

Oistin, and this he did. But he failed to give any account of the proceeds, and William Digges, the shipper's administrator in Maryland, sued his executor for 30,000 pounds of tobacco. The executors pleaded *non assumpsit*, but the verdict of the jury went in favor of Plaintiff Digges, and the Court ordered a writ of enquiry of damages returnable next court. Next court was held on April 2, 1683: at that court, a jury of twelve good and lawful men said upon their oaths that the damages sustained "for the price and use of the negroes" amount to 10,000 pounds of tobacco. The defendant moved in arrest of judgment, but when the case came up for trial in June, the defendant did not appear at all. Thereupon the Court gave administrator Digges the amount the jury had awarded, and added an unspecified sum for costs (*post*, 355-357). It seems clear that Christison, at least on that occasion, had indulged in slave trading, Quaker though he was.

Just when Christison died, and where he is buried are not known. Members of the Society of Friends are careful to have burial grounds, but they do not have grave stones. His will was drawn February 25, 1678, probably 1679, so he was alive then. But the will was probated May 20, 1679, so he was surely dead then. Besides his wife Elizabeth, who later married William Digges, he left a daughter Mary, another daughter Elizabeth, and an unborn child of whom nothing is known.

#### TENNYSON

Late in October 1680, Elizabeth Tennyson, wife of John, petitioned the Council for an order directed to her husband that he allow her a separate maintenance, because she could not safely live with him. Tennyson, summoned, appeared before the Council and said he was willing to receive her into his house and to give her reasonable support. At the hearing Tennyson said her charges were unwarranted, but he admitted that he could not entertain for her the countenance and respect due to a woman in the house of her husband. (*Archives XV*, 321-322). Accordingly the Council ordered the husband to deliver to the wife her own bed with its furniture, and all her clothing. Beyond that she was to have 300 pounds of meat, three barrels of corn and a thousand pounds of tobacco. William Digges, one of the justices, who was also a member of the Council, was told to call Tennyson before him and to exact of him security for the performance of the order. Came March 1683, and Mrs. Tennyson was back. Her husband had died in January, and he had made his sons, who were presumably her sons also, sole executors of the will, with no mention of his wife. The sons refused to allow her anything at all. Therefore she came before the Council for her just dues. The Council referred the petition to the Provincial Court, composed, be it remembered, of the same men as the Council, and the Court was ordered to give her such relief as they thought just. Colonel Digges was ordered to call the sons before him and to put them under bond to answer Elizabeth's complaint (*post*, p. 360).

#### THE INFORMER

Within this period there was but one case of an informer suing for the reward of his work, though the old rule was still in force. By Act of Assembly