Majistrate for the County afor.d Peter Harbard aged as he says about 77 Years who says he was born in the family of Henry Darnall who resided at the Wood Yard in the aforesaid County — That at the age of 22 he was purchased by George Gordon and continued the property of s.d Gordon untill he came into the possession of Stephen West of whom he purchased his Freedom, — Being ask.d the several Interrogatories agreeable to a paper handed me signed by Duvall for Petitioner replyed as follows.

To Query. 1. Replyed that he know Charles Mahony having seen him about 10 Years past.

To Query. 2 & 3. & 4. Replyed that he well knew a dark Mulatto Woman by name Nanny Joyce, that she was his grandmother and lived at the Wood Yard in the family of Henry Darnall — That he hath frequently heard her say that she came into Maryland with one of the former Proprietors of this State an Indentet Servant for four Years, That she was sold by s.d proprietor to Henry Darnall as a Cook and that when her term of Servitude expired Darnall burnt her Indentures, and sent her to a Benj.n Hall's where she was kept in a Kitchen Celler for five or six Months.

To Query. 5. He hath no knowledge of

To Query. 6. Replyed four Sons & two Daughters, viz. David Jones, Francis Harbard (father of Peter the Deponent) John Wood & Thomas Crane, Suzan Harbard & Polly Harbard. David Jones lived and dyed in the family of Henry Darnal, as also Francis Harbard, John Wood & Thomas Crane — That he knows several of Suzan Harbards Children, viz. Charles who belonged and dyed the property of Wm. Digges Father of Ig. Digges late of this County, Sukey now living near Baltimore in the family of Charles Carroll of Carrollton — Polly who once lived in the family of Ignatius Digges.

To Query 7th Replyed that he hath frequently heard his Grandmother Ann Joyce say that if she had her just right that she ought to be free and all her Children — He hath also heard his Uncles David Jones, John Wood, Thomas Crane and also his father Francis Harbard declare as much.

To Query. 8. 9. 10. & 11. He hath no knowledge of

The foregoing being read to Peter Harbard he declared that he was ready to swear to the truth of it,

Rd. Crampton,

The foregoing taken at the request of Charles Mahoney who was present.

Charles Mahoney
vs.
John Ashton.

Petition for freedom in the General Court.

The Deposition of Henry Davis of Prince George's County aged Sixty three Years being sworn on the holy Evangely of Almighty God touching his his knowledge in these Causes, saith that he does not know John Hickman; and that he has seen the Defendant Richard Smith only once, That he has seen Charles Mahoney once, and does not know the Defendant John Ashton, Being asked if he knew Anne Joyce who lived in the family of Col. Henry Darnall answers he did not. That he has understood from his late father Henry Davis who was a Joiner and Carpenter by trade, that he had worked at the Wood yard where the said Darnall lived, and he has often heard his Father say that he knew a Negro Woman by the name of Joyce;

that she was a jet black Woman, and was born as he (his Father) was informed in Barbados that some of the family to whom she belonged in Barbados, went to England, and that the then Lord Baltimore brought her into Maryland with him in the character of a Cook or Waiting Maid but whether from England or Barbados does not know when she was a young Woman; that his Father died about seventeen Years ago and was in his ninetieth year when he died; that this conversation he has heard often; and he has heard his Father say that she the said Joyce had three or four Sons which were the strongest Men he ever knew to come from one Woman; that he understood from his Father that all the said Sons were Mulattoes, and that their Father were White Men; that his Father was born in Prince Georges County about two Miles from Upper Marlborough: Being asked if he has heard his Father say that Lord Baltimore brought the said Joyce from England.d: Answers he cannot say, but he has often heard him say that Lord Baltimore got her from a family some of which removed from Barbados to England, that he never heard his Father say, whether she was free or a Slave, but he understood from him that she was held as a Slave and her Children also — That one of her Children was named Thomas Crane and the other Sons had different Surnames, taken as he understood from their supposed Fathers, Sworn to this 9th Oct.r 1793, before the Subscriber

Bullen

Charles Mahoney
vs.
John Ashton

Pet. for freedom in the General Court.

Eben Paramore of Prince Georges County aged thirty eight Years, or thereabouts being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God deposeth and saith, that he has known the Petitioner about three Years, but does not know Mr. Ashton; that he knows nothing of Charles's claim for freedom more than what he heard from Rachel Ratcliffe now deceased, that about Six years ago when the Deponent was a Single Man, he had his Washing done at Mrs. Ratcliffe's, and being there one Evening he saw a Mulatto Man, there, and after he was gone, he the Deponent asked Mrs. Ratcliffe, who he belonged to, she answered he belonged to John Lane; the Deponent observed that he was neither White nor black, but more White than Black: upon which Rachel Ratcliffe told the deponent that she knew Ann Joice very well, and that she understood that she came into this Country with Lord Baltimore, and that she lived at the Wood yard, when she the said Rachel Ratcliffe lived close by it, and that she always understood that she was free and that she never was held in bondage until she had a Child named Molly who was a very pretty Girl, and that Molly had two Children named Nelly and Sally; that some time afterwards about Eighteen Months before Mrs. Ratcliffe died, the Deponent having understood that some of the family of Anne Joice had petitioned for their freedom, he mentioned it to Mrs. Ratcliffe, and told her he imagined that she would be summoned, upon which she related again what is above mentioned, and said if she were sworn, that she would swear that she always understood that Anne Joice was not held as a Slave until after she had Molly and that Molly had two daughters named Nelly and Sally; and that Mrs. Ratcliffe informed the Deponent that she was born and lived near the Wood Yard, and when this Deponent