

Michael Catterton, and they were in danger of having to serve five years "to their unspeakable prejudice and damage". Governor Calvert, to whom of course the petition was addressed, told them to appear for a hearing at the next Provincial Court, and this they did. The Court listened to them, and to their witnesses, and said they were free, "untill the said Michael Catterton make appeare to the Contrary." (*post*, p. 50).

Hall and Soly were working out their passage, but others had admittedly come into the Province as indentured servants. James Bill, *alias* Ellis, entered in the ship *Crowne Malego* Walter Dunch commander, on October 17, 1671. He was under a four-year indenture to Capt. Thomas Harwood, and the Captain sold him, for the term given, to Robert Lockwood, of Anne Arundel County. Bill said he had faithfully served out his four years, nevertheless Lockwood refused to free him. When he produced in court the certificate from the office for enrolling the consent of servants and their agreements with their masters, the Court judged, on February 10, 1675/6, that he had served his full time of service (*post*, p. 51).

Hugh Brulanghan and Rose O Daniel said they had come into the Province as servants to John Derry, bound by indentures for four years only. Derry assigned them to Edward Lappage, and Lappage sold them for the five years that constituted the custom of the country on servants' time. More than that, he refused to return to them their indentures, and without them they must have a hard time proving what they said. So they prayed the Court to take the deposition of John Derry, or Deery, who had brought them in. Derry deposed that they had been obliged to serve for four years from the time of their arrival, and that that four years had expired in March 1676. The Court took account of Derry's oath, and turned the people over to the Somerset County commissioners, though the petition had been presented originally to the Provincial Court (*post*, 203-204).

Hall and Ellis and Brulanghan and Rose O Daniel were white, Thomas Hagleton was "a negroe." He petitioned his Lordship that in England he had made an agreement with Margery Dutchess [name or title?], by which he was to serve Thomas Kemp for four years and no longer. The four years had ended a year ago, but Major Thomas Truman, into whose hands he had come, refused to set him free. Truman had been a justice of the Court, and had earlier had the unusual sensitiveness to refuse to sit in the consideration of a case in which he was a witness (*Archives*, LXV, 634). Now, however, he was more obdurate. The Court, having held a trial between him and Hagleton, with witnesses and with written evidence, judged that "the said Thomas Hagleton is free." This was on May 24, 1676, but, six months later Hagleton came into court again, and asked that Truman be ordered to give him the clothes and the corn provided in such cases by the act of Assembly (*post*, 291, 351, 360; *Archives*, II, 525). The Court ordered Truman to comply with the law, but he seems to have passed the burden back to Thomas Kemp, party to Hagleton's entry agreement. In April 1677 Kemp took the pauper's oath that he was worth less than £5, his debts being paid "besides the thing in question about Thomas Hagleton a negroe)" (*post*, p. 489). Counsel were assigned him and he was