

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

Pre-publication Collections

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Box, Wiltshire

1606-1610

Edited by C. E. McGee

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1608

Bill of Complaint in Coren vs Seede TNA: STAC 8/98/20: Coren v. Seed
mb 28 (23 November 1608)

To the kinges most Excellent Maiestie

In all hum<ble>nes complayninge sheweth vnto your gracious highness your *Maiestes* Loyall and Obedient Subiecte Iohn Coren of Boxe in your highnes Countie of Wiltshire Clerk and Vicar of the parish Church of Boxe aforesaide That wheras your *Maiestes* said Subiecte ys and about eighteene <yeres> last past hath binn a Minister and a Preacher of the word of God And hath lived honestlie and carefullie in his function and callinge without Scandall or offence to anie man. And wher<as> also one Iohn Bewshin of Claverton in *your* highnes said Countie of Somerset ^{Clerk} who likewise is and by the space of Thirtie yeres and vpwardes hath benn a ~~Clerk~~ Minister and Preacher of Godes worde, and is and by the space of twentie <y>eres and vpwards hath ben *parson* of Claverton aforesaid and manie yeres past hath married and taken to wife one Philippe now his wife a vertuous and honest woman, and they two as man and wife have for manie yeres together inhabited <and> dwelt in the said town of Claverton in the *parsonage* howse there and by all the time aforesaid have soe carefullie ordered and carried themselves in all their accions that there is not anie *person* in that *parishe* or elswhere that can iustlie tax or dep<r>ave them of or with anie evill demeanour or offence offered or donn by them or either or anie of them either to anie *person* in

particuler or of anie publique Scandall given in generall the said Philipp Bewshin behaving her self with all sobrietie and womanhoode without anie ymmodest or light behaviour. Whereby she might iustlie be suspected much lesse Censured for incontynencie or for anie other lewde or loose demeanour or behaviour.

Yet neuertheles so itt is yf it maie please your gracious highnes That one Iohn Seede of Clauerton aforesaid and Edward Seede his sonne of late have combyned and confederated together by Libells and false and scandalous papers writings and letters and by publication of them to so sclaunder and caste an infamye vpon your said Subiecte and also vpon Bewshin and Philippe his wife, and to that intent and purpose they the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede malitiouslie envyeinge and repynge at the prosperitie and good of your said Subiecte and of the said Iohn Bewshin and Philipp his wife and of other persons of honest and good behaviour, and being desirous to drawe your said subiecte and the said Iohn Bewshin being Clerkes and also the Ministrie yt self into reproche have latelie resolved by ungodlie and divillische means not onlie to soile and and blemishe, but also vtterlie to take awaie the honest fame and good reputacion forever of your said Subiecte and of the said Iohn Bewshin and Philipp his wife contrary to your Maiestes Lawes and quiet government of this your Maiestes realme[.]

And to that end and purpose they the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede have most maliciouslie wickedlie and corruptlie devised made and contrived divers Infamous scandalous and ignaminious Libells which they the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede have sithence in mockinge and iestinge fashion published dispersed and divulged to the traducinge scandalizinge and vniust taxinge of your said subiecte and of the said Iohn Bewshin and Philipp his wife and to the Stayninge of them (asmuch as in them Lyeth) with fowle markes of perpetuall disgrace obloquie and infamie and to the discredit and disgrace of the Ministrye it self whereof your said subiecte and the said Iohn Bewshin are: As namelie in or about the Monethe of August in the foureth yere¹ of your highnes most gracious and happie Raigne over this Kingdome of England they the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede not having the feare of God before their Eyes nether fearinge nor Regardinge the good and wholsome Lawes and Statutes of this your highnes Realme for the due punishement of Notorious makers and publishers of false and seditious Libells did vnlawfullie make write and contrive an odious faulse and scandalous Libell writinge and *lettre*, against your saide subiecte and the said Philipp Bewshin in their wordes following / viz: To Mrs Coren at the vicaredge of Boxe give this with speede Mrs Coren Yf you respect your husbandes Creditt and your owne wealth you must keepe him from the parsons howse of Clauertons howse he is so beloved and so kindlie intertainde of the gentlewoman of the howse that his desire is satisfied in what he will, the consideracion is lefte to your self to ludge of, He never cometh thither but hee stayeth two or three nightes at the Leaste as yet will appeare nowe before he cometh home, Yf yow suffer him to vse yt his purse wilbe leane and his Mare poore He saith yow doe often chide him and that is the cause he goeth thither for comforte Nowe Yow knowe yt vse your owne discrecion, the Countreye speaketh of it alreadye, As by the same libell whereunto your subiect referreth himself appeares, The which scandalous and odious libell they the said Iohn Seede and Edward ^{Seede} and other persons (to your said subiecte yet vnknowne, afterwarde viz. in the said Monethe of Auguste did also

wickedlie and vnlawfullie disperse divulge and caste the same abroad in sondrie places ^{^of and} in the parish of Boxe aforesaid And the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede did also themselves iestinglie and wickedlie ^{^mockinglye} reade and publishe the same Libell to diuers persons at seuerall times bothe in the howse of the said Iohn Seede at Clauerton aforesaid and elswhere and did also verie often publishe and divulge the same in seuerall manners & did expound the meaninge of the said Libell both against your said subiecte and also against the said Philippe Bewshin, and did give and deliver out verie manie Coppies thereof, as also did oftentimes reade the same libell in scorne of your said subiecte and of the said Iohn Bewshin and Philipp his wife before manie tellinge and recompting the substance thereof to diuers persons/

And to thende That it maie the better appeare that they the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede did make and contrive the said Scandalous libell and were consenting thereunto as also that they did seditiouslie divulge and publishe the same, Your said subiecte further informeth your Maiestie That the said Iohn Seede before the casting out of the said Libell (in respecte that he could not be sojourned in the howse of the said Iohn Bewshin) often threatened to blemishe the good name of the said Philipp Bewshin and of your said subiecte and threatened oftentimes that if your said Subiecte vsed to staie so longe att Mrs Bewshin his howse, that he (meaninge your said subiecte) should be straye shorne and sent home and your said subiecte further informeth your Maiestie that the said Iohn Seede maliciouslie and seditiouslie in the presence of a greate number of persons vsed theis wordes viz. say that because Mr Coren vseth to come to Mr Bewshin his howse some sclaunderous libell be caste abroad ymportinge incontynencie to them whereof a fame should or could be raised in the Countrie, And the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede did in manner aforesaid traduce your said subiecte and the persons before named and taxed them with the odious and hatefull name of incontynencie to bringe them into hatred and detestacion with all men (whereas in verie truethe your said subiecte and the said before named persons have ever lived in good reputacion and esteeme, and alwaies conformed them selves to your Maiestes Lawes and never gave anie manner of cause of suspition of the contrary. Yet were not thus satisfied, but finding that the said libell soe made and scattered abroad as aforesaid, Yet was for a time concealed and suppressed contrarye to the expectation of the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede in regarde that your said Subiecte did rather endeavoure to wyne them with Connyvence and silence then to procure reformation by Complaite, Therevpon they the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede did growe the more emboldened to add to their divillishe ympieties aforesaid and to make up and divulge other abhominable invectives revylinges and libells against your said subiecte, and the more ampie to discover the depthe of their conceived mallice and rancor against your said subiecte and the said Iohn Bewshin and Philipp his wife contrarye to your Maiestes Lawes.

To which ende and purpose they the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede have nowe of late most wickedlie put in execucion another de^{^te}stable practize by publishinge readinge and divulginge and givinge out of Coppies of another false scandalous and seditious libell likewise ^{^made and} contrived by them the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede conteyninge many false malicious and vngodlie invectives and

rayling termes not onlie against *your* said subiecte but also against the said Philipp Bewshin As namely they the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede did in or about the monethe of ~~November~~ ^{October} in the fowerth yere of *your* highnes most gracious and happie raigne most vnlawfullie and wickedlie make write and contrive or cause to be made written and Contrived a verie false sclanderous and malicious libell against *your* said subiecte and the said Philipp Bewshin in theis wordes viz: Good *Mistris* Toord at one bare worde, Your best *parte* stinkethe, yf stincke be the best what then doth the reste as eache man thinketh. A poxe in *your* Arse, yow have burnte a good tarse, A verie filthie lott, and that was all I gotte, with this subscription J. Co: In *which* libell they have most maliciouslie and falslie sclaundred *your* said subiecte and the said Philippe Bewshin, and in Covert termes taxed them *with* incontynencie and by the said lewde subscripcion of J. Co: they the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede did meane publishe and expound *your* said subiecte whose name is Iohn Coren, And havinge made or caused to be made the said sclanderous libell as aforesaid they the said Iohn Seed and Edward Seede did ~~afterward viz:~~ about the monethe of october ~~then following~~ ^{in the} ffourth yeere of the kinges *your* ^{Maiesties} raigne that nowe ys. and at divers and sondrie times sithence maliciouslie and vnlawfully ~~of~~ by waie of Iestinge and mockinge of *your* said subiecte ~~where~~ ^{and} of the said Philipp Bewshin in the *presence* of divers persons disperse and cast abrode & consent vnto the dispersing & casting abroade of the said libell lastlie mencioned in sondrie places, and because they would not be prevented in their intended purpose in sclandring and depraving of *your* said subiecte and of the said Philipp Bewshin who were but Covertlie pointed at in the same libell lastlie mencioned, Therefor & to thende that they would be sure that the same should be published & come to lighte The said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede divers and sondrie times since the making thereof did to diverse and sondrie persons of their acquaintans reporte reade and make knowne the said infamous libell and did expound the same to touche and concerne *your* said subiecte and the said Philipp Bewshin to the greate discredite & disgrace not onlie of *your* highnes said subiecte but also of the said Philippe Bewshin, and to the provoking of Jelowsie betwene *Your* said subiecte and his wife ^{and alsoe} of the said Iohn Bewshin and Philipp his wife and contrarie to *your* *Maiestes* Lawes and statutes of this *your* highnes realme,

In tender consideracion whereof and forasmuch as the makinge dispersinge publishinge and publique readinge of the said sclaunderous reprochfull false and ignominious libells Letters writings and pamphlettes Whereby *your* said subiectes herein menconed and their good and honest fame Credit and reputacions are traduced taxed sclaundred and brought in question and thereby *your* said subiectes are left as publique and notorious examples of disgrace oblique and infamie without iust cause given are meerlie contarie to the lawes and statutes of this *your* highenes Realme and contrarie to divers proclamacions heretofore made and proclaimed for the better suppressinge of suche enormous offences and misdemeanours And forasmuch as daylie experience doth witnes what greate Evills doe springe from this seditious and divellishe course of casting forthe libells amongst *your* *Maiesties* subiectes and how daungerous the same is to the quiet estate of this *your* *Maiestes* peaceable government. Yf such notorious malefactors and offenders should escape vnpunished And forasmuch as the

making and publishing of the said false scandalous and pernicious Libells lettres and writings by the persons afore named and other the misdemeanours and offences before specified, Have bene bene perpetrated and Committed since anie generall pardon which pardoneth such offences, and the same doe not onlie deprave your said subiecte and the said Philipp Bewshin in their Credittes and estimacions and without cause doe ~~pro~~ deprive them of their good names and reputacions which they hould and esteeme as pretious as their lives but also derogate from goddes glorie and tende to a greate sedition trouble and breache of your maiestes peace and deserue sharpe and severe punishment to be inflicted for the same by Your Maiestie and the Lords and others of your Maiestes most honorable priuie Councell And in iustice and righte your said subiecte ought to haue his ^{said} Credit and reputacion repaired and his greate damages by the said malicious courses susteined to him repaide May itt therefore please your excellent Maiestie to graunte to your highnes said subiecte your Maiesties most gracious writt of Subpena to be directed to the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede Commaundinge them thereby vnder a Certeine paine ~~to be~~ therein to be lymitted to be and personallye to Appeare before your maiestie in his highnes moste honorable Courte of Starr Chamber then and there to Awnsweare to the premises, And further to stande to and abyde suche order and punishment ^{in & touchinge the premises as to} as your highnes and the Counsaile of the saied Courte shall seeme to agree with righte and iustice And your said Subiecte shall and will accordinge to his bounden dutye daylye praye to god for your Royall maiestie in peace and tranquillitye longe to Reigne over vs
Phelippes|

Answer of the Defendants

mb 27 (February 1608/9)

ffebruarii Anno sexto Iacobi Regis

Edward Jones

The ioint and seuerall answeres of Iohn Seed and Edward Seed *defendants* to the bill or informacion of Iohn Coren Clerk *Complainant*.

The said *defendants* by protestacion not confessing nor acknowledging the matter or thinges in the said bill Conteyned and layed to the Charge of these *defendants* to be true in such manner and forme as in the said bill they are sett forth & alleadged doe say that the said bill ys very vncertaine vntrue and insufficient in the lawe to be answered vnto and that not only the said bill, but allsoe one other Causeless suite in his Maiesties Courte of high Comission for Causes ecclesiasticall concerning the selfe same misdemeanors in the said bill supposed haue bin & are framed devised and contened against these *defendants* of a malicious purpose only to putt them to needlesse Costes and Chardges in the lawe without anie ground matter or Cause which might move the said *Complainant* soe to doe[.]

Neuertheless all advantages by way of exception to the incertaintie and insufficiencie in lawe of the said bill now and at all times heerafter saued and reserued unto these *defendants* they do thevnto say And first wheras in the said bill yt is surmized that this *defendant* Iohn Seed before the ^{^supposed} Casting out of the libell in the said bill mencioned did oftentimes threaten that yf the said *Complainant* did vse to stay soe long at Mrs Bewshins house that he meaning the *Complainant* should be *Straye Shorne*. heervnto this *defendant* Iohn Seed saith that ^{^to his now remembrance} the *complainant* and ye said Phillip Bewshin earnestlie intreated this *defendant* diligently to inquire and to tell them what ^{^Reportes speeches or} wordes ye neighbors spake of them and allsoe to learne whoe was the author of that *lettre* or libell in the bill mencioned, and whoe was the author of diuerse other evill and scandalous reportes which were reported touching the reputacion of ye said Phillip Bewshin before the time in the bill mencioned Whervpon this *defendant* Iohn Seed saith/ that in mere loue and good will he told both the said *Complainant* and her the said Phillip Bewshine being all at that time verie familiar freindes that the neighbors spake of the Continuall resort of the said *Complainant* vnto the house of the said Iohn Bewshin And that they did take notice of his being there aswell vpon sonedays and hollydayes as at other times, and of the said *Complainantes* and the said Phillip Bewshines being together in the said Iohn Bewshin her husbandes house on diuerse sonedays or holy dayes all the time that the said Iohn Bewshin hath bin saying devine service and of the *Complainantes* lodging and being therin diuerse dayes and nightes together leaving and for the time forsaking his owne house wife and family being but twoe miles or therabouts distant And that one of the neighbors said vnto this *defendant* Iohn Seed that if the said Mr Coren (meaning the *Complainant*) did continue that Course he must be (*shorne strayer*) And this *defendant* further signified vnto the said *Complainant* and vnto her the said Phillip Bewshine what was spoken of them aswell concerning the great store of *provision* for dyett sent by the said *Complainant* fro<m> time to time ~~sent~~ to the said Iohn Bewshines house and of Certeyne *lettres* passing betweene the said *Complainant* and the said Phillip Bewshin, as allsoe of verie evill and scandalous reportes Concerning the reputacion of the said Phillip Bewshin and of one Sara Langley her naturall sister, whoe soiourned often & sundry times for halfe a year together at the house of the said Iohn Bewshin before the said *defendant* Iohn Seed Came to Clauerton to Continew and dwell ^{^there} to the great ympouerishing and downfall of the said Iohn Bewshin whoe was left in verie good estate by his freindes[.]

And whereas in and by the said bill yt is further most vntruelly suggested that the *said defendants* dyd in or about the moneth of October in the fourth yeare of his *Maiesties* said raigne make wryte and Contriue one other false, slaunderous & malicious libell *against* the said *Complainant* and her the said Phillip Bewshine beginning in these wordes / viz. Good *Mistris Toord*, at one bare word &c heervnto the said *defendant* Edward Seed for his part saith that he this *defendant* about the time in the bill mencioned did in myrth and dauncing with musick at the mannor house of Clauerton in the said bill mencioned amongst diuerse of his freindes there meeting together to be merry vppon the onlie opportunitie and meeting of some of his said freindes whoe had bin aunciently acquainted in their said youth and then occasion being geuen to

remember manie old songes and rymes *which* they had oftentimes heard to be song and repeated at the least eight or ten yeares or more before the time in the bill mencioned and allsoe manie yeares before the said *defendant* Edward Seed had anie acquaintance or knowledge of the said *Complainant* did to his now remembrance fyrst in dauncing the daunce Called the *Iewe of Malta* and thervnto singing one ditty; [^]or tune secondly dauncing the *Irish* daunce, singing to that another *with* diuerse such like and other daunces and songes of mirth did sing or recyte some Certaine rymes or songes somewhat like the rymes mencioned in the said bill but not the said rymes And likewise saith that in singing of the said rymes or anie other song at the time & place aforesaid he this *defendant* Edward Seed had noe meaning or purpose to slaunder tax or discredit ether the said Phillip Bewshin or the said *Complainant* as in the said bill ys alleaded[.]

Without that these *defendants* haue Combyned or Confederated together by anie libells false or slaunderous papers writings or *lettres* or by anie publicacion of them to slaunder or Cast an infamy either vppon the said *Complainant*, Iohn Bewshin, and Phillip his wife, or vpon anie of them Or that these *defendants* or either of them haue to that end and purpose lately or at any time resolued either to soyle or blemish or in any sort to take away the honest fame and good name either of the said *Complainant*, or of the said Iohn Bewshin or Phillip his wife in manner and forme &c Or that these *defendants* or other of them haue in anie sort devised made or Contriued anie infamous, scandalous or ignominious libell, or that they or either of them haue at anie time in mocking or iesting manner published or diuulged to the traducing scandalizing or the vniust taxing of the said *Complainant* or of the said Iohn Bewshin or Phillip his wife or to the staying of them or any of them *with* anie foule mark of disgrace obloquie or infamie, or to the discredit of the ministry in such manner and forme as in the said bill is surmized Or that in or about the moneth of August in the fourth yeare of his *Maiestes* raigne these *defendants* or either of them did vnlawfully make wryte or Contriue the said false and slaunderous writing, libell or *lettre* in the bill mencioned to be in these wordes following viz. To *mistris Coren* &c in such manner and forme as in the said bill ys allsoe most vntruely supposed Or that these *defendants* or either of them did afterwarde either in the moneth of August in the bill mencioned or at any other time vnlawfully disperse, divulge or Cast the same abrode in any place of or in the *parish* of Boxe aforesaid in such manner and forme as in the said bill is falsely suggested Or that these *defendants* or eyther of them did iestingly or mockingly read or publish the same libell to anie person or persons at anie time or place or did euer expound the meaning of the same libell either *against* the said *Complainant* or the said Phillip Bewshin, or did geue or deliuer out anie Coppies or Cobby therof or did at anie time read the same libell in scorne of the said *Complainant* or of the said Iohn Bewshin or Phillip his wife before anie person or persons whatsoever, or did tell or recount the substance therof to anie person or persons Or that they or either of them did make or Contriue the said libell or were Consenting thervnto in such manner and forme as in the said bill ys likewise vntruely ymagined Or that the said *defendant* Iohn Seed before the Casting out of the said libell dyd often or at anie time threaten to blemish the good name of the said Phillip Bewshin or of the said *Complainant*, or euer threatened that yf the said *Complainant* vsed to stay so long at Mrs Bewshins house that he (meaning the *complainant*) should

be *straye shorne* and sent home otherwise or in anie other manner then ys above alleadged Or that in or about the moneth of October in the fourth year of his highnes said Raigne these *defendants* or either of them did make wryte or Contriue or Cause to be made written or Contriued anie such false slaunderous or malicious libell against the *Complainant* and Phillip Bewshin mencioned in the said bill to beginne in these wordes viz. Good *Mistris Toord &c* in such manner and forme as in the said bill ys most slaunderously alleadged. Or that these *defendants* or either of them did at anie time before or sithence by way of iesting or mocking of the said *Complainant* or of the said Phillip Bewshin in the presence of anie person or persons Disperse or Cast abroad, or Consent vnto the dispersing or Casting abroad of the said libell lastly mencioned in anie place; Or that these *defendants* or either of them did at any time or times sithence the making therof to any person or persons of their acquaintance report, read or make knowen the said infamous libell or did euer expound the same to touch or Concerne the said *Complainant* or the said Phillip Bewshin to the discredit or disgrace either of the *Complainant* or of the said Phillip Bewshin or to the provoking of Jealousy betweene the *Complainant* [&] his wife or of the said Iohn Bewshin and Phillip his wife or to anie such intent or purpose or in such manner and forme as in the said bill is falsely surmized And as vnto all and euey the making and publishing of anie false slaunderous & pernicious libelles *lettres* and writings and other the offences & misdemeanors whatsoever in the said bill Conteyned and therby laid to the Chardge of these *defendants* and examinable in this *honourable* Court These *defendants* doe thervnto ioyntly say & either of them seuerally saith That neither they nor he are of them nor of anie of them guilty in such manner & forme or to such intent & purpose as in the said bill they are sett forth and declared. Without that, that anie other matter Clause thing or Circumstaunce in the said bill Conteyned materiall or needfull by these *defendants* to be answered vnto and heerby not sufficiently Confessed and avoyded or otherwise trauersed and denyed ys true in such manner and forme ~~and forme~~ as in the said bill ys vntruly alleadged All *which* matters these *defendants* and ether of them are & is ready to averr and proue as this *honourable* Court shall award, and therefore humblie prayeth to be dismissed out of the same with their reasonable Costs and Chardges on this behalfe most vniustly susteyned.

Thomas Hughes |

Interrogatories on behalf of the plaintiff

mb 24

Interrogatories to be Ministred to Wittnesses to be examined
on the parte and behalf of Iohn Coren Clarke Complaynante
againste Iohn Seede & Edward Seede defendauntes/

Imprimis doe you ^{knowe} Iohn Coren Clarke Complaynante and Iohn Seede & Edward Seede defendauntes, and doe you knowe Iohn Bewshine Clarke & Phillipp his wief? are they not bothe of good and honeste conuersacion, fame & name? hath not the saide

Iohn beene a Preacher these xxx^{tie} yeeres and dwelled at Clauerton in the Countye of Somerset as Parson there thes twenty yeeres as you knowe or haue hearde? and is not the Complaynante a Mynister & Vicar of the *parishe* of Box in the Countie aforesaid and howe long hath hee soe beene?

- 2 Item did not Iohn Seede move Sara Langley or anie other to bee a meanes to Mrs Bewshin that he mighte boarde in her howse againe, & was answered yt could be noe credite for Mrs Bewshine soe to doe, the said Iohn and his sonne Edward haveing beene held Infamous? And did not he saye yt was noe more descreditte to receiue him then to receiue Mr Coren whoe staid at her howse to or three daies and nightes togeather *which* was a shame for him to doe, and if he vsed long soe to staie there he should be straie shorne?
- 3 Item doe you knowe or haue hearde that in Sommer 1606. Iohn Seede sent a letter to Mr Corens howse at Box to advise him to be heedefull & *circumspect* in his carryadge for the avoyding of evell speeches that passed of him and Mrs Bewshine? and hathe not Iohn Seede confessed soe much in his examynacons taken the 19 of May 1607. before his *Maiesties* Commissioners for causes *Ecclesiasticall* what was the contentes of that letter? and wheare is the same letter as you knowe or haue hearde?
- 4 Item did not Rychard White take vp a *lettre* neere Mr henry Longes howse brother to Mrs Coren and deliuered it to Mr Coren in the Church yearde at Box? howe long since was the same letter taken vp? and is this *lettre* nowe shewed to you the same letter as you knowe or are *perswaded* in your Conscience? and hathe not Iohn Seede or Edward Seed confessed the wryting or sending of the said *Lettre*?
- 5 Item haue not the said Iohn Seede & Edward Seede to the vttermoste of their powers endeavored to defame & disgrace Mr Iohn Bewshine & his wief? and what was the cause they soe did; and what did they or eyther of them to that purpose as you knowe haue hearde or beleeeve in your conscience?
- 6 Item did not Mr Bewshine saie to Margerett Seede daughter of Iohn Seede one of the *defendauntes* that her father vsed him yll to keepe from him that he owed him and to lybell againste his wieffe? and did not she aunswere are you nowe agreed at the lybell it is a quarter of a yeere olde? And did not she allsoe (the same nighte) tell her father howe much Mr Bewshine & his wieffe were discontented with the said lybell, and saied she had heard her brother Edward sing the obsenus lybell? & is not this lybell nowe shewed vnto you the same Lybell then spoaken of? And what doe you knowe or haue hearde touching all, everye, or anie *parte* of this *Interrogatory*? or what other matter doe you knowe or haue hearde concerning the same?
- 7 Item did not Mr Bewshine at the howse of one Iohn Evans demande of Edward Seede a debte due vnto him from the said Seede? and did not he aunswere. I owe thee noothing I have paied thee even as if I had laien in a bawdie howse a whoorehowse or

Stewes and were not those speeches spoaken to defame Mr Bewshines howse as you knowe or thinke in *your* conscyence?

- 8 dyd not Iohn Seede in the Chancell of Clavering church or in some other place (sithence the Libells caste out) saye that the letter or libell nowe shewed vnto you & written to Mrs Coren could not be called a libell, but a frendlie admonicion, and that wiser men then himself were of that oppinion? what els can you saie touching the matter of this Interrogatorye?
- 9 Item did not Edward Seede sithence the publishing of the libell sende one Iohn Evans to tell Mr Bewshine & his wief that if they would spare him & make him noe *parte* to anie Suite he would ioyne with others & transeferre the whole guilte vpon his father & therebie presse him to aske Mr Coren and Mrs Bewshine forgiveness for wrongeing them and other waies to satisfie them by tong and purse?
- 10 Item did not Iohn Seede sithence the makeing of the Libells seeke to Mr Coren and Mrs Bewshine (by diuerse persons) to haue the matters compounded? And, (that motion being reiecte) did not the said Iohn Seede threaten that hee would make Claverton to hote for Mrs Bewshine, and saied he had gathered such matters for the high Commission Courte againste Mr Coren and Mrs Bewshine as should rewynate them both? and that he would vex Mr Bewshine with lawe? and what doe you knowe or haue heard touching every *particuler parte* of this Interrogatorye?
- 11 Item dyd Iohn Seede & Edward Seede or one of them in a sute brought in the high Commission corte againste them maliciouslie endeavor & goe aboute to *prove* that the *Complainant* would on Sundaies staie in Mr Bewshines howse with the said Phillipp Bewshine when Mr Bewshine was at Church saieing Service & preachinge and that the *Complainant* and the said Philip laie in twoe chambers, with a doore in the *partycion* walle between them soe as they mighte (at their pleasures) come one to the other and had boutes or latches on the insides of their seuerall chamber doores Soe as noe bodie could come to them but when they pleased And that Mr Bewshine was lodged in a Chamber distante from theirs/
- 12 Item did not the said Iohn and Edward Seede or one of them in the foresaid ^{sute} maliciously ~~Suite~~ endeavor to *prove* that the *Complaynante* sente one of Mr Bewshines *servantes* to his howse for a hogg or boare and willed him to saie hee was a butcher or a butchers man, and that greate store of other *provision* of corne and victualles were at other tymes sente from Mr Corens howse to Mr Bewshines howse, and there spente?
- 13 Item did not the said Iohn & Edward Seede malitiouslie goe aboute to *prove* in the high Commission Courte that the *Complainant* and Mrs Bewshine when her husbände was a Church and at other tymes had committed adultrey together & had in the nighte tyme gone to the others bedde, and there committed adultrey together, and that shee was accompted a lewde woeman & suspected to liue incontyentlie with

fouer others And that Mr Bewshine had bene made acquaynted with that suspicion and that shee had kepte those persons seacrettlie in her howse and conveyed the thence without the pryvetye of her husband?

- 14 Item did not the said Iohn Seede & Edward Seede or one of them in the said high Commission Courte maliciouslie endeavor to *prove* that Mrs Bewshine by her adulterous and incontynent lyeffe had gott *morbum Gallicum* & was laied or tooke Physicke for the same, and whilst shee was in that disease or in Cure thereof would crye out like a woeman in travaile and saie her guttes would burne out of her belly & that the *Parisshioners* of the said *parishe* haue bene offended for bringing the clothes then vsed aboute her to the comon well? and was not her disease such as other honest woemen sometymes haue? or maye haue and what was the cause thereof?
- 15 Item was not Mr Corens resorte to Mr Bewshines howse and Mr Bewshines resorte to Mr Corens howse for conference ~~of~~ vpon matters of dyvinitie, and when Mr Coren laie at Mr Bewshines howse did not he and Mr Bewshine either lie together and Mrs Bewshines with her Sister or els Mr Bewshine and his wieffe laie together, and Mr Coren in another Chamber alone/
- 16 Item did not Mrs Bewshine being *with* Childe catche a fall *comming* from Bathe & *within* fewe daies after was deliuered of an obortive childe and soe was forced to vse the helpe of learned Phesicians? when was the same done? and what doe you knowe touching every *partycular parte* of this Interrogatorye?
- 17 Item doe you knowe or haue you hearde that in or aboute Iuly 1606. a letter or Libell was writte or dispersed abroade of the contentes followeing videlicet Mrs Coren if you respecte your husbandes credit & your wealthe you muste keepe him from the parson of Clavertons howse, he is soe beloved & soe kyndelie enterteined of the gentlewoeman of the howse that his desier is satisfied in what he will, the *consideracion* is left to *your* self to iudge of, Hee never cometh thither but he staieth twoe or three nightes at the leaste as yt will appeare nowe before he cometh home. Yf you suffer him to vse yt his purse wilbe leane and his mare poore. he saith you doe often chide him and that is the cause he goeth thither for comforte/ nowe you know it, vse your owne discretion, the Cuntry speaketh of it allreadie? And was not the foresaide *Lettre* endorsed thus ^{viz.} To Mrs Coren at the Vycaradge of Box giue thes? was not the said *lettre* soe dispersed to stirre vp collor, discorde and offence betwene Mrs Coren and her husband and whoe writte the same *lettre*, as you knowe, thincke, or are *perswaded* in *your* conscyence
- 18 Item did not Iohn Seede or Edward Seede demaunde of the Complainante before the *foresaid* *Lettre* or Libell in *prose* came forth? of what quallitie his wief was and whether she were a kinde & good wieffe? And did not the *Complainant* aunswere him shee was good enough but that shee would sometymes chide as other woemen did?

- 19 Item did not Iohn Seede or Edward Seede saie to one Hughe Young having some talke with him touching the foresaid Libell or Lettre Tushe doe you call that a Libell? yt was a frendlie admonicion? And (being asked whoe was that freind) answered I will tell you that another tyme?
- 20 did not Iohn Seede or Edward Seed Anno 1606/ before casting abroad of the said Lettre or Lybell in prose threaten to blemishe the good name of Mrs Bewshine, and in the presence and hearing of Sara Langley saied that there should be plottes and devises against Mrs Bewshine And allsoe saied as followith viz. saied that because Mr Coren vseth to come to Mr Bewshines howse some sclanderous libell be caste abroad perporting incontynencie betwene them whereof a fame should or would be raised in the Cuntry /
- 21 Item did the said Iohn or Edward Seede aske of Mrs Bewshine Whether shee or her husbände had receiued a Lettre from Bathe written without anie name to it? what Lettre did he then meane, and where is that Lettre now.
- 22 Item did not Edward Seede within one yeere laste paste before Auguste 1607/ daunce aboute in a roome in his fathers howse in the presence of Margarett Seede his Sister and then sang the bawdie Lybell followeing videlicet Mrs Turde at one bare worde, your beste parte stinketh, yf stincke be the best, then what dothe the reste as each man thinketh. A pox on your arse you haue burned a good tarse, a very filthie lott, and that was all gott. with a finis I. Co whoe wrytt or dispersed the said Libell, and what is ment by the Lettres I. Co as you knowe or beleiue in your conscyence?
- 23 Item did Iohn Seed within one yeere paste before Auguste 1607 in the presence of his daughter Margerett & of diverse others repeate or saie by harte once or twyce the bawdye libell in the next precedent Interrogatory mencioned?
- 24 Item did not Iohn Seed saie to Phillip Bewshine in the presence of her sister Sara that some of his howsehoule, if he would giue them leaue would make a more filthie Libell of her, & set it ouer the poynd of her howse then was made of Mary Evans & taken of the churchdoore of Calverton and what more haue you heard touching the matters of this interrogatory?
- 25 Item did not Iohn Seed saie that if Mrs Bewshine opposed herself against him she should not dwelle there and that there would be plottes and matters collected againste her that shee should not endure yt, and that there had benesuch a matter done and sett vpon the poynde of her howse if he had not hindred yt.
- 26 Item did not Iohn Seede saie to one Iohn Evans since he and Mr Bewshine & Mrs Bewshine fell out, that he was sory for Mrs Bewshine that things would be ripped vp that of long tyme had ben hidd & that of late he had heard an infamous Libell ^{repeated &} sonnge at hys howse of her & then repeated about vj or viij lynes of the lybell in the 22th Interrogatory precedent

mentioned? And did not the saide Iohn Seede sithence saie or syng parte of the foresaide ryming Libell in the presense of one Nicholas Pryer and Richard Gaye aboute Christmas 1606./ and being demanded by the said Gay howe he had it soe perfectelie Aunswered he had parte of it in wryting?

- 27 Item did not Iohn Seede in the presence of Sara Langley repeate at Mr Bewshines howse ye wordes of the foresaid ryming libell, saieing his daughter told it him & alsoe saide it concerned Mrs Bewshine, and that the lettres I: & Cor signified Iohn Coren./
- 28 Item did not Iohn Seede desire that if Mr Coren would not cleere him out of the Suite in the Spirituall or high Comission courte, that yet he would not make him a partie but vse him as wyttnes for he could saie much againste his sonne touching the abuse of Mr Coren & Mrs Bewshine? And was not this spoaken by him in ye presence of Marie Cruche, Walter Cruche and William Cruche or some of them
- 29 Item did not Sentence passe in the Spirituall or highe Commission Courte for the nowe *plaintiff* againste the said Iohn and Edward Seede as *committers* of the abuses aforesaide, and was not costs taxed for the nowe *plaintiff* againste the *defendants* in the same sute? and did not the *defendants* to avoyd thexecucion of the said Sentence procure a *prohibicion*?
- 30 Item doe you knowe that the said Iohn & Edward Seede or eyther of them did make or wryte the foresaide *lettre* or libell in proose directed to Mrs Coren and the foresaide ryming lybell or eyther of them? and were you present when anie such thing was done?
- 31 Item doe you not thinke that Iohn Seede & Edward Seede, doubting that the making and publishing of the foresaid Libells would be *proved* againste them in the highe *commission Courte* soughte by all meanes they coulde to staine the credit and reputacion of the said Mrs Bewshine to taxe her with Infamy and with incontynent Lyveing withe the Complaynante, and soe to make the foresaid libells noe falce or sclanderous Libells, and to that purpose exhibeted the foresaid Artycles againste her and the Complaynante in the said highe *Commission Courte*?
- 32 Item what doe doe you knowe or haue hearde touching the making <wr>yting or publisshing of the foresaide letter or Libell in proes directed <to> Mrs Coren, and the Ryming Lybell aforesaide or either of them and by <wh> ome the same were made wrytten, or publisshed Declare youre whole knowledge herein

William Meredith Nicholas Dimerie Benjamin Russell

Interrogatories on behalf of the defendants

Interrogatories to bee ministred vnto witnesses to be produced on the *parte* and behalf of Iohn Seede and Edward Seede *defendants* at the suite or Informacione of Iohn Coren Clarke *Complainant*

- 1 Imprimis whether doe youe know the *parties* plaintiff and *defendants* and how longe have youe knowen them or any of them./
- 2 Item whether doe youe knowe, that the saide *defendant* Edwarde Seede in or aboute the moneth of October, in the ffourth yeare of his *Maiesties* Raigne, of this his Realme of Englande, at the mannor house of Clauerton, in the County of Somersettshire, beinge then & there in Company, of Certain of his ffamiliars & frendes, did onely for their solace and recreacione, without any purpose or intent to slaunders defame or Lybell any *person* or *persons* whatsoever, singe or repeate dyvers old songes or Rymes, made of auntient & many yeares before, and what songes or Rymes weare they, And weare not all the same songes or Rymes, old and auntient ditties, Commonly soonge and repeated, Eight or Tenn yeares, (or how many yeares) before the tyme, wherein the Lybells in the saide Informacione mencioned, are they supposed to bee made and published, And had not those songes or rymes, so songe & repeated as aforesaide, vsed to be Commonly songe or repeated, many yeares, before the saide *defendant* Edward Seede, had any acquayntaunce or knowledge, of the saide *Complainant*, And how many yeares, bee now past, since youe first hard the saide Rymes or supposed Lybells in the bill mencioned, soonge or repeated, dyvulged or bruted, declare the whole truth what youe knowe towchinge this *Interrogatory*./
- 3 Item whether doe youe knowe thinke or beleue, that in singinge or repeatinge, of the saide old songes or Rymes, or any of them, or any other songe or ryme, at the tyme and place aforesaide the saide Edwarde Seede, had any meaninge or purpose, to slaunders tax or discredit, either the saide Phillip Bewshine, or the said *Complainant*, or either of them, or any other *person* or *persons* whatsoever, delyver *your* Conscience herein
- 4 Item whether doe youe knowe, or have hard that the saide *defendant* Iohn Seede was in or aboute the saide Moneth of October, in the ffourth yeare aforesaide, and at and about the tyme, of the supposed makinge & publishinge of the saide Libell in the bill mencioned at the Cytty of London, or ellswere from home, and that thereby, hee was neither pryvie nor *party*, to the makinge or publishinge, of the saide supposed Libell laste mencioned
- 5 Item have youe at any tyme hard, the saide Iohn Seede or Edward Seede, did speake any evill or reprochfull wordes, that might any wayes tende, to the disgrace, Infamie, or discredit, either of the saide *Complainant*, or of the saide Iohn Bewshin, & Phillip his wiffe, or of any of them./

Depositions on behalf of the plaintiff

mb 4 (14 August 1609)

Depositions of witnesses taken at the Brigfoote neere vnto the Cittie of Bathe, the ffowretenthe daie of August in the yeare of the raigne of our soueraigne Lord Iames by the grace of god king of England ffraunce and Ireland defender of the faithe &c the Sevente, & of Scotland the xliiith Betweene Iohn Corine clarke *Complainant* and Iohn Seede and others *defendants* Before Benjamin Russell Clark Anthony Eggesfeld And William Meredith *gentleman*, By virtue of his *maiestes* Commission to them and Iohn Smythe Esquiour [^]or to anie three of twoe of them out of his *Maiesties* Court of Starr chamber directed

Deposition of John Bewshin

Iohn Bewshine *parson* of Clauerton in the Countie of Somerset Clarcke aged about ffiftie and ffyve yeares, sworne & Examined deposeth as followeth.

- 3 To the third *Interrogatory* hee deposeth & sayeth that hee hath seene the Coppie of the examinacion of Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* soe taken about the tyme in the *Interrogatory* mencioned wherin it seemeth to him this deponent, that he the said Iohn Seede had confessed that he had sent a letter to the house of Mr Corine of Box and that he hath heard the said letter did importe an advise vnto Mrs Corine to keepe her husband from comeing to Clauerton too often for [^]that there is a suspicion of incontinencie betweene the said *Complainant* & this deponentes wife [^]and that whenesoever he came thither he staid two or three nightes at the leaste as it will appeare before his now comeing home, And if that she suffered this, his purse wold be leane and his Mare poore, And that the Countrie speaks moch of it alreadie And this deponent also saieth that the *Complainant* had the letter before ~~ater~~ entended
- 5 To the ffifthe *Interrogatory* he deposeth and saieth that in his Conscience both the said Iohn Seede and his sonne the *defendants* haue sundrie waies heertofore endeuoured to impeach the estimacion and Creditt of this deponent and his wiefe by makeing him this deponent a Bawde vnto his wife and and his house a Stewes with manie other scandalous speaches & practises heere omytted for modesties sake./
- 6 To the sixte *Interrogatory* he Saithe that about Symon and Iudes daie² next wilbe three yeares Margarett the daughter of the *defendant* Iohn Seede comeing to this deponentes house in Clauerton aforesaid, and requesting this deponent in her fathers name to send her father an oyntment for a Bruse *which* he had latelie receaued, this

deponent in kynd sort told her that he was verie readie and willinge to do it and otherwise to do her father anie pleasure albeit he found him self not a litle grieued that her father did not onelie detayne from him money vpon reconinge due vnto him as he well knowes but he had by a libel and other foule practises donne him this deponent and his wief great Wronge to whome the said Margarett replied to this effect Is the libell now strange vnto you; it is a quarter of a yeare old or ther aboute And this deponent further saieth that the next morning followinge there came to the house of this deponent one Mr Thomas Keene (as this deponentes wief and her sister Sara afterwarde related to this deponent) and told them (this deponentes wife and sister) how in the Evening before the daughter of the *defendant* Iohn Seede returneing from this deponentes house to her father being in his bedd, he the said Thomas Keene lodging as a freind in the said Iohn Seedes house beinge alsoe in his bedd, in the same Chamber with the said Iohn Seede after she had enquired of her father whether he the said Keene were sleepeing, and her father awnsweringe y^t he was she made reporte of the discontentment that he this deponent and his Wiefe told her they had conceiued about a libell, she further sayeing, that they had great cause so to doe and telling her father alsoe, how y^t she had heard her brother Edward Seede (latelie daunceing in company with Mr Edward Champneis and others,[]) in their house, syng a foule filthie songe begining Good *Mistress* &c All *which* he the said Keene makeing shewe to haue beene sleepeing, and yet being Wakeing (heard) as this deponentes wife and her sister told this deponent as the saide Keene told them And moreouer this deponent saieth that this deponentes said sister also told this deponent that the same daie after the departure of the said Thomas Keene from them how the said Iohn Seede himself came to her to this deponentes house and told her that there were foule and vild matters collected against her sister this deponentes wiefe and in the end repeated the said libell, begining with good *Mistress* &c.

- 7 To the Seaventhe he saieth that true it is that this deponent meeteing about marche was twoe yeares Edward Seede at the place mencioned in this *Interrogatory* amongst other speaches demaunded of him monie due to this deponent by him who awnswered in effect as followeth. I owe thee nothings I haue paid thee as moch as If I had bin in a Whore house Bawdie house or Stewes./
- 8 To the Eight^{<h>} *Interrogatory* he deposeth and saieth that this deponent talkeing with Iohn Seede about Aprill laste was twoe yeares in the Chauncell of the Churche of Clauerton toucheing a letter without a name *which* was directed to Mris Coryn the *Complainantes* wife before that tyme and this deponent termeing it a libell the said Iohn Seede awnswered y^t cannot be called a libell but a frendlie admonicion and that wiser men then him selfe were of that opinion or wordes to ye same effect./
- 9 To the Nynthe *Interrogatory* he deposeth and saieth that about the time mencioned in the last precedent *Interrogatory* Iohn Evans mencioned in the said *Interrogatory* comeing to this deponentes house in Clauerton and enquireinge of this deponent whether Mr Coryn the *Complainant* were there and he awnswering y^t he

was not the said Evans told this deponent that he was sent from the said *defendant* Edward Seede to Mr Coryne vpon a messuage shewing this deponent that the same was to this effect following That if the said Mr Coryne wold forbear to make that said Edward Seede a *partie* with his father he wold ioyne with the rest of the neighbours to lay all the guilt on his ffather, and that he would presse his ffather to aske Mr Coryne and this deponentes wief forgiveness and otherwise to satisfie them with purse and tongue./
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mb 5

10 To the Tenth Interrogatory he saith, that he this deponent hath bene told by dyuers persons viz Sara Langley his wyves sister Mr Walter Cruche deceased Mrs Marye Cruche Wief of the said Walter ^{^Crouch} deceased and others, that the said *defendant* Iohn Seede hath desired them to be a meanes in his behalfe to the *Complainant*, and this deponentes wief to haue the matter compounded And as this deponentes wyves sister also told him, the said Iohn Seed seeing he could not obtaine any frendlie end, had saied to her, that he would make Clauerton too hott for Mr Coryn and for her this deponentes Wife, for that he had collected such matter for the highe Commission Courte, and for other suites that he wold vtterlie ruinate this deponentes estate/

11/ 12/ 13/ 14. To the Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and ffourteenth Interrogatories he deposeth that he this deponent hath seene and perused certaine allegacions or pleadings exhibited or preferred in the highe Comission Courte in the name of the said *defendant* Edward Seede importinge such several matters as are contened and specified in the said Interrogatories, for the more certainty wherof he this deponent referreth himself vnto the said proceedinges & pleadings, beinge no waie desireous in modestie to make repiticion therof and therefore forbeareth to mencion the same in this his deposicion./

15 To the ffiftenth Interrogatory this deponent saith that this deponent and Mr Coryn the *Complainant* did vsuallie intreat and conferr at their beinge together of matters in dyvinitie, and this deponent findinge the said *complainant* to haue good iudgment and vnderstandinge therein, entreated him to resorte oftentimes vnto his house to haue conference vpon certaine treatises in divinnetie, which this deponentes brother (beinge a learned man and deceased) had left in writeinge, and comeinge to this deponentes handes, desyred the said Mr Corynes assistance, that vpon viewe they might be made the more fitt for the presse, And further this deponent saithe that the said *Complainant* whensoever he came to this deponentes house, he behaued himself very he Civillye and modestlie at all times

16 To the sixtenth Interrogatory this deponent saith that to his owne certaine knowledge his said wief by reason of a daungerous ffall had an obortyve birthe which was cause of a long and languishinge disease, wherof she hath not yet receaued perfect

recouerie, albeit the advise of verie learned Phisicions hath beene vsed therin oftentimes./

- 18 To the Eightenth *Interrogatory* he saithe that this deponent well remembreth that a litle before the time menciond in the *Interrogatory* he heard the said Iohn Seede vse such speaches or make such demaund to the *Complainant* Mr Coryne and likewise the *Complainant* made such awnswer as in this *Interrogatory* ^{is} contained/
- 19 To the xixth this deponent saithe that this deponent heard both the said younge make such demaund, and the said Iohn Seede make such awnswer as in this *Interrogatory* is contained/
- 29 To the Nyne and twentieth this deponent Saieth that this deponent referreth himself for the certaintie touching all the contentes in the said *Interrogatory* to the proceedinges in the said Highe Court of Commission All *which* contentes as this deponent hath Credible heard were so done and are true/
- 30 To the Thirtieth *Interrogatory* he cannot depose more then he hath formerlie deposited in his deposicions to the *which* he referreth himself
- 31/32/ To the one and thirtieth and two and thirtieth *Interrogatories* this deponent saithe that he referreth himself to his former deposicions made in the tenth *Interrogatory* and further he cannot depose

Deposition of Edward Champneys

Edward Champneys of Elberton in the Countie of Gloucestershire gentleman aged about ffortie two yeares sworne and Examined deposeth as followeth.

- 22./ To the xxijth *Interrogatory* he deposeth and saieth that he this deponent happening to be at Clauerton in the house of the *defendant* Iohn Seede as a frend vpon some occasion of busines, about the time mencioned in this *Interrogatory* doth now verie well remember & call to mynde that after supper being in the hall of the said house together with dyuers other frendes and namelie the *defendants* Edward Seede and his wife Iohn Champneys this deponentes brother, one Mr. Stubbes and his wief daughter to the *defendant* Iohn Seede, they being very merry, and the said Stubbs playing vpon an instrument the *defendant* Edward Seede daunced about the hall and in daunceing songg a song haueing amongst other vnseemlie wordes these wordes followinge viz A pox on her arse she hath burned my tarse a plague of god vpon her, *which* recyted wordes he this deponent saieth he had often times before that time in merrye companie heard songg and vttered as an old song or merry ieste and further to this *Interrogatory* he cannot depose any thing materyall./

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Deposition of Agnes Church

Agnes Church the Wiefe of Henrye Church of Box in the Countie of Somerset aged ffiftie yeares or theraboutes sworne and Examined deposeth as followeth.

- 4 To the ffourthe *Interrogatory* this deponent saithe that about three yeares nowe<..> paste she this deponent happening to be in the house adioyneing to the Churchyard of box did see Richard White her sonne deliuer a letter to the *Complainant* Mr Coryne in the Churchyard of Box *which lettre* this deponentes said sonne did *within* a little after tell this deponent that he had found in the horsewaye neere vnto Mr Henry Long his house brother vnto Mrs Coryne And had ymediatlie after the takeing up of the said *lettre* deliuered <vnto> the same ^{vnto} Mr Coryne And further she cannot depose to this *Interrogatory*

Deposition of Richard White

Richard White sonne of William White late of Box in the Countie of Somerset husbandman aged about sixteene yeares sworne and Examined deposeth as followeth

- 4 To the ffowerth *Interrogatory* he deposeth and saieth that he this deponent about two yeares last paste tooke vp a letter neere vnto Mr Henry Longes house brother vnto Mrs Coryne and deliuered the said letter vnto Mr Coryne in the Churchyard of Boxe, and further he saieth that the same was the letter *which* was shewed vnto him this deponent at the time of this his *Examinacion* , and the reason wherby he knew the same to be the letter was for that he obserued some *marcke* in the said letter. And further he cannot depose.

Deposition of Mary Bounde

Marye Bounde the wife of Walter Bounde of Dynton in the Countie of Wiltshire yeoman about one and twenty yeares ^{of age} fworne and Examined deposeth vt sequitur

To the ffirst *Interrogatory* she this deponent deposeth that she knoweth all the *parties* in the *Interrogatory* named and that she knoweth nothinge to the Contrarie but that the said Iohn Bewshine and Phillipp his wife are of good and honest *Conversacion* life and behaiour, And that she hath knowne the said Iohn Bewshine to be a painefull preacher during the time of his this deponentes remembraunce *which* hath beene by the space of these Eighteene or Nynteene yeares and hath also knowne him to be *parson* of Clauerton in the county of Somerset And that she also hath heard the *Complainant* to be a mynister and vicar of Box in the Countie of Wiltshire

To the Seventh *Interrogatory* this deponent saithe that Mr Bewshine comeing to the house of one Iohn Evans for to dresse a fore legge of the said Iohn Evans he there mett with the *defendant* Edward Seede of whome the said Iohn Bewshine demaunded certaine debt, then due vnto him from the said Seede for his diett, He the said Seede replied that he owed him none and being vrged againe by the said Iohn Bewshine for the payment therof he the said Seede then replied after this manner I owe thee none, I neuer paied so deere a rate for my diett in anie place except it were in a whorehouse or a Bawdie howse which wordes this deponent in her Conscience verelie thincketh tended greatlie to the disgrace of Mr Bewshins howse And further she cannot depose

Deposition of Lewis Jones

Lewis Iones *parson* of Batheampton in the countie of Somerset Clearcke about the age of Seven and thirtie yeares sworne and Examined deposeth as followethe.

To the ffirst *Interrogatory* he deposeth and saithe that he knoweth all the *parties* in the said Interogatorie mencioned and this deponent also saieth that the said Iohn Bewshine and Phillip his wife are and haue beene of good and honest conuersacion ffame and name, and that he euer since this deponentes comeing into this countrie viz for the space of ffyve or six yeares last past this deponent hath knowne Mr Bewshine in the *Interrogatory* named to haue beene a painfull preacher and that he dwelleth in Clauerton in the Countie of Somerset where he is now *parson*. And this deponent further deposeth that he hath also knowne the *Complainant* by the space of ffifteene or sixteene yeares or therabouts and that he is minister and vicar of the *parishe* of Box in the countie of *Wiltshire*.

To the ffourth *Interrogatory* he deposeth and saithe that above two yeares last past he sawe Richard White in this *Interrogatory* named deliuer to this *Complainant* a letter which the said Richard White tooke vp neere vnto Mr Henry Longes house, brother to the *Complainantes* wife And this deponent further deposeth that this letter at the time of his examinacion being shewed vnto him by the *Comissioners* is the same letter which then he sawe deliuered to the *Complainant*/ And the reason of this his knowledge of the said letter is for that he obserued a speciall marke in the first character written after an other forme then euer he had seene the same Character written before And further to this *Interrogatory* he cannot depose/

To the ffifthe *Interrogatory* he deposeth that he this deponent hath dyuers & sundry tymes heard by dyuers honest and Credible persons that the said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* hath manie waies sought the defamacion and disgrace both of the said Iohn Bewshine and Phillip his wife by layeing the imputacion of dishonest and incontinent lief vpon her and imputeinge to him the concealeing of the said dishonest and incontinet lyveing of his wife, and the cause wherfore the said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* shold so saye or doe is vpon oddes of certaine reconninges betwixt

them the said Iohn Bewshin and Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* as this deponent hath heard and further he cannot depose
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mb 7

To the xj. xijth xijth and xiiijth *Interrogatories* he deposeth and saith That he this deponent hath seene and *pervised* certaine *allegacions* or *pleadings prohibited* or *preferred* in the high Comission Corte in the name of the said *defendant* Edward Seede importing such *seuerall matters* as are contained and *specefied* in the said *Interrogatory* for the more certainty Wherof he this deponent refereth himself vnto the said *proceedinges & pleadings* being no waie *desireous* in *modestie* to make *recitall* therof and therefore *forbareth* to *mencion* the same *within* his *deposicion*./

To the ffiftenthe *Interrogatory* this deponent saith That Mr Bewshine and Mr Coryne did *verie* often *meete* about *conference* in *learneinge* and that Mr Bewshine did require the *iudgment* of the said *Complainant* touching certaine *notes* *which* a brother of the said Iohn Bewshine (lately deceased being a learned man) had left vnto the said Iohn Bewshine vpon an *entent* (as this deponent hath often heard Mr Bewshine saye[]) to haue them printed & published And this deponent saith further that at sundrie tymes he the said deponent had lodged in the house of the said Iohn Bewshine at *which* times the said Iohn Coryne and this deponent haue bene *bedfellowes* together & that at all such times he hath obserued his *Carryage* and *behauour* to be *verie* *Cywill* and *honeste*.

To the xvijth *Interrogatory* this deponent saith that there was such a letter or libell found the *Contentes* wherof this deponent saith were the same *with* the *contentes* of the libell *which* in the *examinacion* of this said deponent by the *Comissoners* was showne vnto him haueing the same *superscripcion* viz To Mrs Coryne at the vicarage of Boxe yeue these *which* letter so dispersed, this deponent saith vpon his owne knowledge hath bredd moch *disquietnes & discencion* betweene the said Iohn Coryne and his wief in somoch that the said Iohn Coryne hath beene sundrie tymes enforced (for quietnes sake) to *departe* out of his owne howse and to lodge in the house of this deponent being about a myle distant from his owne house

To the Nyne and twentieth *Interrogatory* he deposeth and saith that he hath heard there was a sentence *paste* against the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede *defendants* and that they were convicted of these aforesaid abuses and that this deponent hath seene an note of the *taxacion* of the ~~---~~ *Coste* against the said *defendants* Iohn Seede and Edward Seede and he further saith that he heard they entended to *avoyd* the *execucion* of this sentence by a *prohibicion*

Deposition of Hugh Younge

Hughe younge of BabbCurie in the Countie of Somerset *gentleman* aged about fiftie yeares sworne & examined deposeth as followeth

To the ffirste Interrogatorie he deposeth and saieth that he hath knowne all the *parties* in the Interrogatory named/ and this deponent further saieth that he hath knowne Iohn Bewshin Clarcke to be a *precher* in Clauerton in the countie of Somerset by the space of these twentie yeares And that he hath knowne the said Iohn Bewshine and Phillip his wiefe to be of good and honest conuersacion life and behauiour and he hath knowne the said Iohn Coryne the Complainant to bee vicar of Box by the space of three yeares or therabouts /

To the ffifthe Interrogatory he saithe that two yeares sithence or therabouts Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* sending for this deponent into the Churchyard of Clauerton to conferr with him this deponent that this deponent wold make meanes and sollicite the said Iohn Bewshine and Phillipp his wiefe sister vnto this deponent that he the said Iohn Seede might be receiued againe as a soiorner into their house as heertofore he had beene this deponent making this awnswer that his mocion (as he tooke it) would not bee accepted of because of his former ill behauiour there The said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* replied thus had not I beene before this time such a foule and filthie libell had beene sett vpon the Poynett end of the *parsonage* house of Clauerton tending to the disgrace of the said Phillip Bewshin sister to this deponent as the like had neuer beene knowne against anie woman and further he cannot depose/

To the viijth Interrogatory he saieth that he this deponent about two yeares last paste being at Evening prayer in the *parishe* Church of Clauerton Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* ymediatlie after Evening prayer ended came vnto this deponent in the Chauncell of the said Church of Clauerton amongst manie other speaches he used these wordes vnto him I am accused to bee a scatterer of libells against your sister Mrs Bewshine, for the *which* I am vexed he this deponent awnswered the said Iohn Seede, how farr you are guiltye in it I know not, but true it is that libells hath beene caste out against her or at the least one, And the said Seede demaunding What libelles? this deponent awnswered I haue heard of a libell *which* was scattered at Box with an Indorcement Mrs Coryne And the said Iohn Seede replied tushe call you yat a libell it is but a frendlye admonicion And this deponent replied thus, I would I knew that frendes name for that libell hathe no mans name added to it, Were you the frend? he the said Iohn Seede awnswered, I will tell you that another time./

To the xj. xijth xijth and xiiijth Interrogatories he this deponent saithe that he hath *pervsed* and seene certaine *allegacions* & *proceedinges* of the highe Comission Courte concerneing the said Edward Seede one of the same *defendants* *which* seeme to importe in his iudgment such seuerall endeauours & practises as are conteyned in the said Interrogatory, for the more certaintie Wherof he this deponent referreth himself to the Recordes of the said Court of highe Comission not Willinge to make Repeticion in *particular* of such vnreuerend matters

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mb 8

To the xvijth *Interrogatory* he this deponent saith that he hath seene a letter or libell [^]*which was* caste abroad about the tyme in this *Interrogatory* mencioned indorsed to Mrs Coryne to the same effecte as is conteyned in the said *Interrogatory* *which* letter he this deponent saith hath bredd moch variance betwixt the said Mrs Coryne and Mr Iohn Coryne her husband, But Whoe is the auctour therof he this deponent knoweth not neither for charetye sake will iudge./

To the sixth *Interrogatory* he this deponent saith that about two yeares paste that true yt is such Comunicacion past betweene the said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* and this deponent for full awnswer whervnto he this deponent referreth himself to his former deposicions made to the Eight *Interrogatorie*

To the xxvth *Interrogatory* he saith that at the time mencioned in his former deposicions he this deponent saith that the said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* making a mocion to this deponent that he wold make a meanes to Mr Bewshine and his sister that he the said Iohn Seede might be receaued to soiourne againe at Mr Bewshines house And perceauing by this deponentes wordes that his sister aforesaid Mrs Bewshine ~~aforesaid~~ wold be vnwillinge to yeeld thervnto that then he the said Iohn Seede replied as followeth viz if she did oppos herself against him she should not dwell there ffor that there wold be such plottes and matters devised against her that she ~~shold~~ [^]*could* not endure yt And for further awnswer to this *Interrogatory* he referreth himself to his former deposicions made to the vth *Interrogatorie*

To the Nyne and twentieth *Interrogatory* this deponent saith that he hath heard that sentence hath paste in the high Comission corte for the said Mr Coryne against Iohn Seede and Edward Seede *defendants* for certaine enormous abuses comytted against the *Complainant* for the *which* also this *Complainant* hath heard the *defendants* hath beene [^]*there* taxed in Costes and that he this deponent hath also heard the *defendant* saie yat they haue procured a prohibicion for avoydeing of the same./

To the xxxjth *Interrogatory* he this deponent saith that he is verily perswaded that the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede *defendants* did feare leste the making and publishing of the said libelles would be proued against them or one of the them in the high Comission Courte And therefore did endeauour by all Cuning meanes they could to disgrace and stayne the Creditt of the said *Complainant* and Mrs Bewshine./

Deposition of Richard Gaye

Richard Gaye of Clauerton in the Countie of Somerset yeoman aged about fower and ffortie yeares sworne and examined deposeth as followeth.

To the third *Interrogatory* this deponent saithe that he hath heard that Mr Iohn Seede confessed before his *Maiestes* Comissioners for causes ecclesiastical that he the said Iohn Seede sent a letter or some frendlie admonicion to the said Mr Coryns house to Box adviseing the said Mr Coryne or his wife that the said Mr Coryne shold be heedfull or circumspect in his Cariage, and of his comeing to Mr Bewshines house to Clauerton, for the avoydinge of evill speaches that had passed of him or to that purpose but of the verie contentes of the said *lettre* ^{^or where that letter} ys this deponent knoweth not but as this deponent hath heard there came some such *lettre* to the handes of the said Mr Coryne

Item to the ffifthe *Interrogatory* he saythe, that he hath heard that there hath bin certaine articles of ynfamie or disgrace exhibited before his *maiestes* highe *Commissioners* for causes ecclesiasticall against the said Mr Iohn Bewshine and his wife by the said Mr Iohn Seede or Edward Seede now *defendants* or one of them *which* this deponent thincketh was the rather done, for that they the said Mr Iohn Seede and Edward Seede were first complained on before the said highe Comissioners

To the Seventh *Interrogatory* this deponent saythe that he remembreth there was some difference in speache betweene the said Mr Bewshine and Mr Edward Seede one of the *defendants* at the house late of one Iohn Evans for something *which* the said Mr Bewshine then affirmed that the said Edward Seede should owe him, either for his owne dyett or his famelie, haveing then latelie before soiourned in the house of the said Mr Bewshine, at what time the said Edward Seede awnswered the said Mr Bewshine that he ought him nothings And that he neuer paied so deere for his dyett in anie place, vnlesse yt were in a bawdie howse or wordes to the like effect, *which* speaches this deponent thincketh he vsed the rather for that there had byn some matter of defamacion in the house of the said Mr Bewshine latelie before/

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To the xth *Interrogatory* this deponent of his owne knowledge cannot depose, but hath heard that the said Mr Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* hath sought for a Composicion for the matters then in *Controuersie* *which* if they wold ^{^not} yeeld vnto he hath hard that Mr Iohn Seede shold saye he would make Clauerton too hott for Mrs Bewshine or wordes to the like effecte./

To the xxijth *Interrogatory* he saithe that Within one Yeare paste before Auguste 1607. he heard Mr Iohn Seede repeate or saye by harte the bawdie ryme or libell mencioned in the precedent article, or filthie ryme to the like effect in the presence of his daughter Margarett and dyuers others.

To the xxvith *Interrogatory* this deponent Cannot depose more then to the xxijth *Interrogatory* he hath deposed, saveing that when the deponent heard the said Mr Iohn

Seede repeat the filthie ryme as aforesaid, this deponent asked him how he had it so perfectlie by harte Wherevnto he awnswered he had found parte of it in his house in Wryteinge./

Item to the xxxth *Interrogatory* this deponent saithe that he doth not knowe that the said Iohn Seede or Edward Seede or either of them did make or write the foresaid letter or lybell in prose directed to *Mistres Coryne* and the foresaid rymeing libell or either of them neither was he present or did knowe when anie such thing was done

To the xxxith *Interrogatory* this deponent saithe that he thinketh that Mr Iohn Seede and Mr Edward Seede the *defendants* doubting they might be punished for the foresaid rymes or *lettres*, or for some matter exhibited against them in his maiesties highe Commission Courte sought by some meanes to staine the Creditt and reputation of the said *Mistres Bewshine* and to touche her with Infamie, and With Incontynent lyveing With the now *Complaint*

To the xxxijth *Interrogatory* this deponent cannot depose to his remembrance more then the hath formerlie sett downe, neither doth knowe, who did make or write the foresaid letter or lybell in prose or the filthie ryme or libell aforesaid or either of them, neither by whome the same or either of them were made written or published otherwise then he hath alreadie deposed.

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Deposition of John Banfeild

Iohn Banfeild of Sheringford in the Countye of Berckshire gentleman aged about six & ffortye yeres sworn & examined deposeth as followeth

To the second *Interrogatory* hee this deponent deposeth & sayeth that about three yeres past this deponent being ⁱⁿ the garden of the *parsonage* of Clauerton did heare Mr Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* intreated Sara Langlye to bee a meanes to her sister Mrs Bewshine that hee the said Iohn Seede might bee boorded againe in the said Mr Bewshins house whearevnto shee the said Sara made aunswere that yt would bee noe Creditt for her sister soe to doe hee being a man infamous. Wherevppon the said Iohn Seede demaunded wherefore his boordeinge in the said Mr Bewshins house should bee more discreditt vnto Mr Bewshine or his house then Mr Corines often repayreing thither whoe tarried there twoe or three dayes together. And allsoe this deponent further sayeth that the said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* told this deponent that Richard Gaye of Clauerton hadd sayd that yf Mr Corinne the *Complainant* did come & soe long stayed at the *parsonage* house of Clauerton aforesaid hee would sheere the sayd *Complainant* strayer. And that afterwordes when the said Richard Gaye in the

presenc of this deponent challenged the said Seede for those wordes the said Seede demaunded whoe would saye *yat* hee the said Seede hadd soe reported of the said Gaye. Wherevnto the said Gaye tould the said Seede that this deponent (then & there present with Mr loanes) did saye yt./ What sayeth the said Seede are they *comme* to bee witnesses then I wille ~~not~~ aunswere noethinge & fell into hott & hard tearmes against this deponent & sayd hee would driue him out of the Churchyard and takeing Richard Gaye by the hand departed. And this deponent further sayeth that hee heard the said Iohn Seede saye to Mrs Sara Langely that there hadd benn *somme* foule & filthye matters complotted against her the said Mrs Bewshin & sett vppon the Poynett end of her house in Romane letters yf hee hadd not hindered the same/

To the third & ffowreth *Interrogatories* hee deposeth & sayeth that hee this deponent about three yeres last past comeing into the Chruchyard of Box found Mr. Corine the *Complainant* with a letter in his hand without a name. of the Contentes specified in this *Interrogatory* directed to the *Complainantes* wife Mrs Corine (the *Complainant* examinige the boy *which* had deliuered this letter vnto him as the said *Complainant* told this deponent) where the said Boy hadd the said letter the [^]boye replied that hee found yt in the high way neere Ayshelye house in the *parishe* of Box not farr distant from the [^]said Chruchyard But wheather Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* sent the said letter to Mr Corines house or noe hee knoweth not. But sayeth that hee hath heard that the said Iohn Seede did make inquirie Wheather Mr Bewshine or his wyfe hadd not receiued from Bathe a letter without a name & hee further sayeth that this letter or libell without a name *which* by the Comissioners at this his examinacion was shewed vnto him is the same in effect with that letter *which* at the tyme & place before specified he sawe.

To the tenth *Interrogatory* hee sayeth that about three yeres last past the said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* & Mrs Bewshine haveinge some speeche togeather in the Chruchyard of Clauerton this deponent beinge present the said Iohn Seede breaking forth into *somme* wordes of Heate gaue Mrs Bewshin the Lye with other vnreuerend tearmes Wherevppon hee this deponent reproveing him that hee would soe vse a gentlewoman hee the said Iohn Seede aunswere to this effect. That yf thou dost speakeing to Mrs Bewshin oppose thyself against mee I will make this place too hott for thee & thy husband.

To the Seaventeenth *Interrogatory* hee sayeth that hee referreth himself to his deposicions made to the ffowreth *Interrogatory* saveinge that hee this deponent verilye thincketh that the said letter or libell caused much variaunce & discord betwixt the said *Complainant* Mr Iohn Corinne & his wyfe & that the author of the said letter or libell hath done the same to that ~~effect~~ intent/

To the Eighteenth *Interrogatory* hee sayeth that about a monethe before the said letter or libell was published hee this deponent beinge in the Company of Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* & the said *Complainant* in the *parlor* of the *parsonage* of Clauerton

amongest many other speeches hee the said Iohn Seede demaunded of the *Complainant* of the qualitie of the said *Complainantes* wyfe whose daughter shee was how many Children hee ^{hadd} hadd by her & wheather shee were a kinde & loveing wyfe and the *Complainant* aunswered that shee was daughter of Mr Anthony Longe of Ayshelye & that hee hadd one Child by her *which* died & farther sayd that shee was a loveing & kinde wyfe but shee would somtymes Chide as other ~~w~~ weomen doe/.

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Deposition of Nicholas Prior

Nicholas Prior of Clauerton in the County of Somerset husbandman aged about Thirtie yeres sworn & examined deposeth as followeth/

To the three & Twentieth *Interrogatory* hee deposeth & sayeth that about the tyme in this *Interrogatory* mentioned this *deponent* attending on his Master in the evening with Candell & Lanthorn on a Winters night to the house of Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* hee this *deponent* heard Iohn ~~Seed~~ Seede in his said house at Clauerton repeat the baudie letter or libell in the precedent *Interrogatory* mencioned in the presence of Richard Gaye this *deponentes* master Mr Stubbs & diuers others & further to this *Interrogatory* hee cannot depose

To the six & twentieth *Interrogatory* hee cannot depose otherwise then hee hath allreadie depose saveinge that this *deponentes* Master demanded of Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* at the same tyme in his former deposicions sett downe how he could soe perfectlye say the said libell the said Iohn Seede replied that hee hadd the said libell in Writinge in his house & the said Richard Gay this *deponentes* Master beinge desirous to see this said libell the said Iohn Seede made aunswere hee hadd burnt yt./

Deposition of Katherine Saunders

Katherine Saunders wyf of Iohn Saunders of Clauerton in the County of Somerset husbandman sworn & examined deposeth as followeth/

To the ffiveth *Interrogatory* shee deposeth & sayeth that about the tyme mencioned in the said *Interrogatory* Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* hath often tymes hadd conference with this *deponent* at *which* tymes hee usually vrged this *deponent* to disclose some matter vnto him that might deffame or disgrace Phillipp Bewshine as namely at one tyme hee the said Iohn Seede sent his maide servant<.> for this *deponent* who⁴ ~~re~~ comeinge vnto him at dinner tyme hee did bidd her this *deponent* sitt downe to dinner with him & after dinner hee the said Iohn Seede tould this *deponent* that hee hadd heard that Mrs. Bewshin was long sick & that shee hadd weomen to keepe her

~~demanded~~ ^{demanded} of this deponent wheather shee was one of them *which* this deponent denyinge the said Iohn Seede asked of this deponent whoe they were & this deponent named Mrs Williams & Mrs Thackam And then the said Iohn Seede farther desired this deponent to tell him what was Mrs Bewshins disease This deponent aunswering that shee did not know what disease yt was, the said Iohn Seede farther vrgeinge this deponent to specifie her disease sayd in *particuler* I haue heard saye that when the sayd Mrs Bewshine was dressed shee the said Mrs. Bewshine did comonly crye soe loud that shee might bee heard home to this deponentes house. And ^{hee} further *perceiuinge* that this deponent did not fullie satisfie him hee ~~again~~ the said Iohn Seede againe encouraged her to speake more freely whatsoever shee did know sayeing fear not for I will bear you out in yt whatsoever you saye wherevnto this said deponent aunswereinge him that shee could giue him noe other aunswere then shee hadd donn hee for ^{that} tyme lefte of & moved her noe further in yt and this deponent furthe[r] sayeth that not long after the said Iohn Seede came downe to Mrs. Bewshins house as Mrs Bewshine told this deponent & there signified to the said Mrs Bewshine that this deponent hadd told him the said Iohn Seede that the said Mrs Bewshine hadd the ffrench Pox & further sayd that this deponent told him that one daniell whoe was at the same tyme a suter to Sara Langlye sister to the said Mrs Bewshine kept the said Mrs. Bewshine wherevppon the husband of the said Mrs Bewshine sued this deponent in the eccleciasticall Court at wells for a slaunder And shee this deponent further sayeth that ymmediately before the tyme of her appearaunce in the said Court at Wells the said Iohn Seede sent for her the second tyme to his house & there encouraged her to *proceede* & not to bee affeared to speake any thinge against Mrs Bewshine, what shee could for hee would beare ^{her} out in any thinge. And further this deponent sayeth that the said Iohn Seede hath benne often tymes inquisitiue of her when & how often shee hadd seene Mr Corine the *Complainant* to come to the said Mr Bewshins house & how long hee the said Mr Corine did vse to staye there to whom this deponent aunswere shee did not know

To the tenth *Interrogatory* shee this deponent sayeth that shee hath heard of diuers sinc[e] the tyme mencioned in the said *Interrogatory* the said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* hath vsed diuers meanes to haue the matter ended Betweene him the said Iohn Seede the *Complainant* And shee further sayeth that an other tyme the said Iohn ^{Seede} told vnto this deponent that hee would thrust Mr Bewshene out of his *parsonage*./

To the fowreteenth *Interrogatory* this deponent sayeth that she cann depose noe otherwise the[n] shee allreddy hath deposed to the fiveth *Interrogatory* saveing onely that shee sayeth that the disease *which* P Phillipp Bewshene ^{then} hadd was noe other then such as any honest woman might haue as did appeare to this deponent in [t]his latter tyme of her sicknes in *which* tyme shee was one of those that did attend her & this deponent verily thincketh that the cause of her sicknes was the miscarryinge in her

Childbirth of a Child *which* was born before the due tyme by reason of a fall *which* shee the said Mrs Bewshinne hadd tooke from her horse cominge from Bathe./

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Deposition of Alice Gaye

Alice Gaye Wief of Richard Gaye of Clauerton in the countie of Somerset yeoman aged about xl. yeares sworne and Examined deposeth as followeth.

To the ffifthe *Interrogatory* she this deponent saieth that she hath heard that Iohn Seede and Edward Seede *defendants* haue saied that Mrs Bewshinne haue vsed verie vn timerly Courses and that her husband hath vsed verie vn timerly cours[e]s in entertaineing Mr Coryne into their house, otherwise vpon her knowledge she cannot depose/

To the xxijth *Interrogatory* she this deponent saithe that about the time mentioned in this *Interrogatory* Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* being in the dwelling house of this deponent where this deponent and one Mr Robert Chambers this deponentes brother were present vpon some occasion of speache at the tyme had of Mr Bewshinne and his Wiefe the said Iohn Seede repeated all the foule & filthie libell menconed in the next *precedent Interrogatory* so largely that he the said Mr Chambers then present desired him the said Iohn Seede to forbear to speake anie more therof for he was ashamed to heare it./

To the xxxjth *Interrogatory* shee this deponent saieth that she verily thincketh that the said *defendants* did doe What they could to defame and disgrace the complainant & Mrs Bewshinne the better to iustefie and defend their owne cause & that they the said *defendants* exhibited the articles in the high Comission Courte to that end and purpose/

Deposition of Sara Poppelye

Sara Poppelye wife of Hughe Poppelye of Shellingford in the Countie of Berckshire gentleman of the age of xxxiiij yeares sworne and Examyned deposeth

To the second *Interrogatory* she deposeth and saieth that about three yeares last paste Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* earnestlie entreated this deponent to be a meanes to Mrs Bewshinne her sister that he the said Iohn Seede might boord in her house, And this deponent accordinglie moved her sister therof who did vtterly refuse to boord him the said *defendant* againe in her house sayeing and alleading that he the said *defendant* was infamously spoken of for weomen by his owne famylie, *which* awnswer when this

deponent had related vnto him from her sister he the said *defendant* further replied that it was no more discreditt to boord him the said Iohn Seede in her house, then to entertaine Mr Coryne who tarryed there in her house two or three daies together, And ~~so that~~ he the said Iohn Seede further sayde that if he the said *Complainant* did vse to staye so longe there he shold be Stray shorne saying alsoe that there were dyuers in the *parishe* who kept a Register both how often he came thither and how longe he stayed there/

To the third *Interrogatory* this deponent saieth that there was a letter found *which* was directed to Mrs Coryne of Boxe about three yeares paste to the same effect as is specefied in the said *Interrogatory* but that this letter was sent by Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* this deponent cannot depose onely shee said that shee hath seene a Coppie of his awnswer in the highe Comission courte wherin he doth directlie confesse that he the said *defendant* sent a letter to the said *Complainant* aduertiseing him to be more circumspect in his cariag for frequenting Mr Bewshines howse giueing this reason (as farr as this deponent can remember,[]) because the Countrie spake ill of it./

To the ffourth *Interrogatory* this deponent saieth that shee had heard that Richard Whit in the place specefied in this *Interrogatory* about three yeares paste did take vp a letter and deliuered the same to Mr Coryne the *Complainant* *which* lettre shortlie after was brought to this deponent, and being now againe at the time of her examynacion shoven vnto her shee avoucheth it to bee the same letter *which* then was brought vnto her as aforesaid *which* she knowes to bee the same letter by obserueing therin dyuers letters of a strange forme of writeinge

To the ffifthe *Interrogatory* shee this deponent saithe that dyuers tymes the said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* hath endeauoured to disgrace the aforesaid Mr Iohn Bewshine and his wife as namelie in tearmeing him the said Mr Bewshine to be a foole and against her the said Mrs Bewshine he the said Iohn Seede hath soundrie tymes incyted the neighbours to disclose ~~fo~~ matter vnto him that might tend to her disgrace and that whatsoever they should enstruct him of touchinge her they shold not feare for he wold beare them out in yt.

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mb 12

To the sixt *Interrogatory* shee this deponent saieth that about two yeares paste & vpwardes Margarett Seede daughter of Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* comeing downe to ye *parsonage* house to Mr Bewshine to fetch some oyntment for a bruse her father had receyved Mr. Bewshin kyndly deliuered her ye oyntment but *withall* vsed ~~these~~ these wordes that her father had vsed him verie ill, to keepe from him the money that he owed him and beside to lybell against his wife shee the said Margarett awnswered, Are you now agrieued at that libell it is a quarter of a yeare old *which* discontentment of Mr Bewshin and his wiefe the said Margarett signefied to her father

as appeared by one Mr Thomas Keene who was of speciall acquaintance with the said Iohn Seede and Edward Seede and was at that time (and for *certen* yeares before) alwaies resident with them, aswell in wales as since ther comeing to Clauertone whoe comeing downe to the *parsonage* house the next morneing after the said Margarett Seede had beene there, and enquireing for this deponent and her sister, and because it was verie early before daie, and he had great haste on his iorneye to London, he was sent for to come into the chamber wher this deponent was in bed with her sister *Mistris* Bewshin of whome he earnestlie desired to know whether the *lettre* or libell that was taken vp at Ashley were in prose or in verse to whome this examinant said that it was in prose then Mr Keene said that he wold assure this *Examinant* that there was a most vylde and odious libell in verse *which* he that night (Iyeing in the chamber of the said Mr Iohn Seede) had heard Margarett Seede repeat vnto him her said father, and withall tould him ^{her sayd father} how much *Mistris* Bewshin and her husband were discontent of at the time of her being with them. The said Iohn Seede asked her how she came to ye knowledge of the said libell She awnsverd him that she had heard her brother Edward seede singe it in the *presence* of her Coosen Edward Champneys and others in the hall of her said fathers house, and that he her said Brother putt of all his clothes and daunced and sonnge the said Rymeing libell/ ffurther the said Mr Thomas Keene said that Margarett seede repeated this vild libell three or foure tymes ouer, by *which* the said Mr Keene was able to repeate and did repeat as much of the filthie libell as is mencioned in the xxijth *Interr*/ And said further *yat* he meruelled of one thing aboute measure *which* was that they the said Seede did make Mr. Coryn the aucthour of the libell and that there was a finis to it I. Co. and that the rest of the matter contained in the libell *which* he could not repeat was lewde matter of Surgerye and diseases, and said that he thought that this deponent and her sister would heare more of it and this deponent saith *yat* accordingly the same day in the forenoone Mr Iohn Seede came downe to the *parsonag* house and repeated the libell *which* the said Mr Thomas Keene had spoken of and is the same *which* libell *which* is mencioned in the xxijth *Interrogatorie*./

To the seventh *Interrogatorie* this deponent saieth that of her owne certaine knowledg she cannot depose but that by *Relacion* of her Brother Iohn Bewshin who returneing from the house of Iohn Evans in the *parishe* of Clauerton where in the *presence* of the said Thomas Keene in the former *Interrogatory* mencioned and others he the said Iohn Bewshin told her this deponent that he damaunding a debt due vnto him from Edward Seede ^{the sayd Edward} awnsverd him thus viz I owe thee nothing for I haue paied thee as if I had beene in a bawdie howse an Whore house or stewes Whervpon the said Thomas Keene swore a great othe and askeing if they were madd ~~and~~ said now all their Rogreies will come out/ (meaneing of the said Iohn and Edward Seedes as this deponent conceaued it[)] *which* wordes so related as this deponent verely beleeueth tended to no other end and purpose but to defame and disgrace the said Iohn Bewshin and his wief

To the Tenth *Interrogatory* this deponent awnswereth and saithe that the said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* did dyuers tymes solícite this deponent to haue an end of

all difference between the said *defendant* Seede and her sister Phillipp Bewshin and the said *Complainant* Iohn Coryn but not *prevayling* therein the said Iohn Seede vsed many hard menaces and threatnenges to this effect that he would make Clauerton too hott for her said sister Mrs Bewshin and that he had gathered such matters for the high Comission Court against her said sister and the *Complainant* Mr Coryn as shold Ruinate them bothe And further that if suites might not be relinquished he wold vex the said Mr Bewshin with so manie suites in lawe as shold vndoe him, adding *withall* that he the said Seede had gotten for the processe in a Reddynes to serue and arrest the said Mr Bewshin if all matters might not be agreed and ended betweene them *which* afterward he putt in execucion and the said Mr Bewshin was arrested as ^{hee} had bene threatened

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mb 13

To the sixteenth *Interrogatory* this deponent sayth that she knoweth her sayd sister Phillipp was deliuered on an abortyve Childe which happened by a fall from an horse cominge from Bathe about seauenteene or eighteene yeares since or thereabouts for remedye wherof she was enforced to vse the councell of some learned phisitian

To the seventeenth *Interrogatory* this examine sayth the *lettre* mentioned as in this *Interrogatory*, is the same *lettre* which was showed at the tyme of this her examinacion vpon the thyrd *Interrogatorye* and that the sayd *lettre* was wrytte and dispersed as shee beleveth to stir vp the sayd Mrs Coren the *Complaynantes* wife to Choller and debate agaynst her husband

To the Eighteenth *Interrogatory* this examine sayth that in the *parsonage* house of Clauerton aforesaid Iohn Seede questioned with the *complaynant* Iohn Coren in the presenc of this deponent and others, whether he weir married, and of what qualytye and parentage this *Complaynantes* wyfe was, and whether shee were a kind quyet and a good wyfe vnto whom this *Complaynant* Iohn Coren gyvinge a lyberall answeare sayd, shee was wyfe good enoughe, but that shee would chyde sometymes as other woemen doe:

To the twentyth *Interrogatory* this deponent sayth that a lytle before the scattering and dispersinge of the sayd lybell in prose, the sayd Iohn Seed beinge with this deponent in the garden of the *parsonadge* of Clauerton aforesayd threatned this deponent that he woulde blemishe the good name of the sayd Mrs Bewshin her sister, who beinge asked by this deponent what he Could doe, her sayd sister lyvinge no worse then shee did. The sayd Iohn Seed sayd vnto this deponent these wordes. viz Say quoth the sayd Iohn Seed that by reason of Mr Corens the *Complaynantes* resorte to Mr Bewshin his howse, that a lybell should be cast abrode in the Countrye *purportinge* Incontinencie betweene her sayd sister, and the sayd *Complaynant* ~~where~~ whereof a fame should arise, wherevpon

her sayd husband showld forsake and putt her awaye, and whereby she should be vndone.

To the one and twentyth *Interrogatory* this deponent sayth that after the dispersinge and the fyndinge of the sayd libell in prose, the sayd Iohn Seede demaunded divers tymes of her sayd sister Bewshin, and also of this examinatt whether that her sayd sister or brother in lawe, Mr Bewshin had not receyved a *lettre* from Bath without any name vnto it often vrginge and insistinge vpon it that her sayd sister had receved such a *lettre* and kept the same close: from knowledge of her husband which *lettre* as she verely beleyveth was the very same *lettre* shewed vnto this Deponent, and dispersed at Ashely in the *parish* of Boxe nigh vnto the howse of Henery Longe gentleman, specified in one of the precedent *Interrogatories*./

To the xxiiijth *Interrogatory* ^{she saith that} in the presenc of this examine the *said* Iohn Seede one of the deffendants told her sayd sister Bewshin that there weir those in his howse yf he would suffer them that would make a more filthy libell agaynst her, and sett it on the poyne end of the *parsonage* howse, then was made of Mary Euans: and fixed on the *parish* church dore of Clauerton which had byne so done yf he had not hindered the same whervpon this examine could no longer forbear the sayd Iohn Seede but told him ^{presently} that there was a lybell already dispersed whei of this deponent beleved that he was the author, which he denyed for his owne parte, affirminge yf any such thinge were it was the very acte of his sonne Edward Seede and Richard Gay of Clauerton aforesayd/

To the xxvth *Interrogatory* the sayd examinatt sayth that Iohn Seede had diuers tymes told this deponent that yf her sister Bewshin opposed her self agaynst him she should not dwell in Clauerton, for that there would be such matters plotted agaynst her, that she should not be able to endure it/ and that he would dryve her out of the Countrye vndoe her husband and Contryve it so that he would ~~be~~ never be seene in it ~~self~~ himself and otherwyse to this *Interrogatory* shee cannot depose more then shee hath sett downe in her depositions to the next precedent *Interrogatory*

To the xxvijth *Interrogatory* this deponent sayth that aboute Symon and Iudes day 1606 the sayd Iohn Seede cam downe to the personadge howse of Clauerton and told this deponent that he now had some newes for her but in regarde as he pretended it would greyve her sayd sister, he would needs imparte the same pryvately vnto this deponent, and in the *parlour* of the sayd personadge howse, he told this deponent what a monstrous lybell he had harde ~~com~~ commonly repeated in the towne: And therevpon repeated the Ryminge lybell mentioned in the xxijth *Interrogatory* begininge thus Good *mistres Turd* and much other lyke fowle matters more then is specyfyed in the sayde *Interrogatory* In which odious ryminge lybell mention was made of *Mistres parson* and many vyle scurrilous termes of Surgery and diseases by him ~~rep~~ repeated of the same nature as the sayde ryminge lybell sett downe as before: And the sayd Iohn Seede hauinge rehearsed more ~~at~~ at large the sayd Ryminge lybell, he the sayd Iohn Seede

concluded the same with finis I: Co: and beinge demanded by this deponent what I. Co: signified, he answered lokinge very earnestly vpon this deponent yat I. Co: signified Iohn Coren: and beinge demanded by this examine how he cam to haue it so perfect by by⁵ harte, he sayd he had it of his daughte<r> Margarett Seed. and this deponent desiringe to haue a Coppye therof, the sayd Iohn Seed told this deponent she showld haue a Copy thereof before night: addinge withall that yf her sister would yett end all matters in variance betweene them, he would be the only ~~mean~~ meanes to stay and suppress all those scandalous and lewde practises which otherwise would tend to her vtter Infamy and discredite for ever
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mb 14

To the xxxjth Interrogatory this deponent sayth that shee thinketh and verely beleeveth that Iohn Seed and Edward Seed fearinge the makinge of their lybell would come to light maliciously endeoured to stayne the Credite and reputacion of the sayd Mres Bewshin, to that end they procured as yt ~~as it~~ was supposed: (a docter out of the Arches) to collect all such false and forged matters agaynst this deponentes sister Mres Bewshin and assembled the neighbours of Clauerton aforesayd to see yf they or any of them would lustyfye what the sayd Seede had then devised and putt in vice agaynst her, ~~hoping~~ hopinge by Couller thereof to make the foresayd lybels, to be esteemed no false or sclaunderous wrytings: as the articles exhibited in the high Commission Courte agaynst Iohn Coren complayment and the sayd Phillip Bewshin doe manifestly expresse.
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mb 15

Deposition of Philippa Bewshin

Phillipp Bewshine wife of Iohn Bewshin parson of Clauerton in the County of Somerset Clerck aged about fferty yeres deposeth as followeth./

To the second Interrogatory this deponent sayeth that Iohn Seede moved Sara Poppelye & diuers others to bee a meane vnto this deponent to bee boorded again in this deponentes house whose mediation beinge alltogether reiecte by reason they were noted of infamy by some of their familiars namely Thomas Keene & ⁶ Thomas Hill & afterwarde this deponent beinge personallie sollicitid by the said Iohn Seede to bee receiued as a sojourner again in this deponentes & house & hee receiuinge the like repulse as before the said Iohn Seede replied that yt was noe more discreditt to receiue him into her house then to receiue Mr Corinne who vseth to stayer there twoe or three nights together & further to this interrogatory shee cannot depose.

To the third *Interrogatory* this deponent sayeth that Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* as shee this deponent hath heard in his personall aunswere in the high Comission Court confesseth that by a letter or freindly admonicion sent to Mr Corins house at Box hee the said Seede ~~in the high Comission Court for causes ecclesiasticall~~ advised him the said *Complainant* to bee heedefull & circumspect of his carriage for the avoidinge of evill speeces that passed of the said *Complainant* Iohn Corinne & Mrs Bewshine which letter shee is perswaded in her Conscience to bee the same letter or libell now extaunt & without a name which shee hath seene & often reade & was now showne vnto her by the Comissioners at the tyme of her examinacion

To the foureth *Interrogatory* shee this deponent sayeth that about Bartholmew tide 1606 a letter was taken vpp as shee hath crediblye heard by one Richard White at Ayshely in the parish of Box in the high waye there neere to Mr Longes house who is brother to Mr Corine & deliuered to the *Complainant* Iohn Corine in the Chruchyard of Box & that the same letter now shewed vnto hir by the Comissioners is the same letter which was taken vpp then & there which shee knoweth & is fullie perswaded in her Conscience to bee true for that yt hath benne reported vnto her by one Iohn Evans that Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* (besides his Confession mencioned in the next precedent *Interrogatory*) tould this deponent that the said Iohn Seede hadd confessed secrettly vnto the said Iohn Evans that that letter so directed vnto Mrs Corinne ~~vnto~~ was not to greiue or hurt this deponent Mrs Bewshine but to hinder the resort of the *Complainant* Iohn Corine to this deponentes house./

To the ffifte *Interrogatory* this deponent sayeth that after the *defendants* Iohn Seede & Edward Seede were reiected from sojourninge anye more in the house of the aforesaid Mrs Bewshine they laboured & endeavoured to the vttermost of their p^oewer to deffame & disgrace this deponent & her husband Mr Iohn Bewshine by raysinge & reporting of certaine slaunderous speeces of this deponent which the said Iohn Seede at first in secrett did importe to this deponent & her sister Sara Popelye Chargeinge the neighbours wives of Clauerton to bee the authors of those foule & vntrue speeces namely that this deponent had benn burnt & such other vilde & horrible Imputacions which modestie forbiddeth this deponent to sett downe thereby to wound the Creditt of this deponent & to make her husband weary by ~~vd~~ undeserued vexacion. the only cause which moved the said Iohn Seede therevnto as this deponent verily beleiueth & is perswaded in her Conscience was for that the said Iohn Seede & Edward Seede could not bee receiued againe into this deponentes house.

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mb 16

To the sixth *Interrogatory* this deponent sayeth that Iohn Corine the *Complainant* did send one Mr Lewis Iohnes & Mr Iohn Banfeild to one Richard Gaye of Clauerton aforesaid to taxe him of somme lewd & vild speeces Whereof the said Iohn Seede hadd charged Gaye to bee the author namely that the said *Complainant* should bee straye

shorne as is mencioned in the second Interrogatory as before. & with the first letter or Libell in prose which Gaye vtterlye denyeing went presently to cleere himselfe of those imputacions with thaforesaid Messengers to the house of the said Iohn Seede. Where the said Seede beinge demaunded of the said Gaye Whether hee would Charg him with any such speeches or matters against the Complainant Iohn Corine: the said Iohn Seede fell out into outragious tearmes against Iohn Baunfeild one of the Messengers sent to Gaye for that purpose the said Seede vtterly refusing to aunswere any thinge. that was obiected and ymmediately Iohn Seede sent downe Margaret Seede one of his the saide defendantes daughters to this deponentes house Where finding this deponent her husband & sister Sara Popelye in the parlor this deponent entered into some speeche with the said Margarett how much this deponent was abused by the neighbours as Iohn Seede her father hadd reported vnto her & this deponentes sister And this deponent desiering the said Margarett Seede. that shee would deliuer the names of them that hadd soe much abused this deponent not onely in secrett but ^{also} in castinge abroad of libells against this deponent to her perpetuall infamy. Why quoth the said Margarett make you soe strange of the libell did you never hear of yt vntill now the libell hath bynn comon allmost this quarter of this yere Whereat this deponent much marveiled haveinge at that tyme never heard of that filthy libell thought that shee hadd spoken directlye of that letter or libell in prose scattered & dispersed at Ayshelye as before is sett downe. Not long after the said Margarett Seede departed home to Iohn Seede her father (one of the defendantes) house, and the next morninge very earlye one Mr Thomas Keene came downe to this deponentes house & asking very earnestly for this deponent & her sister & beinge admitted into their bedd Chamber Where they this deponent & her sister Sara laye (haveinge hast of his iournye to London) & beinge come into the Chamber after some little speech past betweene them the said Thomas Keene was desirous to know of this deponent & her sister Wheither the letter or libell that was scattered at Ayshelye were in verse or in prose the aunswere beinge made by this deponent it was in prose then quoth hee the said Thomas Keene I cann assure you there is an other most odious and abhominable libell in verse & beinge much importuned by this deponent & her sister, then & there repeated soe much of the said scurrilous libell as hee could remember (menconed in the 22th Interrogatory) and further the said Thomas Keene lodged (as hee sayd) in the same Chamber where Iohn Seede laye And there hee heard Margarett Seede say vnto her ffather Iohn Seede one of the defendantes that shee beinge at Mr Bewshins house hadd found both Mr Bewshin & Mistres Bewshine much disconten[n]d for abuses that hadd binn offered vnto them & withall did ask of him wheither hee hadd hard of a libell in vers that concerned Mistres Bewshin & presently shee rep^{ea}tated the whole libell vnto him her said ffather. Wherevppon the said Iohn Seede demaunded of the said Margarett how shee came to the knowledge thereof shee replied & sayd that shee hadd hard her brother Edward Seede sing the same in the presenc of her the said Margarett & Edward Champnies & others ~~in~~ And farther after this relacion made as aforesaid by Thomas Keene vnto this deponent & her sister hee sayd allsoe that hee himselfe the said Keene greatly wondred at one thinge aboue the rest that was. that they (meaning the Seedes) sayd that Mr Corine was the author of the libell & sayd farther that they did make as yf Mr Corine

hadd receiued some vild hurt as in the libell mencioned in the 22th ~~Inter~~ Interrogatory & in reveng thereof hadd written this libell addinge that there was a finis with I: Co: vnto yt And allsoe: hee sayd surely you shall here more of yt for Mr Seede will tell you of yt. *which* afterwarde the same daye Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* came down to the *parsonage* house & there in the heareinge of diuers repeated the same libell accordingly

To the Seavneth Interrogatory this deponent sayeth that of her own certaine knowledge shee cannot depose but hearing Iohn Bewshin her husband report heard wordes [^]*which* had^{had} past betweene her said husband & Edward Seede one of the *defendants* at one Iohn Evans house in Clauerton mencioned in this Interrogatory & that in the *presenc* of this deponent & Thomas Keene & of her said sister. The said Thomas Keene smote himself on the brest & with much vehemencie of speech said hee beleiued the said Edward Seede was madd & that now all his Roguerye & villanie would come forth & further this deponent sayeth that in [^]*her* Conscience shee beleueth the filthy wordes mencioned in this Interrogatory were spoken to defame & disgrace Mr Bewshine her this deponent & their house./

To the Nynth Interrogatory this deponent sayeth that sinc the publishinge of the said libells the said Edward Seede sent one Iohn Evans to Mr Bewshins house to tell Mr Bewshine & his wyffe that yf ~~that~~ Mr Corine *Complainant* would spare him & make him noe partie to anye sute hee would ioine with others & transferr the guilte vppon his father & thereby presse him to aske Mr Corinne & Mrs Bewshine forgienes & soe satisfie them by tongue & purse

To the tenth Interrogatory this deponent sayeth that sinc the divulginge of the said libells the said Iohn Seede earnestlye importuned Mr Walter Cruch *Esquire* now deceased & Marye his wyfe now widdowe & somme others to bee meanes that all matters betweene this deponent & the said *Complainant* and him the said Iohn Seede one of the *defendants* might bee compounded & ended And to that end first hee entreated Mr Cruch to write to this deponent *which* hee did accordingly & after that came *personallye* to sollicite this deponent on the said Seedes behaulfe *which* mocion hee the said Iohn Seede *perceiuing* to bee frustrated gaue certaine threates to this deponent & others as this deponent hath heard that hee Would make Clauerton to hott for this deponent Mrs Bewshin by vexinge Mr Bewshine with suites in lawe sayeing further that hee hadd gathered such matters for the highe *Commission* Court against Mr Coren & Mrs Bewshine as should ruinate them bothe/
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mb 17

To the xvjth Interrogatory this deponent sayeth that shee this deponent [^]*about* seaventeene ^{yeres since} being with Child and rydeinge from Bathe by an accident of a fall from her horse was deliuered of an vntimely and abortiue byrth *which* was the occasion that shee was

enforced to vse for some yeres after the Councell of learned phisicions being in great perill of her life ~~about some seaventeene yeares since.~~

To the Seaventeenth *Interrogatory* this deponent sayth that shee knoweth the same letter mencioned in this *Interrogatory* was cast abroad & dispersed about Batholomew tyde⁷ 1606 and that as this deponent hath crediblye bynn giuen to vnderstand the same letter hear specified at large hath bredd much discord & strife betweene the said Mrs Corinne to Whome yt was directed & the said Iohn Corinne her husband the *Complainant* accordinge to the very purport & contentes of the said letter soe endorsed vnto her as is in the *Interrogatory* sett downe./

To the Eighteenth *Interrogatory* this deponent sayeth that Iohn Seede in the *parlor* of the *parsonage* of Clauerton questioninge with the *Complainant* Iohn Corinne whether hee were married & of what quallitie & parentage his Wyfe was & whither shee were a kinde and good wyffe the sayd *Complainant* Iohn Coren answered & sayd his wyfe was good inoughe saveinge that shee would chide sometymes as other weomen doe. And for that the wordes *which* the sayd Iohn Seede vsed in the foresaid questions propounded to the *Complainant* in the sayd *parlor* in the *presenc* of this deponent of her husband her sister Sara & Iohn Bannfeild wear afterward a *parte* of the libell or letter in prose mencioned in the *precedent interrogatory* This deponent verily beleiueth in her Conscienc that that said Iohn Seede was the Author of the said letter libell in prose

To the one & twentieth *Interrogatory* this deponent sayeth that Iohn Seede ^{one} of the *defendants* came vnto this deponent diuerse tymes & asked whither shee nor her husband hadd receiued a letter from Bathe without a name vnto yt & sayeth farther that his sonne Edward Seede told him that shee this deponent hadd receiued such a letter & conceded that same vppon receipt of *which* letter Edward Seede confesseth in his *personall* aunswere in the Highe Comission Court as shee hath heard that this deponent did weepe & Crye & was much greiued for that the said letter contained matter that did concerne Mr Corene the *Complainant* & Mrs Coren & this deponent./

To the twoe & twentieth *Interrogatory* shee sayeth that *parte* of the filthy libell mencioned in this *Interrogatorie* is the same word for word *which* Thomas Keene repeated <i.> to this deponent & her sister Sara as a large shee hath declared in her aunswere made to the sixeth *Interrogatory* wherevnto shee referreth her self saveinge that shee beleiueth in her conscience that Iohn Seede & Edward Seede were the contriuers authors & dispersers of the said libell & that the *lettres* I Co: signified Iohn Coren because the sayd Thomas Keene did soe interprett the same vnto her . out of Margarett Seedes mouthe when shee related yt to her father./

To the ffowre & twentieth *Interrogatory* the said deponent sayth that it is true that the said Iohn Seede told her in the *presenc* of her sister that some of his houshold yf hee would haue giuen them leaue would haue made a more filthy libell of this deponent &

Mr. Coren then was ~~of~~ made of ~~---~~ ^{one} Marye Evans & fastened on the Chru~~ch~~ dore of Clauerton aforesaid./

To the ffive & twentieth *Interrogatory* this deponent sayeth that the said Iohn Seede diuerse & sondrye tymes threatned this deponent that yf shee did oppose her selfe against him the said Iohn Seede & Edward Seede his sonne that shee this deponent should not dwell in Clauerton for quoth hee the said Iohn Seede my sonn Edward is a perillouse fellowe & sayd that yf the said Iohn Seede would suffer this said Edward his sonne to haue the manning of such matters as hee the said Edward Seede had collected against this deponent hee would make this deponent weary of the place nay he would driue this deponent out of the Countrye for there would bee such plott<es> & devises put in practise against her this deponent that shee would never bee able to endure yt & further to this *Interrogatory* hee cannot depose./

To the Seaven & twentieth *interrogatory* this deponent sayeth that the verye same daye beinge Symon & Iudes day 1606 or the next day after that Thomas Keene had discovered so much of that filthie libell as is contained in the said twoe & twentieth *Interrogatory* came Iohn Seede in the afternoone of the same daye to the *parsonage* of Clauerton & desyering to speake with this deponentes sister Sara singly & *aparte* and in this deponentes presence told her hee hadd some newes to *imparte* vnto ~~---~~ her touchinge this deponente *pretendinge* that the matters were soe odious & foule that hee was ashamed to speak of yt to this deponent whome hee sayd ~~hee~~ yt did so highly concerne but shee this deponent beinge very suspitious of that lewd practises haveing receiued such light in the morning of the same daye of their horrible abuses by the notice of Mr Thomas Keene aforesaid conuayed her selfe into a stayre foote the doore whereof opened in to the *parlor* of this deponentes house where vnseene of him the said Iohn Seede or her sister shee heard him the said Iohn Seede relate or repeat the very wordes of the scurrill libell which the said Thomas Keene hadd before repeated & are contained in the 22th *Interrogatory* & much more of the like odious & filthy nature beginninge thus good Mistris &c And after the lewd repeticion made of the whole beastly & lecherous libell hee added further finis I: Co: Wherevppon this deponentes sister Sara replyed finis I: Coe: What meane you ^{by} that cannot you tell sayed the said Iohn Seede why it is Iohn Corine Iohn Corene quoth ~~shee~~ her sayed sister Sara\ that is impossible yes quoth the said Iohn Seede they sayed that hee made yt: yt seemes sayed this deponentes sister that there were Coppies written for that you sayd there was a finis I Coe: to yt/ I praye you quoth shee help mee to a Coppie I will doe my best quoth hee And yf I cannot help you to the Coppie otherwise will help you to one & you shall haue yt verbatim vnder myne own hande./

...|

mb 18

To the one & thirtieth *Interrogatory* shee deposeth that shee verilye *perswadeth* her self that the said *defendants* Iohn Seede & Edward Seede fearing the Censure in the

high Comission Court for their filthie & slaunderous libells against this deponent did therefore seeke to ympeach the Creditt & reputacion of this deponent & the said Iohn Coryn Complainant for their pretended incontinent liveinge therby the rather that the foresaid foul & scurilous libells of the ~~de~~ defendantes might be lesse daungerous vnto them which sheweth this deponent the rather beleiueth ~~the~~ for that about twoe yeres sinc after that they the said Iohn & Edward Seede defendantes hadd benn scited by letters missive to appear in the high Comission Court at London there to make aunswere touchinge such deffamacions & slaundours as therewith they hadd touched this deponent & the Complainant in these libells & other wayes; the said Iohn & Edward Seede (as this deponent knoweth by the confession of diuers neighours whoe then were there presente) sent for diuers of his tennauntes inhabitantes of Clauerton to the dwellinge house of the said Iohn Seede Whoe being there assembled together the said Iohn & Edward Seede or one of them brought forth a longe schedule or Roll in Writinge sett downe & pennd by the advise of their learned Councell (as this deponent hath heard[]) & sheweth rather beleiueth yt because that about somme fortnight before that tyme One of the doctours of the Arches whoe was of Councell with Mr Seede in these his suites in the high Comission Court hadd benn at Clauerton with Mr Seede & receiued entertainment in his house about the tyme aforesaid the Contenes of which schedule beinge redd vnto them the said inhabitantes of Iohn & Edward Seede the defendantes or one of them. the said Edward Seede demaunded of them wheither anie of them would or could lustifie those thinges that hadd binn there redd vnto them & wheither they could add anything els that might touch the parsons wyfe & the said Complainant Mr Corinne which schedule then shewed vnto them sheweth this deponent thincketh was those articles which by the learned Councell of the said defendantes were drawen & were shortly after to bee exhibited against this deponent her husband & the Complainant in the high Comission Court, for that that at the same instant tyme when the foresaid doctor was at the house of the said Iohn Seede defendant hee the said Iohn Seede did send one or twoe Messengers vnto this deponent her house with this Message viz That then was the tyme for her this deponent to Compramise & end matters in Controuersies betwixt them for yf now sheweth this deponent would not yeild sheweth would be vtterlye vndone & her husband allsoe for there were such foul & odious matters to bee obiected against this deponent as sheweth this deponent should never bee able to abide yt./.

...|

mb 19

Deposition of John Evans

Iohn Evans of Cauerton in the County of Somerset yeoman aged Thirtie & six yeres sworn & examined deposeth as followeth.

To the ~~foe~~ fowreth Interrogatory hee deposeth & sayeth that about two yeres sithence hee hath seene a certaine letter or libell in prose without any name subscribed at

Clauerton aforesaid in the handes of Mrs Bewshin there directed to Mrs Corenne at Box which was taken vpp in Mr Longes greene at Ayshelye within the parish of Box by one Richard White as this deponent hath heard saye. And that yt was deliuered to the handes of Mr Iohn Corenn this complainant with which letter or libell being showne to this deponent at the tyme of this his examinacion this deponent confesseth to bee the verye same which heretofore hee hadd seene about twoe yeres sinc at Clauerton as aforesaid. And further ~~to~~ this deponent sayeth that hee hath heard that the said letter or libell was sent or scattered by Iohn Seede one of the defendantes And more to this Interrogatory he cannot depose./

To the ffiveth Interrogatory hee deposeth & sayeth that the said Iohn Seede one of the defendantes hath endeavoured many Wayes to deffame & disgrace Mr Bewshine & his wyfe which this deponent knoweth to bee true for that the said Iohn Seede did saye vnto this deponent that yf matters in Controversies betweene the said Seedes & Mrs Bewshine wear not taken vpp & reconciled that then there was or would bee such Courses taken by them (the said Iohn & Edward Seede as this deponent might iustlye conceaue) that should disgrace them ^{^this deponent & her husband} And sayeth that the said Iohn Seede makeinge shewe to this deponentes best vnderstandinge that Edward Seede one of the defendantes hadd collected matters against the sayd Mrs Bewshin tending to her disgrace.

To the Seavneth Interrogatory hee deposeth & sayeth that about the tyme mencioned in this Interrogatory Mr Bewshin being in the house of this deponent Iohn Evans vppon some necessary occasions betweene them Edward Seede one of the defendantes & Richard Gaye came into the said house where Mr Bewshine was. Mr Bewshine provoked by some vnkinde wordes of Edward Seede concerning Mr Bewshins maydservant wished that hee never hadd seene the said Edward Seede & sayd moreover that hee was tenn poundes the worse for dyetting him & his Companye. Wherevnto the said Edward Seede aunswered that hee owed Mr Bewshine nothings & that hee payd largely for his diett & all thinges else that hee hadd of him, & further sayd that hee never payd soe deare for his diett in any place except yt were in a baudiehouse./

To the tenth Interrogatory hee deposeth & sayeth that hee hath heard reported by three or foure persons that Iohn Seede did make meanes by Mr Crouch ^{^ & Mrs Ridge} vnto Mrs Bewshine to haue all the matters of Controversies betweene them taken vpp. And further to this Interrogatory vppon his own knowledge hee cannot depose./

To the three & twentieth Interrogatory hee deposeth & sayeth that about the tyme in this Inte<rrrogatory> <men>cioned Iohn Seede one of the defendantes came to the house of this deponent in Clauerton <this d>eponent desired him to sitt downe And the said Iohn Seede beinge sett, enquired <> this deponent hadd benn at the parsonag house meaninge Mr Bewshins house & what <> ause was that noe composicion of Controuersies could bee obtained. And this depo< rep> lied are you not like to becomm freindes? And the said Iohn Seede made aunsw<er> <tha>t yt was like to fall

from wors to wors. Yeilding this reason thereof viz tha<t> <th>ere was a foule songe made by his sonne Edward Seede & one Edward Champn<ies> <.> aboue at the said Iohn Seedes house in Clauerton aforesaid to the disgrace of *Mistres Bewshine*. And allsoe the said Iohn Seede repeated six or seaven verses of the said ~~libell~~ foul song or libell. vnto this deponent.

To the ffive & twentieth *Interrogatory* hee deposeth & sayeth that hee this deponent hath often heard that yf Mrs Bewshine did oppose her self against the said Iohn Seede there should bee such plottes & foul matters collected against her as shee should not bee able to indure. And that some foule matter hadd ben sett vpp in writinge vppon the Poynett end of her house befor that present tyme yf the said Iohn Seede hadd not hindered yt

To the six & twentieth *Interrogatory* hee deposeth & sayeth that about twoe yeres agon this deponent meeting & fallinge into *Comunicacion* with the said Iohn Seede at the Churchyard hatch in Clauerton aforesaid hee the said Iohn Seede told this deponent that hee was sorry~~as~~ for *Mistres Bewshine* because thinges would bee ripped vpp against her *which* hadd long tyme Iyen hidd. And further this deponent sayeth that hee hath diuers tymes heard that the said Iohn Seede hath repeated the sayd libell or filthie rime in the house & *presenc* of Richard Gaye & others. And allsoe this deponent hath heard that the said Iohn Seede hath repeated the said filthye ryme vnto Nicholas Prior. And further hee cannot depose to this *interrogatory*

To the Thirtieth ^{& one} *Interrogatory* this deponent sayeth hee verilie thincketh that the said Iohn & Edward Seede sought by all possible meanes to staine the Creditt & reputacion of *Mistres Bewshine* & to taxe her & Mr Corenne with infamie of incontinentie life & to that purpose did exhibite those articles into the highe Comission Court against her the said *Mistres Bewshine* & the said *Complainant*. And further hee cannot depose saveing that the said Iohn & Edward Seede tould this deponent with deepe protestacions that the filthie rimeinge libell was made and songe before by a woman neere vnto Tedburye in the countye of Gloucester./
...|

Depositions on behalf of the defendants

mb 20

Deposition of Edward Champnies

Ex parte *defendantis* Edward Champnies of Elberton in the Countye of Gloucestershire) *gentleman* aged about ffortie & twoe f yeres formerly produced sworn and examined on the *parte* & behalfe of Edward Seede *defendant* deposeth as followeth./

To the second and third *Interrogatory* hee deposeth that hee cannot depose any thinge materiall touchinge the contentes of this Interogatorie otherwise then hee hath deposed in his deposicions on the behalfe of the *Complainant* made vnto the twoe & twentieth Interrogatories, vnto the *which* hee referreth himselfe, saveinge that hee this deponent doth well remember that he hath sondrye tymes before the tyme specified in the said Interogatorie, & namely about twelve yeres before that tyme heard the said *defendant* Edward Seede vppon occasions of Mirth in Companye singe or vtter the Wordes *which* are expressed & recited in this deponentes said deposicion ^{to} haue ben songe at the place & tyme there specified ^{and} saveinge ^{alsoe} that hee this deponent neither at the said tyme, neither before the said tyme ever heard of the name of the *Complainant* Mr Corynne to this deponentes now remembrance./
... |

mb 21 (4 June 1610)

Depositions of Witnesses taken before William Meredith & Nycholas Dymerye *gentlemen* and Beniamyn Russell clerke at Marshfeild the fowreth day of Iune in the Eight yeare of the reigne of soueraigne Lord Iames by the grace of god Kinge of England, ffrance, & Ireland defender of the feyth etc and of Scotland the three and fortieth betweene Iohn Coren clerke *Complaynant* and Iohn Sead and Edward Sead, *defendants* by vertue of a *Commission* directed out of his maiestes high Court of Starrechamber./

Ex parte *defendentis*

Deposition of Nicholas Prior

Nycholas Prior of Claverton in the Countie of Somerset, husbandman aged thirtye nyne yeares or thereaboutes sworne and examin^{ed} on the behalf of the *defendants* vppon the fiefth Interrogatorye only sayeth and deposeth as followeth/

To the vth Interrogatorye he sayeth That he for his parte doth not now remember nor can now call to mynde that he ever heard either the said Iohn Sead or Edward Sead vtter or speake any evill or reprochfull wordes that might in this deponentes conscience or opinion tend to the disgrace, discredit, or infamy of the said *Complaynant* Mr Coren or of ths said Iohn Bewshyn and his seif or of eyther or any of them.

Deposition of Edward Wyllys

Edward Wyllys of Claverton in the Countie of Somersett mylward aged thirtie six yeares or thereaboutes sworne and *produced* to be examined onely vppon the vth Interrogatorye sayeth and deposeth as followeth

To the vth Interrogatorye he sayeth and deposeth by vertue of his oath That he doth not remember or call to mynde that he ever heard the said Iohn Sead or Edward Sead the Defendantes or eyther of them vtter or speake any wordes or speeches *which* he this deponent did thinke or conceave might tend to the disgrace, infamye or discredit of the *Complainant* or the other persons named in the sayd Interrogatorye or of any of them

Deposition of Margaret Seede

Margaret Sead formerly produced on the part of the Complaynant and now againe produced by the *defendants* sworne and examinnd deposeth as ffolloweth/

To the second Interrogatorye she sayeth That about all *sanctes* day⁸ was three yeares past her said Brother Edward Sead beinge in companye with Edward Champneys Iohn Champneys Henry Stubbes and his weif this deponentes sister at the house of this deponentes father at Clauerton makeinge merry after supper in the night happeninge to daunce and singe divers songes and rymes and a mongest other the ryme mencioned & intended by this Interrogatorye / And she also sayeth that she well remembreth that she had herd some of those songes and rymes songe and vttered before yt tyme and namely that she had heard the said ryme intended by this *Interrogatory* about three or fowre yeares before that tyme *which* was before her said brother in her conscience euer knewe the said *Complainant* or the said Mr Bewshyn and Mrs Bewshyn

To the third Interrogatorie she sayth That she doth not beleeeue that her said brother did sing the said songes or rymes to the end to discredit, or tax with infamie the said Mrs Bewshin or the *plaintiffe*

... |

mb 23

Ex parte Querentis

Deposition of Edward Wyllys

Edward Wyllys formerly produced on the *parte* of the *defendants* and now againe producde on the *parte* of the Complaynant, and sworne and examined vpon the Interrogatories vnder menconde sayth and deposeth as followeth.

To the third Interrogatorie he sayth That he heard it reported that such a letter was sent, as is specified in this Interrogatorie.

To the ffifth Interrogatorie he sayth and deposeth That he hath allso heard it reported that there was a libell or writing cast abroade to the disgrace and discredit of the persons mencioned in this *Interrogatory*

Deposition of Margaret Seede

Margaret Sead of Bradley in the Countie of Gloucester Gentlewoman aged xxij yeares, or thereabouts sworne and examined vpon the Interrogatorie following,

To the xxijth Interrogatorie she sayth That she well remembreth that about foure yeares past, this deponentes father Richard Gay and Nicholas Prior being in his this deponentes fathers house at Claverton talking together as she passed through the hall she heard her father then speake and vtter some speeches and wordes to the said Gay and Prior tending to this purpose, as she conceaved then and yet doth That he having bine told, as it seemed, that his sonne (the other *defendant*) had sunge the filthie songe indended by this Interrogatorie, where of she sayth her father then vttered some parte, did dislike and finde fault *with* his sonne for soe doing if he had done it, or given any cause of offence to Mr Bewshyn or his wife thereby, *which* she in her Conscience is *persuaded*, he did vnfainedly for that her said father was in friendship and loue towards the said Mr Bewshin and his wife at that time/ And she sayeth also that she beleeueth her father did twise at that time vtter and speake to the said persons some of the wordes mencioned in the said filthy song.

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Coren vs Seede

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, STAC 8/98/20; 1609; English and Latin; vellum and paper; 28 pieces of various sizes; stitched together at the top left. Relevant items include:

mb 1: 360mm x 4 cm; Latin; summary of the case, dated 10 July 7 James I (1609).

mb 2: 248mm x 280mm; good condition; dorse blank. Contains interrogatories on behalf of John and Edward Seede.

mb 3: 774mm x 320mm; recto stained and wrinkled in the top right corner; dorse discoloured but legible; text occupies both sides of the membrane; 400 mm blank following the signatures. Contains interrogatories on behalf of John Coren.

mb 4: 790mm x 237mm; clean but for stains at the right end of the answers to interrogatories 1 and 2, and at the left edge of interrogatory 12; dorse blank. Contains depositions of John Bewshin in answer to the first nine interrogatories.

mb 5: 745mm x 224mm; clean but for stains along the right edge at interrogatory 22; dorse blank. Contains the continuation of the depositions of John Bewshin and that of Edward Champneys to the twenty-second interrogatory.

mb 6: 784mm x 230mm; clean; dorse blank. Contains the continuation of the depositions of Agnes Church, Richard White, Mary Bonde, and Lewis Jones.

mb 7: 780mm x 237mm; clean; dorse blank. Contains the continuation of the depositions of Lewis Jones and the start of those of Hugh Younge.

mb 8: two pieces stitched together with 15mm overlap; the top piece 615mm x 244mm; the lower piece 285mm x 230mm; clean but for a stain 390mm-410mm along the left edge; dorse identifies the case and date. Contains the continuation of the depositions of Hugh Younge and those of Richard Gay.

mb 9: 560mm x 230mm; clean but for blotting or over-inking in the answers to the final three interrogatories; dorse blank. Contains depositions of John Banfield.

mb 10: 530mm x 277mm; clean but for a stain along the left edge; dorse blank. Contains depositions of Nicholas Prior and Katherine Saunder.

mb 11: 550 x 235mm; clean; dorse blank. Contains depositions of Alice Gay and Sara Poppelye.

mb 12: 590mm x 275mm; holes at line 23 and line 26 hampers legibility; torn from the top left corner 160mm into the text; dorse blank. Contains a continuation of the depositions of Sara Poppelye.

mb 13: 625mm x 232mm; clean; dorse blank. Contains a continuation of the depositions of Sara Poppelye.

mb 14: 215mm x 210mm; clean; dorse blank. Contains a continuation of the depositions of Sara Poppelye.

mb 15: 440mm x 220mm; clean; tear from the top, 220mm from the right edge, 600mm down into the text; otherwise clean; dorse blank. Contains depositions of Phillippa Bewshin.

mb 16: 700mm x 232mm; clean but for a stain five lines from the bottom; dorse blank. Contains a continuation of the depositions of Phillippa Bewshin.

mb 17: 700mm x 260mm; stained and wrinkled for 420mm down the left side and 120mm into the text; dorse blank. Contains the conclusion of the depositions of Phillippa Bewshin.

mb 18: 314mm x 230mm; clean; dorse blank. Contains depositions of John Evans.

mb 19: 693mm x 252mm; ink smudged in the first line; tear extends 200mm into the reply to the twenty-third interrogatory; otherwise clean; dorse includes a note “Iohn Seed & others *defendants* brought in by William Bower” and endorsed. Contains depositions of John Evans.

mb 20: 368mm x 225mm; clean; dorse blank. Contains depositions of Edward Champnies.

mb 21: 445mm x 278mm; clean; dorse blank. Contains depositions on behalf of the defendants, including those of Nicholas Prior, Edward Wyllys, and Margaret Seede.

mb 22: 338mm x 257mm; clean; ink faded at the bottom; dorse blank. Contains interrogatories on behalf of John and Edward Seede, defendants.

mb 23: 307mm x 280mm; clean; dorse blank. Contains depositions of Edward Wyllys and Margaret Seede in response to interrogatories on behalf of the plaintiffs.

mb 24: 658mm x 275mm; text fully occupies both sides of the membrane; good condition except for staining along the folds. Contains interrogatories on behalf of John Coren.

mb 25: paper; 315mm x 200mm; torn along horizontal folds, tears 78mm and 160mm from the top extending 350mm into the left side of the document; dorse blank. Contains a note concerning the renewal of the commission of examination.

mb 26: 350mm x 48mm; clean; endorsed on dorse. Contains tag identifying the case.

mb 27: 647mm x 379mm; small tears at the top left corner extend into the date; otherwise good condition; dorse blank. Contains the answer of John and Edward Seed.

mb 28: 685mm x 510mm; legible although torn, stained, and wrinkled across the top; top left corner attached by means of a paper clip; dated on the dorse “*Marcurij vicesimo tertio Novembris Ano sexto Iacobi Regis*” and endorsed “*Edw Iones*”. Contains the plaintiff's bill of complaint.

NOTES

¹ the foureth yere: 1606; 4 *James I* extended from 24 March 1606 to 23 March 1607

² *Symon and Iudes daie*: 28 October

³ *Russell and Eglesfield* endorse the deposition at this point; the depositions continue on an extension of mb 8 stitched to the first piece.

⁴ who: *the o written over an e*

⁵ by by: *dittography*

⁶ & &: *dittography*

⁷ Batholomew tyde: *24 August*

⁸ all sanctes day: *1 November*