

hitherto hath behaved and governed himself and of good name fame Credit Condition Conversation of Life and Gesture by all the time a<sup>s</sup>. amongst all his neighbours and other faithfull Subjects of our Lord the King now was held and reputed and from all kind of Theft Felony Fraud ~~fraud~~ Deceit or any other such wicked and base Crime or the procurement or Suspicion of the same in any sort through the whole Course of his life untouched Clear Innocent free & altogether unsuspected hath lived and continued by reason whereof he the said Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. the favour Esteem and good will of All his Neighbours and other faithfull Subjects of our Lord the King now deserved had and obtained to his apparent and manifest advantage in all his affairs never theless the said Robert being not Ignorant of the premises plotting and maliciously Intending him the said Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. not only of his good name fame Credit Estimation and repute a<sup>s</sup>. to deprive and him the said Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. into Ignominy and opprobriousness to Induce and to cause him innocently to be brought in danger of being whipt and Pillory and forfeiting four fold as the Law in such Case doth direct the twenty Eighth day of August Anno Dom<sup>o</sup>. Seventeen hundred and thirty nine having speech with the said Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. in the presence and hearing of his neighbours and other faithfull Lige Subjects of our said Lord the King now openly and publickly these false feigned Scandalous and opprobrious words following falsly and Maliciously to and of him the said Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. did a pert publish pronounce and speak viz<sup>t</sup>. You speaking to and of him the said Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. are a thief for you (the said Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. meaning) stole wheat from your father and sold it to Regan Deale by reason of the malicious speaking publishing and declaring of which false Infamous Scandalous and opprobrious words the said Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. not only in his good name fame Credit Estimation & repute a<sup>s</sup>. is very much hurt and damaged and also sundry Sums of tobacco for the purgation and manifestation of his Innocency in that pts is forced and compelled to expend & Lay out to the damage of the said Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. of fifty pounds Curr<sup>t</sup> money of Maryland & thereupon he brings Suit &

And the aforesaid Robert Geddes by his attorney aforesaid Cometh — Pledg<sup>t</sup>. John Doe R: Roe and defendeth the force and Injury when &c. and prayeth Leave thereof to Imparle here untill next Court to be held at Dividing in and for the County aforesaid the third Tuesday of June then next following and he hath it and the same day is given to the aforesaid Francis here also &c.

All which day here came again as well the a<sup>s</sup>. Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. as the a<sup>s</sup>. Robert Geddes by their Attorne a<sup>s</sup>. and whereupon the said Robert prays further leave thereof to Imparle here untill next Court to be held at Dividing in and for the County the third Tuesday of August then next following and he hath it and the same day is given to the a<sup>s</sup>. Francis here also &c.

All which day here came again as well the a<sup>s</sup>. Francis Allen Jun<sup>r</sup>. as the a<sup>s</sup>. Robert Geddes by their Attorne a<sup>s</sup>. and whereupon the said Robert as before Defends the force and Injury when &c. and says that he is not guilty of of the premises by the said Francis above upon him imposed in manner and form as the said Francis above against him. hath Complaind and of this he puts himself upon the Country — And the pl<sup>r</sup>. in like manner —

Therefore it is Comanded the Sheriff of the County aforesaid that immediately he should Cause to Come here before his Lordships Justices twelve &c. by whom &c. and who neither &c. to Recognize &c. because as well &c. and the Jurors of that Jury being Called some of them to wit John Dennis Jun<sup>r</sup>. John Nutt John Goslee George Lee Lillou Townsend —