

borow, who was, in fact, a servant to Peter Archer of Calvert County, petitioned the Court that he had come into the Province through an agreement between his father and Charles Gosprit of London. James was to be an assistant to Mr. Gosprit's son in Maryland, and he was presumably to learn the business. Father Disborow had paid his son's passage and had provided him with food for the voyage, but when James arrived in the Province, he had been disposed of as a servant. John Harris, master of the *Dover*, on which young Disborow had come in, was summoned to appear and testify whether the boy was a servant or not, and the vessel was not to be cleared for sailing until he had done so (*post*, p. 26). Nothing more is heard of this case now.

Even when the Court accepted the fact that someone was a servant it might and often did consider his wellbeing. Many Marylanders had themselves been servants in their day. On November 28, 1676, Mary Jones, wife of Morgan Jones, asked for and got an order protecting her against her husband's ill usage. Now, on February 13, 1677/8, she reported to the Court that he had refused to obey the order and had forced her from the plantation on which they lived, a plantation which she said had come to her from the father of her child. The Court now ordered that Morgan give good security to abide by the order, but it ordered also "that the peticonr Mary give good security to this Court that she shall not cruple maim or lame ffrancis Brown who was allowed by the afore-said order to fetch her wood & water" (*post*, p. 226; *Archives* LXVI, p. 315). Did the Court think that Mary was of the same cruel sort as her husband? Nor was Francis Browne the only servant for whom the Court showed consideration. June 13, 1678, Thomas Bland petitioned the Court that Edward Dorsey had entered his dwelling plantation and had taken away three of his servants. One of the three, John Booth, ran away from Dorsey and drowned himself. Another, a maidservant named only Alice, "was by the said Dorseys misusage brought to a dangerous sicknes", and when she was "in her extremity of sicknes", Dorsey told Bland to come and take her away "which he refused to doe." Apparently Dorsey recognized Bland's right to the servant, but when Bland refused to take her away, Dorsey got a warrant from Richard Hill, one of the Anne Arundel County justices, and had Bland imprisoned in "the said Justices house then & still a publick Ordinary" for five days. There was already bad blood between Bland and Hill (*Archives* LXVI, pp. xxiv, 396-397) and between Bland and Dorsey (*ibid.*, pp. 421-422). Bland was not set free from the ordinary-and-jail until he signed a recognizance for 10,000 pounds of tobacco to behave well toward the servant Alice, to carry her away from Dorsey's house, and to leave Justice Hill harmless. Bland now asked the Court to discharge him from the recognizance, and it was "Ordered by the Court here that the aforesaid Recognizance be Cancelled & made void." (*Archives* LXVI, pp. 114, 421; *post*, pp. 420-421). No one knows what happened to Alice.

In spite of the cruelty of Dorsey, and the suspected cruelty of Mrs. Morgan Jones, there were few cases now comparable to those of former years. John Grammer (*Archives* XLIX, pp. 307-312), and Captain and Mrs. Bradnox (*Archives* LIV, pp. 224-226) were all dead; Pope Alvey, though alive (and litigious) no longer appears charged with stealing or with murdering his serv-