which the Master may have lawfully acquired to the perpetual Service of John or Thomas, this will remain exactly in the same State as before, for this is no more than the same subjection for life, which every Apprentice submits to for the space of seven years or more &c — In the British books Slaves are some times called Slaves or Servants, and it is said by Lord Mansfield in Somersets Case — that there may be a Villein in Gross by confession — In the Case of Somerset in 1772, Lord Mansfield mentioned the opinions of Sir Philip York and Lord Chief Justice Talbot in 1729, and recognized by Lord Hardwicke in 1749 and calls them two of the greatest men of their our or any times, and says he pays all due attention to their Opinions — Lord Mansfield puts several questions as to the Law with respect to their Settlements, their wages — Actions for any slight Correction by their Masters — In Somerset's cause the Court declined deciding the question, Whether by being carried to England he thereby became free, but say that they would judge upon the return of the Habeas Corpus and according to their own Laws; which did not admit of so high an Act of dominion as in that Case had been exercised by the Master over his Slave, and therefore that Somerset must be discharged — Lord Mansfield in Somerset's Case says that the state of Slavery is so odious, that nothing can be suffered to support it but positive Law — In this Collision of individual opinions and opposing decisions in the British books, this Court will not say what would have been the decision of a British Tribunal on the Question stated in the Exception, and acting as a Court of an Independent Country, unfettered by any Political Stipulations on subjects of this Nature, and bound to decide according to the Laws of this State, they do not consider themselves at liberty to adopt ~~the opinion~~ an opinion that might probably prevail in a foreign Tribunal — By a positive Law of this State in 1715, then Province of Maryland, the relation of Master and Slave is recognized as then existing, and all Negroes and other Slaves then imported or thereafter to be imported into this