

each of them sued the other; Warwick charged Ridgell with unjustly detaining the clothes and asked 2500 pounds of tobacco; Ridgell charged Warwick with trespass upon the case, in refusing to pay his account, and he too asked 2500 pounds. Both sides prayed a jury trial, and the trial was held. The jury found the balance of both actions for each of them, and ordered that each pay his own costs (*post*, 252-254). Six of one and half a dozen of the other.

Damaris Wyatt, who took Attorney Thomas Bland as her third husband, was an approved midwife. She and Nicholas Wyatt, her second husband, with a daughter by her first husband, had come from Virginia into Maryland, and settled on the Severn River. Wyatt, who may have been a surveyor, had laid out for him several parcels of land on the south side of the river, and there they lived. He died late in 1672 or early in 1673, for his will was probated in January 1673. Damaris went on living in the same place, and, on October 4, 1673, she took "One Dorothy Bruton into her house who was then very sick and bigg with Child" (*post*, p. 261) and cared for her for three weeks. Edward Gardner, whose interest in Dorothy is nowhere explained, had especially asked Damaris to do this, and he had "faithfully promise[d] to satisfie the said Damoris what she Should reasonably deserve" (*ibid.*). There may have been some connection between Gardner and Dorothy Bruton: she was never called Mrs., and never said to have had a husband. When she died, in July 1675, she left two daughters, and she made Gardner her executor. When Gardner himself died, in March 1676, he left a plantation to Dorothy and her heirs, though she was already dead when his will was drawn up. Besides this, he left land to her daughter Mary, and personalty to her daughter Eliza (Will Book V, p. 5). But he did not pay Damaris for her care, despite his promise, and she and Bland, now her husband, sued his executor, Richard Hill, in the Anne Arundel County Court, asking 2100 pounds of tobacco for twenty-one days care. Those judges thought this was unreasonable, and Bland then commenced action in the Provincial Court against Hill. He asked 1200 pounds of tobacco, but the jury and the Court awarded him 400 pounds damages and 1047 pounds costs. Hill refused to pay, and in April 1677, Bland got out an execution against Gardner's estate, with the unusual provision that if it were not large enough to satisfy the execution, the costs should be levied from executor Hill's own estate. And Sheriff John Welsh returned that he had executed a gelding horse belonging to Hill. Two days later Hill told his story to the Court. The execution had been surreptitious and vicious, and he prayed that it be suspended and that this riding horse be returned to him, "Whereupon it . . . [was] granted by the Court here that a writ of restitution be granted unto the said Richard Hill with costs." (*post*, pp. 396-397). Whether Damaris ever got paid is not known.

SHIPS AND MARINERS

Although there were no cases heard in admiralty as such at this time, there were cases involving ships and mariners, but they were heard by the Provincial Court in regular session. On February 10, 1675/6, the Attorney General, Vincent Lowe, acting for the Proprietary, brought in an information against