

finde no proove of the said Indictm^t whereupon the said Mary was quitted by pclamation" (*post*, pp. 13, 14, 18, 20). Ann Pattison who was charged with killing her bastard on March 1672, was indicted and tried but the "Juro^{rs} upon their oathes doe say that she is not Guilty of the felony & murder whereof she stands indicted nor that she did fly for it, and so they say all whereupon the said Ann Pattison was acquitted by pclamation & by the Court discharged." (*post*, pp. 30, 31-33).

On December 19, 1671, Francis Tyler, late of Anne Arundel County, was indicted by the grand jury for killing John Beck by striking him on the head with a stick on October 25, 1670. Tyler plead not guilty and put himself upon the Country. At the trial, three witnesses were heard, and Tyler himself testified. The jury decided that he was "not guilty and so say they all The Clerke demanded of the Jury if he did fly for it. they reply not to their knowledge" (*post*, p. 20). In two other criminal cases, this same question is asked, whether the accused person had fled or tried to flee, and the jury replied, both times, that he had not (*ibid.*, pp. 26, 33). When the clerk demanded how Beck came to his death, "they say that ffrancis Tyler Killed the said John Beck with a Tobacco stick in his own Defence." When no one appeared, to say that Tyler was guilty of any treason, felony or murder, he was acquitted by proclamation (*ibid.*, pp. 17, 18, 19, 20).

On February 13, 1672, Philip Lynes of Charles County was presented by the grand jury for burglary, Richard Robinson was presented for theft, and several other planters and their wives were presented because they "did feloniously incite councell and abet the said Richard Robinson" to his crime. All of these presentments grew out of the same episode. Lynes "feloniously burglarly and in the night" broke and entered the store house of John Allen at Port Tobacco Creek, and Robinson, egged on by the others, stole merchandise to the value of several pounds. Allen must have kept a general store: among the goods stolen were yards of fabrics of several kinds, shoes and ribbons, "two payer of ffrrench ffalls to the value of six shillings", sugar and flour and soap and wine. French falls were bands of lace or some thin material gathered to form a cascade and worn hanging from the neck. Almost any seventeenth or eighteenth century portrait of a gentleman shows them; today they would be called jabots. Among the abettors of Robinson were "Ellen the wife of . . . George Taylour spinster . . . & Mary the wife of . . . Robert Clerke spinster". The term *spinster* was applied to unmarried gentlewomen, and was sometimes retained by them after they were married, but these two women were under indictment for aiding and abetting burglary and theft. Lynes, upon his arraignment, plead not guilty, and the jury that tried him decided that he was "(not Guilty) nor that he did ffly for it." He was thereupon held to answer to the other indictment of participating in the theft charged against Ralph Robinson. Robinson and all the others plead not guilty. The witnesses against them were John Allen, the injured storekeeper and a youth named Peter Jacobsin. "Peter being a youth & not capable of an oath was not sworn", but Allen was sworn and gave his testimony, and the prisoners spoke on their own behalf. The jury said Robinson was "not guilty—whereupon the principall Robinson being acquitted the Jury were not asked as to the accessaries".