and him safe keep, so that you have his body before the Judges of our General Court to be held at Easton in Talbot County, the second Tuesday of April next, to answer unto Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants and Robert Pleasants of a plea of Trespass upon the case &c. Hereof fail not at your peril and have you then and there this writ. Witness the Honorable Roger Brooke Tyler Esquire Chief Judge from said Court the 12th day of September anno domini 1797. Issued the 17th day of March 1798

James Earle Clerk

At which said second Tuesday in April seventeen hundred and ninety eight being the day of the return of the aforegoing writ, comes into Court the said plaintiffs by their Attorney aforesaid, and the Sheriff of Dorchester County, to whom the said writ was so as aforesaid directed, makes return thereof to the Court here thus endorsed, to wit "Cepi Henry Lake Sheriff" And the said John S. Cropper being called appears in Court here by Joseph Sayles his Attorney and thereupon on motion of the said plaintiffs by their Attorney aforesaid it is ruled by the Court here that the said John S. Cropper give special bail in the plea aforesaid whereupon Levin Marshall of Dorchester County, Gentleman, comes here into Court in his proper person, and undertakes for the said John S. Cropper that in case the said John S. Cropper shall be convicted at the suit of the said plaintiffs in the plea aforesaid or that the said plaintiffs shall recover Judgment therein, that then the said John S. Cropper shall pay the condemnation of the Court thereupon or render himself to the custody of the Sheriff of Dorchester County aforesaid in satisfaction thereof or that he the said Levin Marshall will do the same for him. And the said John S. Cropper by his Attorney aforesaid defends the force and injury when &c. and prays leave to imparle until the second Tuesday in September next &c. He hath it. Thereupon day is given to the said plaintiffs then &c. At which said second Tuesday in September seventeen hundred and ninety eight, comes again into Court the parties aforesaid by their Attorneys aforesaid and the said plaintiffs by their Attorney aforesaid declare against the said John S. Cropper in the plea aforesaid as follows to wit. The Eastern Shore of Maryland Dorchester County to wit. John Stevens Cropper late of Dorchester County Merchant, was attached to answer unto Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants & Robert Pleasants of a plea of Trespass upon the case &c. And whereupon the same Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants and Robert Pleasants by Nicholas Hammond their Attorney complain that whereas the said John S. Cropper on the twenty third day of November in the year seventeen hundred and ninety four at the County aforesaid was indebted to the said Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants and Robert Pleasants trading under the style and firm of John & Robert Pleasants Company, in the sum of two hundred and thirteen pounds seventeen shillings and one penny halfpenny current money for divers goods wares & merchandizes there before that time sold & delivered by the said Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants to the said John S. Cropper at his own special instance and request, and so therein being indebted the said John S. Cropper, in consideration thereof afterwards to wit, the same day and year aforesaid at the County aforesaid assumed upon himself and then and there faithfully promised the said Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants & Robert Pleasants the sum of money aforesaid when he the said John S. Cropper should be thereto afterwards required. And whereas also the said Samuel Pleasants, Israel

Pleasants, John P. Pleasants and Robert Pleasants, trading under the style and firm of John & Robert Pleasants Company afterwards to wit, the same day and year aforesaid at the County aforesaid had sold and delivered to the said John S. Cropper divers other goods wares and merchandizes at his the special instance and request the said John S. Cropper in consideration thereof then and there assumed upon himself and faithfully promised the said Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants & Robert Pleasants as much current money of Maryland, for the goods wares & merchandizes last mentioned, as the same at the time of the sale and delivery thereof were reasonably worth when he the said John S. Cropper should be thereto afterwards required. And the said Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants and Robert Pleasants in fact say, that the goods wares & merchandizes last mentioned, at the time of the sale and delivery thereof were reasonably worth one other sum of two hundred and thirteen pounds seventeen shillings and one penny halfpenny current money to wit, at the County aforesaid whereof the said John S. Cropper then and there there notice nevertheless the said John S. Cropper his several promises and assumptions aforesaid made, not in the least regarding but intending the said Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants & Robert Pleasants in this behalf to deceive & defraud the several sums of money aforesaid or any part thereof to the said Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants and Robert Pleasants, or to one or more of them yet hath not paid (altho' to pay the same the said John S. Cropper, afterwards to wit, the twenty sixth day of December, in the year aforesaid, and often since at the County aforesaid by the said Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants & Robert Pleasants was required, but the same to them to pay hath altogether refused and still doth refuse to the damage of the said Samuel Pleasants, Israel Pleasants, John P. Pleasants & Robert Pleasants in the sum of three hundred pounds current money, and thereupon they bring suit &c.

N. Hammond & Pl'ffs. John Doe & Richard Roe — pledges &c.

The Account above mentioned arises in the following words & figures, to wit —

Dr. John Cropper in a/c with John & Rob.t Pleasants & Co. Cr.

1794 June 13	To sundries p/Bills	£13.17.11	1794 Oct.r 23	By cash	33.15.0
Dec.r 6	To Ditto	89.10.11½	Dec.r 6	By ditto	10.2.11
1795 Mar.h 23	To Ditto	80.8.3	1795 Mar.h 17	By ditto	75.0.0
	To Interest	14.6.6		Balance due J. & R. P. & Co	104.5.8½
	£	228.3.7½			228.3.7½

Interest Account

Int. on £89.10.11½ 3 Mo.	16.2.6	By Interest on £75 2 yr	9.0.0	
80.8.3 1 D.	7.4		Balance	14.6.6
£	23.6.6	E.E.	£	23.6.6
To Balance due J. & P. & Co	104.5.8½	Baltimore 6 Oct.r 1797 for John & Rob. Pleasants & Co. — Thos Earnest		

and thereupon on motion of the said plaintiffs by their Attorney aforesaid it is ruled by the Court here that the said John S. Cropper answer to the declaration in the plea aforesaid or Judgment will be rendered against him by default. And the said John S. Cropper by his Attorney aforesaid defends the force and injury when &c. and prays leave to imparle until the