The State of Maryland, to the Justices and Sheriff of Dorchester County greeting: Whereas a certain Reuben Mitchell late of Dorchester County Planter and Ruth his Wife Administratrix of William Williams deceased are detained in the prison of our said County under the custody of you our said Sheriff, at the Suit of a certain Joseph Barr, of a plea of Trespass upon the Case and so forth; which said plea, as it is said, still depends before you our said Justices undetermined, and we being willing, for divers causes, that the plea aforesd, undetermined as aforesd, shall be heard and determined before the Judges of our General Court; We therefore command you that you have the bodies of the said Reuben and Ruth Mitchell by whatever name or names they may be called in the plea aforesd, together with the cause of their caption and detention and all things thereunto relating before the Judges of the General Court, at a Court to be held for the Eastern Shore of this State at Talbot County Court house, the second Tuesday of April next, that the Judges of our General Court may further proceed therein as to Justice appertains and so forth — Hereof fail not at your peril, and have you then and there this Writ, Witness the Honorable Robert Hanson Harrison Esquire Chief Judge of our said Court, this sixth day of October Anno Domini 1786.

Issued the 15th February 1787 — Gt. James Earle Clk.

Which being read and heard the same is by the Court allowed: And it is ordered by the same Court, that the Cause of the caption and detention of the said Reuben Mitchell and Ruth his Wife together with the Record and process aforesd and all proceedings relating to the same be accordingly transmitted before the Honorable the Judges of the General Court, at their Court, to be held for the Eastern Shore of this State, at Talbot County Court house on the second Tuesday of April next ensuing, that the said Judges may further proceed therein as to Justice appertains and so forth —

Nd. Hallett Oldham Clk.

Dorchester County, to wit, I hereby certify that the proceedings in this cause as above and within mentioned were faithfully and exactly copied from the Records and proceedings of Dorchester Court now remaining in my Office — In testimony whereof I have

hereunto set my hand and affixed the publick seal of my Office this fourth day of April seventeen hundred and eighty seven —

Dorchester County Seal

Nd. Hallett Oldham Clk.

And the Sheriff of the County aforesd also came and made return that he had then and there the bodies of the said Reuben Mitchell and Ruth his Wife, administratrix as aforesd, agreeable to the exigence of the said Writ: And thereupon here came as well the said Joseph Barr as the said Reuben Mitchell and Ruth his Wife by their Attorneys aforesd; and the said Joseph Barr, by his Attorney aforesd, prayed that the said Reuben Mitchell and Ruth his Wife, Administratrix as aforesd, might answer to his Declaration aforesd; whereupon it was ordered by the Court, at the prayer of the said Joseph Barr, that the said Reuben Mitchell and Ruth his Wife should answer to the Declaration aforesd, of the said Joseph, by the second Tuesday in September then next following: and it was said to the said Reuben Mitchell and Ruth his Wife, by the Court here, that if they should not answer to the Declaration aforesd, by the time aforesd, Judgment should be rendered against them by default: the same day was given to the said Joseph Barr there &c. At which day to wit the second Tuesday in April seventeen hundred and eighty eight, here came the parties aforesd by their Attorneys aforesd and the same Reuben Mitchell and Ruth his Wife by Gustavus Scott their Attorney came and defend the force and injury when and so forth and say that the same William Williams, the Intestate, in his life time, did not assume upon himself in manner and form as the same Joseph above hath complained against them the said Reuben and Ruth and of this they put themselves upon the Country &c. And the same Reuben Mitchell and Ruth his Wife by leave of the Court here first had according to the form of the Statute in such case provided came and further defended the force and injury when and so forth, and said that the same Joseph his Action aforesd thereof against them to have or maintain ought not, because they said that the same Williams, the Intestate, did not assume upon himself in manner and form as the same Joseph above against them the same Reuben and Ruth hath declared at any time within three years next before the impetration and suing out the original Writ in this Cause; and this they are ready to verify: Wherefore they prayed Judgment whether the same Joseph his Action aforesd thereof against them to have ought &c. And the same Reuben Mitchell and Ruth his Wife by the leave of the Court here first had according to the form of