

(93)
no Attendants of far better fashion, & was shortly intended to go for England
with the same maid she brought with her with no Resolution as was well
known to the said Nicholls of returning again into this Province, & to be
at the charge of transporting or keeping such a rude, raw ill bred Child for
or in England where Servants of all sorts may be had on easier Terms is
altogether improbable yet how otherwise she should do nothing else but
wait upon his Wife, or that he the said Capt. should take as much care
for her as for his own Child which is also sworn by his Confederate
Edward West he humbly desires this honourable Court to take into their
serious Consideration as also the last Clause of the said Nicholls's petition
wherein he craves that his Daughter may not be made a Slave, a Term
so scandalous that if admitted to be the Condition or Tie of the Appren-
tices in this Province will be so destructive as no free born Christians will
ever be induced to come over Servants, of all which Falsity the said
Nicholls & West were so Conscious (as the Compl. hath reason to be-
lieve that they waived the Judgment of this honourable bench to whom
it solely & properly belonged to take Cognizance, only of matters of Fact
& consequently the Judgment being proved or Confessed must have found
for the Defendant, for were the Legality or Equity of Bonds or Covenants
when proved or Confessed to be decided by a weak & ignorant Jury
the Compl. under a favourable direction humbly offers it to the
judicious Consideration of this Court what need would there be of
Lawyers to dispute doubtful Cases, or of learned Judges to determine
them but only to sit as Cyphers to confirm ignorant & illegal Ver-
dicts, & whereas there is no other witness produced by the said Nicholls
to prove his false Suggestions but the aft. Edw. West whose misde-
meanours towards the Compl. when he was last in this Province
was so notorious that it need not be repeated tho upon his hum-
ble Submission it was forgiven him by the Compl. whose
Servant he had been that he also lives in the said Nicholls's House
& as the Compl. is informed had a design to marry his Daughter
in Consideration of all which premises with the illegality of the
Verdict wherein the Compl. without ever being heard or any wit-
ness in his behalf examined is asserted upon Record with Fraud &
Deceit, which he abhors, & is in his Conscience altogether innocent
having at that time as is well known near twenty Servants to main-
tain, & had no need of so useless a servant to increase his Charge but
only in Charity to the said Child & her Father who in three years
time never challenged any such Promise as he now suggests of the
Compl. nor at his last being in Maryland ever complained to us
of her Employment or keeping which was yet no other than as one
of his ordinary Maid Servants as doubtless he would have