

Gerard Slye took the attorney, who was his uncle, into custody, and that same day a grand jury "or Inquest of the body of the said Province," acting on nothing but the testimony of Husbands, presented the lawyer for assaulting the doctor. Blakiston was arraigned, "pleaded not guilty & for his tryall putt himselfe upon the Countrey . . . [the] Jury to passe upon the life & the death of the said Nehemiah" heard the sworn charges of Husbands and said upon their oaths that Blakiston was not guilty, and that he had not withdrawn himself. He was forthwith allowed to go without day, but he felt that he had been so injured by the charges that he sued Dr. Husbands for 100,000 pounds of tobacco (*post*, 121-125).

When, on March 13, 1678/9, the case came to trial, Husbands reiterated his charges. On March 26, 1676, Blakiston "the said hatt called a ffrench hatt & one perriwigg to the value of three pounds eight shillings sterl then & there from the person of the said Edward with force & armes feloniously did take & carry away" (*post*, 125). This Nehemiah again denied, and he prayed that the charges "may be inquired of by the Countrey And the defend^t [Husbands] also [.]". The jury supported Blakiston and assessed the damages done him at five thousand pounds of tobacco, plus 2192 pounds more for costs (*post*, 126). What really happened on the high way near Mattaponi that March day in 1676 no one knows.

Husbands's charges resulted in the acquittal of the defendant in June 1678. In the interval between that time and the suit for damages, Husbands got himself into real trouble. On the evening of November 8, 1678, members of the Lower House of Assembly ate a duck pie and fell ill. Chirurgeon Husbands was thrown into jail on a charge of having put some poison or unwholesome drug into the pie, and, at the request of the Assembly the Governor made sure Husbands would be on hand for the trial. The Lower House said that, though there was not absolute proof of the poisoning, there was exceedingly strong suspicion, and they desired that Husbands be forever disabled from practising in the Province. For the threats and curses he had used against the Assembly, the Lower House said he ought to apologise on his kneew to both houses, or that, in default of that, he be given forty lashed on his bare back. The Upper House concurred (and the Upper House did not always agree with the Lower House), and ordered that a bill of attainder be drawn up against the Doctor. When this act came to passage, it forbade him to practise medicine, and, for the "Crime of Threatening menacing & Curseing this Assembly as afores^d The said Husbands be whipped on the bare back with twenty Lashed by the hand of the Comon hangman" (*Archives VII, passim*). What happened to him after this no one knows now.

SHIPS AND SEAFARING MEN

There were no cases heard in admiralty this year: indeed the word *admiralty* does not once occur in these pages. There are only one or two cases involving ships and seamen, and in these the settlement was according to the law of land. In 1675 and again in 1676, Thomas Clarke told Captain John Longden that, for the transport of himself and of his manservant from England to the Province,