Solicitors aforesaid, prays the Court here that commission may issue to the City of Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take the answer of the said Thomas Staines and Elizabeth his wife to the Bill of complaint of the said Thomas Rutland preferred against them in the Court here, and it is granted him: Whereupon the said Thomas Rutland, and the said Thomas Staines and Elizabeth his wife by their Solicitors aforesaid, pray the Court here, that the same Commission may be directed to Robert Milligan, Edward Tilghman and Tench Cox, Esquires of the City of Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania aforesaid, and that they, or any two of them, take the answer of the said Thomas Staines and Elizabeth his wife to the Bill of Complaint of the said Thomas Rutland preferred against them, returnable to the Court here with all convenient speed &c. And thereupon the same commission accordingly issues in the words and of the tenor following, to wit. The State of Maryland, to wit, To Robert Milligan, Edward Tilghman and Tench Cox Esquires of the City of Philadelphia Greeting, Know ye that we have appointed you or any two of you to be our Commissioners to take the answer of certain Thomas Staines and Elizabeth his wife to a certain Bill of complaint exhibited against them by a certain Thomas Rutland in our General Court for the Western Shore of the State aforesaid, as a Court of Equity. Therefore we request you or any two of you, that at such time and place as to you or any two of you shall seem convenient, you cause to come before you or any two of you, the aforesaid Thomas Staines and Elizabeth his wife, and that you or any two of you examine them upon their Corporal oaths to be by you or any two of you administered on the holy Evangels of almighty God touching their answers to the matters and things contained in the Bill aforesaid, so as aforesaid exhibited against them in our said Court, and that you or any two of you cause notice to be given to the Parties aforesaid, or their attorneys of the execution of this our Commission before execution thereof, and having reduced the answers of the said Thomas Staines and Elizabeth his wife to the Bill aforesaid so taken by you or any two of you into writing you send the same with this our Commission close under your or any two of your hands and seals to us in our said General Court with all convenient speed. Witness the Honourable Robert Hanson Harrison Esquire Chief Judge of our said Court the

the 6th day of October Anno Domini 1788.
Issued the 6th day of October 1788.
Gabriel Duvall atty for Comp.t Wm Cooke and Saml Chase for Defs.
Jno Gwinn Clk.

Thereupon further process of and upon the premises aforesaid, between the parties aforesaid, by order of the Court here thereon, is further continued until the second Tuesday of October next.

At which said second Tuesday of October, being the fourteenth day of the same month, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight: come again into the General Court here as well the said Thomas Rutland by his Solicitors aforesaid: as the said Thomas Staines and Elizabeth his wife by their Solicitors aforesaid; And the said Robert Milligan and Tench Cox two of the Commissioners to whom the Commission aforesaid was in form aforesaid directed, in obedience to the request therein mentioned, make return to the Court here of the same Commission with the answer of the said Thomas Staines and Elizabeth his wife to the Bill of complaint of the said Thomas Rutland preferred against them thereto annexed, in manner and form following, to wit, The Execution of this Commission appears by a certain Schedule to this Commission annexed. — Tench Cox. Robt Milligan — Commissioners —

The Schedule mentioned and referred to in the foregoing return is as follows, to wit. —

Thomas Staines and Elizabeth his wife Defts. vs Thomas Rutland, Complainant	In Chancery. The answer of Thomas Staines and Elizabeth his wife defendants to the bill

of complaint of Thomas Rutland Complainant. These defendants now and at all times hereafter saving and reserving to themselves and each of them any and all manner of advantages and benefit of exception to the many untruths uncertainties and imperfections in the complainant, said bill of complaint contained, in answer thereto, or to so much thereof, as these defendants are advised it is material for them to answer, they respectively answering say. They admitt that Francis Sponge now deceased and this Defendant Elizabeth were heretofore in right of this defendant Elizabeth seised and possessed of such lott of land lying and being in the City of Annapolis as in the said bill is alleged, and that being so seised and possessed the said Francis the then husband of this defendant Elizabeth contracted with the said Nathan Hammond for the sale thereof