

very extensively engaged in trade to this country ; that they had five separate stores in Maryland managed by agents ; some of whom, without being publicly acknowledged as such, continued to reside here during the revolutionary war ; and after the peace of 1783, they had, in this country, several active and openly acknowledged agents, charged with the settlement of their former commercial affairs. That the *Mollisons* had, so long as they carried on their trade, large consignments of tobacco made to them from time to time by various persons of Maryland ; and had debts due to them by a number of persons here, to a very large amount ; that they suspended their payments about the year 1776 ; but some of their creditors received payments on account of claims against them as late as the year 1793.

It further appears, that the late *John Hepburn*, during his lifetime, had shipped several parcels of tobacco to them ; that *Hepburn* made his will and died some time in the year 1775, in Prince Georges County, leaving *Samuel C. Hepburn* as his executor, who acted as such accordingly ; that the *Mollisons*, by their letters, admitted themselves to be indebted, on the 1st of April, 1776, to the estate of the late *John Hepburn*, on account of shipments of tobacco, to the amount of £316 sterling, equal to \$1,404 44 of our present legal money ; that the executor *Samuel C. Hepburn*, on the 15th of March, 1776, drew a bill of exchange in favour of *Philip Thomas* upon the *Mollisons* for the sum of £260 sterling, directing in the bill itself, that the same should be placed to the account of the estate of *John Hepburn, Esq.* ; for this bill *Samuel C. Hepburn* received of *Thomas* good legal money of the time, not continental currency ; and *Thomas* sold and endorsed it to *Willing, Morris & Co.* who had it presented for acceptance, which was refused, and it was protested accordingly ; of which the holders, in a letter dated on the 31st of March, 1777, gave notice to *Samuel C. Hepburn* the drawer, which letter reached him some time in April following. That in an account, altogether in the hand-writing of the executor *Samuel C. Hepburn*, and purporting to be an account made out by him as executor, there is, among others, one entry in these words : '12th January, 1779, by cash received in part of *W. & R. Mollison's* balance, £260 ;' and another entry, and the last one, is in these words : '8th April, 1789, to cash paid *S. Hepburn's* bill on *W. & R. Mollison*, returned protested, £520 11s. 3d. common currency.' That in another account, altogether in the hand-writing of one of the registers of wills of Prince Georges county em-