And the aforesaid John Hamilton by Francis Curtis his Attorney came and defended the force and Injury when and so forth and prayed an hearing of the Writing Obligatory aforesaid and the Condition thereof and he had them as follow to wit

Know all Men by these Presents That I John Hamilton of Charles Town Cecil County in the Province of Maryland am held and firmly bound unto Frank and Bickerton of London Merchants in the just and full sum of Five Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Pounds three shillings and six pence Common Money of Maryland & Computing Spanish Dollars at Seven Shillings and six pence each to be paid unto the said Frank and Bickerton their certain Attorney their Heirs Executors Administrators or Assigns To which Payment well and truly to be made I do bind my Self my Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents Sealed with my Seal and Dated this Seventh Day of January in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and seventy four.

The Condition of the above Obligation is such that if the above bound John Hamilton his Heirs Executors or Administrators or either of them do and shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Frank and Bickerton their certain Attorny their Heirs Executors Administrators Administrators or Assigns the just sum of Two thousand Eight Hundred and forty five Pounds one shilling and Nine Pence Current Money of Maryland aforesaid with legal Interest thereon & Then the above Obligation to be void or else to remain in full force and Virtue.

Sealed and delivered in Presence of } John Hamilton. [Seal]
Ed. Michell. Chas. Rumsey. }

And whereupon Charles Rumsey and Patrick Hamilton of Cecil County Gentlemen did come into the Court aforesaid before the Justices aforesaid and became Pledges and Manucaptors for the aforesaid John Hamilton That if it should happen that the same John Hamilton in the Plea aforesaid should be Convicted Then the same Charles Rumsey and Patrick Hamilton Granted That all such Damages Costs and Charges which unto the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton in this part should be Adjudged of their Lands and Chattels should be made and to the use of the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton Levied If it should happen that the aforesaid John Hamilton the Debt and Damages Costs and Charges aforesaid unto the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton should not pay or himself to the Public Prison of Cecil County by that Occasion should not render.

And the aforesaid John Hamilton by his Attorney aforesaid came and defended the force and Injury when and so forth and said that he ought not to be Charged with the Debt aforesaid by Virtue of the Writing aforesaid Because he said that the Writing aforesaid was not his Deed and of that he put himself upon the Country and so forth. and the said Graham Frank and William Francis Bickerton in like manner &c.

And the said John Hamilton with the leave of the Court there and according to the form of the Statute in such case lately made and Provided by his Attorney aforesaid further came and defended the force and Injury when and so forth and said that they the said Graham Frank and William Francis Bickerton ought not to have or maintain their Action aforesaid against him the same John Hamilton Because he said that he the said John Hamilton at and upon the same Day and Year mentioned in the Condition aforesaid paid to the said Graham Frank and William Francis Bickerton

the aforesaid Sum of Two Thousand Eight Hundred and forty five Pounds one shilling and Nine Pence Current Money of Maryland aforesaid in the Condition aforesaid Specified together with the legal Interest thereon due according to the form and Effect of the same Condition and that he was ready to verify wherefore he prayed Judgment whether the aforesaid Graham Frank and William Francis Bickerton ought to have their Action thereof against him & so forth.

And the aforesaid John Hamilton by his Attorney aforesaid Prayed That the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton should give security for all such Sums of Tobacco which unto the same John Hamilton by the Court there for his Costs and Charges by him about his Suit in that part sustained should be Adjudged the aforesaid John Hamilton should pay if the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton in the Plea aforesaid should be Non Suited or from maintaining their Action aforesaid should be precluded.

And the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton by their Attorney aforesaid Prayed Liberty of Continuing their Action thereof here until the second Tuesday in April next and they had it the same day was given to the aforesaid John Hamilton and so forth.

At which aforesaid second Tuesday in April Seventeen hundred and seventy five came the Parties aforesaid by their Attorneys aforesaid And the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton by their Attorney aforesaid Prayed further Liberty of Continuing their Action thereof here until the second Tuesday in September then next and they had it the same day was given to the aforesaid John Hamilton and so forth.

At which aforesaid second Tuesday in September Seventeen hundred and seventy five came the Parties aforesaid by their Attornies aforesaid And thereupon the Process between the Parties was Continued there from the aforesaid second Tuesday in September in the year Seventeen Hundred and seventy five until the second Tuesday in April Anno Domini Seventeen Hundred and seventy Eight according to the Act of the General Assembly of The State of Maryland in such Case made and Provided.

At which aforesaid second Tuesday in April Seventeen hundred and seventy Eight came the Parties aforesaid by their Attornies aforesaid And the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton by their Attorney aforesaid Prayed further Liberty of Continuing their Action thereof here until the second Tuesday in September then next and they had it the same day was given to the aforesaid John Hamilton and so forth.

At which aforesaid second Tuesday in September Seventeen hundred and seventy Eight cometh the aforesaid John Hamilton by his Attorney aforesaid And the aforesaid John Hamilton prayeth That the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton Security for the Costs and Charges of him the same John Hamilton may render And the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton although solemnly called cometh not nor Security for the Costs and Charges of him the same John Hamilton do render nor their Writ aforesaid against the same John further Prosecute but

Therefore it is Considered by the Court here that the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton take nothing by their Writ aforesaid but that they and their Pledges of Prosecuting to wit John Doe and Richard Roe be in Mercy And that the aforesaid John Hamilton go thereof without Day and so forth. And it is further Considered by the same Court here That the aforesaid John Hamilton do recover against the aforesaid Frank and Bickerton for his Costs and Charges by him about his Defence aforesaid in this part Sustained unto the same John Hamilton by the Court here according to the form of the Statute in such case made and Provided Adjudged And that the same John Hamilton have thereof Execution and so forth.

James Earle Clk