Shore of this State at Talbot County Court House the second Tuesday of April next, to answer unto the State of Maryland of a plea that they render unto the said State the sum of One hundred and thirty seven pounds ten shillings current money which to the said State they owe and unjustly detain and so forth: and that thereof he the said Sheriff should not fail at his Peril, and that he should have then and there that writ &c. — And now here at this day, to wit, the said second Tuesday of April Anno Dominie, One thousand seven hundred and eighty seven, cometh the State of Maryland by Luther Martin Attorney General of the said State, and Archibald Job the Sheriff of the County aforesaid, to the Court here maketh return that by virtue of the same writ to him directed he had taken the bodies of the said Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt and the same has ready according to the exigence of the same writ: and the said Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt by Aquilla Hall their Attorney comes here into Court: thereupon the said Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt at the prayer of the said State of Maryland is ruled to give special = Bail in the plea aforesaid: thereupon the said Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt file in Court here the following Bail = Piece, towit:

State of Maryland against Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt. } You James Patten & William Barclay do acknowledge yourselves special = Bail for the said Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt at the suit of the State of Maryland in an action of debt brought by the State against the said Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt in the General Court of the Eastern Shore they acknowledge themselves to be content therewith this 27. day of March 1787. —

Elihu Hall
Patrick Irving

To the Worshipful the Judges of the General Court. — — — —

We do hereby constitute and appoint Aquilla Hall our Attorney to appear for us and defend the above suit. —

Thomas Patten

and thereupon the State of Maryland by Luther Martin Attorney General of the said State, affileth its Declaration in the plea aforesaid against the said Thomas

(Patten)

Patten and Joseph Nesbitt, the Tenor whereof ensues in the following words, towit:

Cecil County towit,

Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt late of Cecil County were summoned to answer unto the State of Maryland of a plea that they render unto the said State the sum of One hundred and thirty seven pounds ten shillings current money which to the said State they owe and unjustly detain and so forth: and whereupon the said State by Luther Martin Attorney of the said State saith that whereas the aforesaid Thomas and Joseph on the sixteenth day of June in the year seventeen hundred and eighty five at the County aforesaid, by their certain writing obligatory acknowledged themselves to be held and firmly bound unto the said State of Maryland in the aforesaid sum of One hundred and thirty seven pounds ten shillings current money, to be paid to the said State of Maryland when afterwards they should be thereunto required: Nevertheless the aforesaid Thomas and Joseph (although often thereunto required) the aforesaid sum of one hundred and thirty seven pounds ten shillings current money to the said State of Maryland have not rendered or paid, but the same to the said State hitherto to render or pay they have altogether refused, and still do refuse, wherefore the said State saith it is the worse and hath damage to the value of fifty pounds like money aforesaid, and therefore the said State brings suit, and so forth: and brings here into Court the writing obligatory aforesaid: sealed with the seal of the aforesaid Thomas and Joseph which the debt aforesaid, in form aforesaid witnesseth, the date whereof is the day and year aforesaid, and so forth. —

L. Martin for the Plaintiff. Pledges &c. John Doe Rich.d Roe

And the said State of Maryland by her Attorney aforesaid prayeth that the said Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt to the Declaration of her the said State of Maryland may answer, whereupon it is ruled by the Court at the prayer of the said State of Maryland by her Attorney aforesaid that the said Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt should answer to the Declaration aforesaid of the State of Maryland by Wednesday the twenty fifth of this present month and it is said to the said Thomas Patten and Joseph Nesbitt that if they should answer unto the Declaration aforesaid, by the time aforesaid Judgment should be

(rendered)