

right of the said *John Hook*, as one of the *heirs at law* of the said *Anthony Hook*; and that the plaintiff may have 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 others 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 a 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 neighbourhood 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 neighbourhood of the said complainants or some of them, and on the premises.' That he, this defendant, has paid the paving taxes amounting to about \$480; and 'this defendant saith, that the said purchase of the said lands, by this defendant, from the administrator aforesaid, was *bona fide*, and without notice of any claim or claims on the said land by the said complainants or any of them.'

The defendant *Cator* also styles his response his separate answer 'to the bill of complaint of *James Neale* and others representatives of *Anthony Hook*, deceased;' and says, that he purchased at a public auction some time in the month of April, or May, 1818, of the defendant *McMechen*, a lease of ninety-nine years renewable