Shorter by Gabriel Duvall her attorney preferred and filed in the General Court here, her petition for Freedom against Edward Hayle which is in form following to wit.

To the honourable, the Judges of the General Court. The petition of Monica Shorter humbly sheweth that she held in Slavery by Edward Hayle of St. Marys County, and she is advised that she is entitled to her Freedom being descended in the female line from a free white woman named Elizabeth Shorter. She therefore prays your honours the premises being considered to discharge her from the custody of the said Edward Hayle; if she should prove her descent as aforesaid, and that summons may issue for the said Edward Hayle to answer this petition and she will pray and so forth. G. Duvall for the Pet.

Whereupon in pursuance of the rule of the Court here in such cases made and provided, the said Monica Shorter by her attorney aforesaid on the day and year aforesaid prosecuted and sued forth out of the General Court here the writ of the State of Maryland of Subpoena ad respondendum against the said Edward Hayle, directed to the sheriff of Saint Marys County in form following to wit.

The State of Maryland Sc. To the sheriff of Saint Marys County Greeting. We command you that you summons Edward Hayle late of Saint Marys County, that all excuses and delays set a side 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 unto Monica Shorter 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 honourable Samuel Chase Esquire Chief Judge of our said Court the 14th day of February Anno Domini 1792.

Issued the 27th day of March 1792. G.D. Wm. Gwinn Clk.

At which 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, and the day of the return of the aforegoing Summons, comes into the General Court here the said Monica Shorter by her attorney aforesaid, and the sheriff of Saint Marys County aforesaid to whom the said Summons was in form aforesaid directed, makes return thereof to

to the Court here thus endorsed to wit.

Summoned. T. Hammersley Sheriff, St. Mary's County.

Whereupon comes into the General Court here, the said Edward Hayle by Philip Barton Key his attorney: And Thereupon further process of & 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 ninth day of the same 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 Monica Shorter by her attorney aforesaid as the said Edward Hayle by his attorney aforesaid; And the parties aforesaid ~~upon~~ by their attornies aforesaid agree that all depositions taken in this cause ten days notice to the petitioner or Defendants Counsel before a justice of the peace shall be received and read in evidence in all the Cases of Petitioning negroes under the name of Shorter claiming their freedom as descendants of a certain Elizabeth Shorter or her female Ancestors to Freedom under the Laws of this Country; 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 said parties then & so forth.

At which said second Tuesday of May being the fourteenth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three come again into the General Court here as well the said Monica Shorter by her attorney aforesaid as the said Edward Hayle 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 said parties then and so forth.

At which said second tuesday of October being the Eighth day of the said month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three come again into the General Court here as well the said Monica Shorter by her attorney aforesaid as the said Edward Hayle 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 said Parties then and so forth.

At which said second Tuesday of May being the thirteenth day