

property and estate, by the defendants Hagthrop and wife; and for the purpose, and with the intent of defrauding the other heirs of Anthony Hook out of their legal portions thereof; that the defendants Hagthrop and wife, have never accounted for any part of the said property; that they had conveyed a part of the ten acre lot to the defendant McMechen, and a part of the piece of land at Fells Point to the defendant Bennett; and that the other defendants then held portions of the property mentioned in the deed of the 17th of August, by leases, or other conveyances derived from the defendants Hagthrop and wife and the defendant McMechen.

Whereupon the bill prayed, that the defendants might be compelled to account for the whole of the property which passed into the hands of the said John Hook, and which is mentioned and described in said deed of trust, together with the profits which have arisen therefrom since the same has been in their possession; excepting such part thereof as they are entitled by law to retain in *right of the said John Hook, as one of the heirs-at-law of the said Anthony Hook; and that the plaintiff may have **556** such other and further relief in the premises as the nature of the case may require, &c.

To this bill the defendants McMechen, Cator, Moore and Hughes put in their answers on the 10th of July, 1821.

McMechen answered separately, which he styles his answer, "to the bill of complaint of James Neale and other representatives of Anthony Hook, deceased;" and says that by a deed, bearing date on the 9th of September, 1803, the defendants Hagthrop and wife, in consideration of \$400, conveyed to him four acres or thereabouts of the ten acre lot; which deed, exhibited with and made part of his answer, after referring to the lease from Richard Moale to Anthony Hook, says, "and whereas the said Anthony Hook did afterwards, by his deed of assignment duly executed, acknowledged and recorded among the land records of Baltimore County Court, for the consideration mentioned, assign, transfer, and set over unto the aforesaid John Hook, his executors, administrators and assigns, all and singular the aforesaid piece of ground and premises. And whereas the said John Hook has since departed this life and the said Barbara hath obtained letters of administration on his estate, and since then intermarried with the aforesaid Edward Hagthrop;" that under this deed he took possession of the land so conveyed, and rented it as a brick-yard for several years, and paid the taxes up to the year 1819, "and during all which time several of the said complainants resided in the neighborhood of said land, well knowing that this defendant had so become the purchaser of the said land." That he advertised the land to be leased at public sale, at which sale the defendants Moore, Hughes and Cator, became purchasers of leases; "that the said sale was in the neigh-