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pound eighteen shillings ster. money for Robt. Laird in sum transported with the said  
Laird into Maryland as aforesaid & after his arrival was ordered to dispose of the said  
sum for pork for the use of the said Henry  
Now for it is that the said Laird fraudulently intending refusal to give unto the said  
Henry a just acct. of the sum of pork purchased for the use of the said Henry although  
Cherovito hath severall times been demanded whereby the said Henry is damaged  
& hath Damag. to the value of five pound sterling & thereupon brings his suit  
And the said Laird by Walter Law his Attorney as also In. Taylor his Attorney  
cometh & defendeth the force & injury to him done & saith that the above said Henry  
Smith hath not brought not his acct. agt. the above Laird in due manner &  
found according to an Act of Assembly holden at the City of s. Maries the 16. day of  
August Anno 1681 intituled An Act for preventing unnecessary & vexatious Suits at  
Law wherom it sheweth that wheras divers & sundry persons within this province  
Contracting debts by acct. with merchants & others for w<sup>ch</sup> they stand & remaine boundly  
debted upon their books of acct. the w<sup>ch</sup> they be honestly & well disposed to pay  
the same upon demand first had & required of the said debt by the said Credit. or other  
person lawfull authorized to receive the same without w<sup>ch</sup> it is impossible for the Debtors  
to know where or to whom to pay the said debts yet severall of the said Credit. through  
vexatious & quarritious humors doo daily comence their Suits at Law agt. such their  
Debtors without any demand of such their debts of their said Debtors whereby their said  
debts is much increased & the said Debtors thereby greatly burthned & impoverished  
by means of such their vexatious & unjust Suits in Law & wherefore it was enacted  
by the Lord prop<sup>r</sup> that after the 20. day of December next next for whatsoever his  
Excut<sup>r</sup> or Adm<sup>r</sup> living or trading into this province shall for any debt due or owing  
to him by acct. upon books or otherwise & for w<sup>ch</sup> the Debtor hath not passed his hand  
& seals to such his Credit. shall sue or implead at Law such his Debtors for any such  
debts Contracted as aforesaid & not under hand & seals of such Debtors aforesaid & unless  
he shall first demand & require the same of the said Debtors in the County where he shall  
Inhabit if at his plantation & if not then by causing a writ under the hand of such  
Credit. or their he shall impower & receive the same what time & to whom the same shall  
be paid & if thereupon the same be not accordingly paid then it shall & may be  
lawfull for the said Credit. to sue & implead such his Debtor for the said debt & recover  
agt. him all such costs & Damages as upon Legall Cryalls in any Court of the province  
shall be adjudged agt. him & incas. Any person shall sue or implead any such his  
Debtors as aforesaid contrary to this Act he shall loose all his cost of such his Suits  
& be leyable to satisfy such his Debtors all such Damages that shall accrue unto the  
said Debtors by such his vexatious & unjust Suits at Law All w<sup>ch</sup> the above said  
Henry Smith hath not done thereon the above said & saith that the indgmt. of the Law if the  
above Henry Smith his acct. agt. him ought to have  
Now at this day to witt the 14. day of June aforesaid the said parties by their Attorneys  
aforesaid Law & the said Henry Smith having aforesaid produced a receipt under the  
hand of the aforesaid Laird for the aforesaid sum of 38. ster. reted in Barbados  
the first day of August 1687 from one Alexander Caggard for the use of the aforesaid  
Smith upon which the aforesaid Laird by his Attorney aforesaid cometh & saith that he  
is & always was ready to pay the aforesaid sum of 38. ster. aforesaid reted as aforesaid