

## PETITION.

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*To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of  
Maryland:*

The petition of Richard Williams of Montgomery county respectfully shows, that in June eighteen hundred and fifty, a bill was filed in the Court of Chancery, against him and others, by Charles B. Calvert and George H. Calvert, for the purpose, among other objects, of obtaining from him an account as collector and administrator pendente lite of the estate of Thomas Cramphin, formerly of Montgomery county. Upon this bill several subpoenas were successively issued, each of which, through no evasion or contrivance on the part of your petitioner, was returned 'non est' by the sheriff, and finally a writ, returnable to the March term, 1851, of said court, was served upon him and so returned. Under circumstances hereinafter set forth, your petitioner failed to appear according to the exigency of said writ, and in April, 1851, an interlocutory decree was obtained against him. Commissions to take proof were subsequently issued to the city of Baltimore and to Annapolis, and in May, 1853, a decree to account was passed. The Auditor of the court states an account upon the exparte evidence in the case, and on the 25th July, 1853, a final decree was had requiring your petitioner to pay the sum of \$28,510.59, with interest on \$13,680.32, from the twelfth day of July last. And your petitioner shows that every effort will be made to execute said decree, and if the designs of those interested in enforcing it can be effected, every vestige of the property of your petitioner and of his surety will be swept from them, and the grossest outrage and injustice perpetrated under the forms of law.

Your petitioner most solemnly avers that from the inception of the said suit until about the 23rd of January, 1854, he had no notice in fact, that any such suit had been brought or was likely to be brought against him, so that the decree was a complete surprise upon him, and has been obtained in consequence of a misapprehension and mistake, against which in conscience and common honesty he ought to be relieved. In all matters connected with the