remained working at the said Quarry until the November following when he came back to Maryland.

If the Court should be of opinion upon the foregoing Case, that the Petitioner, according to the true construction of the acts of Assembly of Maryland, and that of Virginia, hereto annexed, is entitled to his freedom, then Judgment to be entered upon the Verdict for the Petitioner:—

But if they should not be of that opinion, Judgment to be entered for the Defendant.—

Jno. Purviance
Atty for Robert Stewart.
Wm. J. Govane

On the back of the aforegoing the following Law of Virginia was annexed, to Wit;

General Assembly, begun and held at the Capitol, in the City of Richmond, on Monday the first day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety two.—

An Act,

to reduce into one, the several acts concerning Slaves, free negroes, and Mulattoes.—

(Passed December 17th 1792.)

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, that no persons shall henceforth be Slaves within the commonwealth, except such as were so on the seventeenth day of October, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty five, and the descendants of the females of them.—

Slaves which shall hereafter be brought into this Commonwealth, and kept therein one whole year together, or so long at different times as shall amount to one year, shall be free.—

Every

Every person hereafter importing slaves into this Commonwealth, contrary to this act, shall forfeit and pay the sum of two hundred dollars for every Slave so imported, and every person selling or buying any such slaves, shall in like manner forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars for every slave so sold or bought; one moiety of which forfeiture shall be to the use of the Commonwealth, and the other moiety to him or them that will sue for the same; to be recovered by action of debt or information, in any Court of record. Provided that ~~not~~ nothing in this act contained, shall be construed to extend to those who may incline to remove from any of the United States, and become Citizens of this, if within sixty days after such removal, he or she shall take the following oath, before some Justice of the peace of this Commonwealth. "I A. B do swear, that my "removal into the State of Virginia, was with no intent "of evading the laws for preventing the further importation "of slaves, nor have I brought with me any slaves, "with an intention of selling them, nor have any of the "Slaves, which I have brought with me, been imported "from Africa, or any of the West India Islands, since "the first day of November one thousand, seven hundred "and Seventy eight.— So help me God." Nor to any persons claiming slaves by descent, marriage or devise; nor to any Citizens of this Commonwealth, being now the actual owners of Slaves, within any of the United States, and removing such hither; nor to travellers and others, making a transcient stay, and bringing slaves for necessary attendance, and carrying them out again.

And for perpetuating the Certificates of such