

high displeasure of almighty God to the evil example of all others in such case offending Contrary to the peace of the said Lord Proprietary that now is his good rule and Government and against the form of the act of assembly in such case made and provided &c.

Testis Mary Gloster — On the foregoing bill of Indictment it was endorsed as followeth viz: Bill
Vera. William Holland foreman

Thereupon it was Commanded the sherriffe of Somerset County that he should take the said Benjamin Melson late of Somerset County planter if he should be found in his bailiwick and him should safe keep so that he might have his body before the Justices of his Lordships County Court of Somerset to be held at dividing Creek in the same County the third tuesday of November Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and thirty seven to answer unto his said Lordships of and concerning his committing of fornication &c. and that thereof he should not fail &c.

And afterwards to wit the third tuesday of November being the fifteenth day of the same month Anno Domini One thousand Seven hundred and thirty Seven that same term before his Lordships Justices at dividing Creek appeared the said Benjamin Melson in his proper person and had a hearing of the Indictment aforesaid and saith that he cannot deny but that he is guilty of the premises in the Indictment aforesaid specified in manner and form as by the Indictment aforesaid above against him supposed and the premises aforesaid expressly acknowledged and is willing to pay his fine for the fact aforesaid. Whereupon all and singular the premises by the Court here being seen and fully understood It is Considered that the aforesaid Benjamin Melson pay unto his Lordships for his fine by the Court hereupon him imposed for and by occasion of the premises aforesaid whereof in form aforesaid he is convicted thirty shillings Curr. money of Maryland (to the use of the County aforesaid) and that the said Benjamin Melson be taken to satisfy his said Lordships of the fine aforesaid. Also it is Considered by the Court here that the said Benjamin Melson give security to save and keep indemnified the Justices of Somerset County and their Successors from all Costs Charges and burthens that might accrue by means of the birth of the Child aforesaid. Whereupon the said Benjamin Melson with James Longe of Somerset County planter his security both present herein Court in their proper persons acknowledged themselves indebted unto his Lordships the Lord Proprietary in the sum of fifty pounds Sterling each good and Lawfull money of England of their severall goods and Chattles Lands and tenements to the use of the Justices of Somerset County