defends the force and Injury when and so forth and saith that he cannot gainsay the Action aft. of the aft. Caleb and Robert nor can he deny but that the writing obligatory aft. is the Deed of him the said Thomas nor but that he oweth unto the same Caleb and Robert the aft. sum of five hundred Pounds lawful Money in manner and form as the aft. Caleb and Robert above against him hath declared.

Therefore It is considered by the Court here that the aft. Caleb and Robert do recover against the said Thomas their Debt aft. of five hundred Pounds lawful Money to be released on the Payment of Twenty six Pounds Specie as also the sum of Six hundred and twenty one Pounds of Tobacco for their Damages which they have sustained by occasion of the Detention of that Debt unto the aft. Caleb and Robert by the Court here of his Assent adjudged And the aft. Thomas in Mercy &c. James Earle Clk.

Caleb Ricketts & Robert Walters against Thomas Knotts	The State of Maryland. Command was given to the Sheriff of Caroline County that he should take Thomas Knotts late of Caroline County Planter if he should be found in his bailiwick and him safe keep so that

he should have his body before the Judges at the next General Court to be held for the Eastern Shore of this State in the County of Talbot at the Court house in the County aft. the second Tuesday of April then next to answer unto Caleb Ricketts and Robert Walters in a plea of Trespass upon the Case and so forth and that he should not thereof fail at his Peril and that he should have then and there that Writ Witness The Honourable Nicholas Thomas Eqr. one of the Judges of said Court the 21st day of September Anno Domini 1779.

Issued the 4th day of March 1780. RW. James Earle Clk

At which aft. second Tuesday of April 1780 came the aft. Caleb and Robert by Robert Wright their Attorney And the Sheriff of Caroline County aft. made return of the Writ aft. in the words following to wit Cepi Henry Downes Sheriff

And Whereupon John Lee and Thomas Mason of Caroline County did come into the Court aft. before the Judges aft. and became Pledges and Manucaptors for the aft. Thomas Knotts that if it should happen that the same Thomas Knotts in the plea aft. should be convicted that then the same John Lee and Thomas Mason Granted that all such Damages Costs and Charges which unto the same Caleb and Robert in this part should be adjudged of their Bodies Lands and Chattels should be made and to the use of the same Caleb and Robert Levied if it should happen that the same Thomas Knotts the Damages Costs and Charges aft. unto the aft. Caleb and Robert should not pay or himself to the Public Prison of Caroline County aft. by that occasion should not render.

And the aft. Caleb and Robert by their Attorney aft. Prayed Liberty

of continuing their Action thereof untill the second Tuesday of September then next and they had it. The same day was given to the aft. Thomas Knotts there and so forth.

At which aft. second Tuesday of September 1780 came the parties aft. by their Attorneys aft. And the aft. Caleb and Robert by their Attorney aft. prayed further liberty of continuing their Action thereof there untill the second Tuesday of April then next and they had it. The same day was given to the aft. Thomas Knotts there and so forth.

At which aft. second Tuesday of April 1781. came the parties aft. by their Attorneys aft. And the aft. Caleb and Robert by their Attorney aft. prayed further liberty of continuing their Action thereof there untill the second Tuesday of September then next and they had it. The same day was given to the aft. Thomas Knotts there and so forth.

At which aft. second Tuesday of September 1781. came the parties aft. by their Attorneys aft. And the aft. Caleb and Robert by their Attorney aft. prayed further liberty of continuing their Action thereof there until the second Tuesday of April then next and they had it. The same day was given to the aft. Thomas Knotts there & so forth.

And now here to wit the same second Tuesday of April 1782. cometh the Parties aft. by their Attorneys aft. And the aft. Caleb and Robert by their Attorney aft. offered themselves in the plea aft. against the aft. Thomas Knotts and complain in manner and form following to wit.

Caroline County to wit. Thomas Knotts late of Caroline County Planter was attached to answer unto Caleb Ricketts and Robert Walters in a plea of Trespass upon the Case and so forth. And Whereupon the said Caleb and Robert by Robert Wright their Attorney complain that whereas the aforesd. Thomas Knotts on the Day of in the year seventeen hundred and at Caroline County aft. was Indebted unto the said Caleb and Robert in the sum of Money for sundry matters properly chargeable in Account as by a particular Account thereof herewith into Court brought may appear and being so thereof Indebted the aft. Thomas Knotts afterwards to wit on the day and year aft. at the County aft. in consideration thereof upon himself assumed and to the said Caleb and Robert then and there faithfully promised that he the said Thomas Knotts the aft. sum of Money to the said Caleb and Robert when afterwards he should be thereunto required would well and truly content and pay Nevertheless the aft. Thomas Knotts his Promise and Assumption aft. so as aft. made not regarding but minding and fraudulently Intending the said Caleb and Robert in this behalf craftily and subtilly to deceive and defraud the aft. sum of Money or any part thereof to the said Caleb and Robert hath not contented or paid (altho' to do the aft. Thomas Knotts afterwards to wit on the day and year aft. and often afterwards at the County aft. by the said Caleb and Robert was requested but the same or any part thereof to content or pay he hath altogether refused and still doth refuse to the Damage of the said Caleb and Robert in the sum of Pounds Money aft. and therefore they bring Suit and so forth

Robt. Wright for Plaintiffs

Pledges & so forth John Doe & Richd. Roe

And the aft. Thomas Knotts by Peregrine Lethbury his Attorney comes