

To the honourable the Lieutenant General  
& Chancellour with the rest of the Council  
Assembled in the Upper House of Parliament  
and to the Gentlemen of the Assembly for  
the Province of Maryland

The humble Petition & Complaint of Tho: Cornwallis Esq one of  
the first & chief Adventurers for the planting & inhabiting the aforesaid  
Province

Sheweth That whereas the Complain<sup>t</sup> as it is well known hath  
at his great Cost & Charges from the first planting of this Province  
for the space of twenty eight years been one of the greatest Propagators  
& Increaseers thereof by the yearly transportation of Servants whereof  
diverse have been of very good Rank & Quality towards whom the rest  
he hath always been so careful to discharge a good Conscience in the true  
performance of his Promises & obligations that he was never taxed with  
any breach thereof, tho' it is also well known & he doth truly averrit  
that the Charge of so great a Family as he hath always maintained  
was never defrayed by their Labour

Now so it is that the Compl<sup>t</sup> intending to return out of this Pro-  
vince into England with his Wife these to Reside & to leave the managem<sup>t</sup>  
of his Affairs in this Province with Br: Hotchkys & Mrs Ann Silney  
one John Nicholls an Inhabitant of this Province who had been long  
& much indebted to the Complainant & from year to year forbore  
by him without ever taking one penny of him for the damage of non  
payment being grown very poor & unable by his Labour to pay his  
Debt, & maintain himself wife & Children did some two or three months  
before the Compl<sup>t</sup>'s Departure for England sell to the Compl<sup>t</sup> his Plan-  
tation & more to lessen his Charge did by the mediation of thes: Rich:  
Hotchkys & Mrs Ann Silney & others earnestly importune the Compl<sup>t</sup>  
& his wife to take his eldest Daughter named Hester being about 100  
years old, an Apprentice for five years which the Complainant refused  
& yet at last by the earnest sollicitation of the said Nicholls himself  
& others in his Behalf & in Commiseration of his poor Estate & thes:  
Childs who was in a very poor Condition for want of Coaths as well  
Linnen as woollen did Condescend to accept her for seven years & according-  
ly an Indenture was drawn signed & sealed by the said Nicholls & his  
Daughter in the presence of the said Hotchkys & John Abington with-  
out any other Condition than what was Contained in the said Indenture  
& whereas in a Petition to this honourable Court the 11<sup>th</sup> of February  
1601 it is falsely alledged by said Nicholls that the Compl<sup>t</sup> did  
earnestly perswade him for his said Daughter promising she should do  
nothing else but wait upon his Wife, Who it is well known wanted