

46-59  
Sir

December 27 1762

58

At our last November Court, two negroes were  
convicted and had sentence of death. George the  
son of Mr. Nicols, for breaking the Store-house of William  
Nicols, and stealing sundry goods; and Abraham the  
son of William Hill, for attempting to burn the Kitchen  
of Thomas Hill, as your Excellency will see at large in  
the Records of their convictions ordered to be transmitted for  
your inspection.



These negroes were convicted on no other Testimony than  
that of their own confessions, taken before a magistrate &  
produced as evidence against them on their Tryal.  
George, upon his tryal did not deny the opening the door  
and stealing the goods, but he denied the breaking the house.  
As no other testimony was brought against Abraham,  
but his confession signed before a magistrate, they regard  
evidence, yet they are not well satisfied as to the  
whether voluntary, or by force or fraud; for they  
had no suspicion that the Gentleman before whom it  
signed, used any means to extort it; yet they could  
so well depend on the conduct of others, in whose power he  
might have been before that time; and as neither Hill, nor  
any one else, was produced to declare, even any thing circumstan-  
tial against him, or why, or for what reason he was suspected  
and taken up; they are not well satisfied as to his guilt;  
and upon these considerations as well as that of his youth,  
about seven years; they have desired me on their behalf  
to recommend to your Excellency's Mercy; either to be pardon'd  
or reprieved.

am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

R. B. Smith