix of the Testament and last will of Thomas How Ridgate, when he is entitled to his Freedom, being a son of Monica Butler who was the Daughter of Jenny Butler, who was the Daughter of Eleanor Butler a Free white person. He therefore prays your honors to grant him a summons against the said Elizabeth Ridgate, administratrix as aforesaid returnable immediately, commanding her to be and appear in this Honorable Court & answer the premises, and to fulfil such order and judgment as may be made herein. And he as in duty bound will pray &c^a — — G. Duvall, for Pet.^r

Thereupon, on motion of the said Abraham Butler by his attorney aforesaid, it is ruled and ordered by the Court here, that the said Elizabeth Ridgate administratrix as aforesaid, do not remove the said Abraham 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, clothe, and use the said Abraham Butler, well; It is further ruled and ordered by the Court here, that the writ of the State of Maryland of Summons issue forth out of the General Court here against the said Elizabeth Ridgate administratrix as aforesaid, to answer unto the said Petition of the said Abraham Butler; which said Summons issues accordingly, to the Sheriff of Charles County, in form following to wit: The State of Maryland, &c. To the Sheriff of Charles County, Greeting: We command you that you summon Elizabeth Ridgate administratrix of the Testament and last will of Thomas How Ridgate, of Charles County, that all excuses and delays set aside she be and appear before the Judges of our General Court now sitting at the City of Annapolis, immediately, to answer the Petition of Abraham Butler, preferred against her for Freedom: Hereof she 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 Eleventh day of May in the year of our Lord 1790. Issued the 13th day of May 1790. — (G. Duvall) — Jno Irwin Clk.