

March Court - 1724 - - - - 4

Money as well the Sum of fifty pounds Curr: money his debt as also the Sum of Nine hundred  
and Twenty Nine - - - - - pounds of t<sup>o</sup> by the Court here adjudged unto him for  
his costs and damages sustained by reason of the detention of the same debt & Def: m<sup>o</sup>ny

By: John Donelson } Somerset: Roger Nicholson Ind: Late of Stagney Parish in the County of  
Hert: Roger Nicholson Ind: } mariner was attached to answer unto John Donelson of plea of trespass -  
upon the case &c. -

And whereupon the same John by Leon Gale his  
attorney complains that whereas the same John is a good true faithful and honest Subject of Our  
Lord the King now and as such a Subject from the time of his Nativity hitherto hath always behaved  
himself and from all fornication did abstain & never committed any such Libelous or Scurrilous  
or Blatting allegations free & untouched & unattainted hath remained Nevertheless the said Roger  
not ignorant (of the Crime or) that though John was married & had long before -  
and ever since hath had a wife residing and inhabiting in the County of Hert: -  
nevertheless forethought plotting him the said John in his good Name fame & reputation  
to hurt and make worse and bring the said John into Scandal and Infamy amongst  
his Neighbours and other faithful Subjects of Our Lord the King now in worthy to  
indue the tenth day of September Seventeen hundred and Twenty Three at Somerset County  
within the Ind: of the Court Having Communication & Speech with certain Subjects of Our Lord  
the King in their presence did rehearse pronounce and with a high Voice publish these  
false feigned scandalous Malicious and reprobrious words and sayes following (viz:  
he) the said John speaking Meaning) has a wife and two Children in Barbadoes which  
is as much as to have said the said John has two wives and further the said Roger did pronounce  
these words in the presence of the person viz: I (the said Roger) do not value him  
(the said John again speaking of and Meaning) for he the said John Meaning) is a Negro  
sinking Son of a Bitch which is as much as to have said that the said John had carnal knowledge  
of a Negroe where as the said John never was guilty of any such Crimes by reason of the speak-  
ing of which false Infamous Malicious and scandalous words the said John is not only in his  
good Name fame Credit Estimation & reputation is very much hurt and damaged but also  
is liable Inevitably to be brought into danger of his Life and suffering Corporal  
Punishment or being fined and also the said John sundry Sums of Money for the  
clearing of his Innocency in that part to be paid whereupon the said John says he is worse &  
hath Damages to the Value of fifty pounds Curr: Money and those of the Kingd: Court  
Leon Gale Esq: John Doe  
Rud: Hood

(and)