1822008

Isle of Wight County

Jane D. Godwin

vs. Bill

Edmond Godwin

Baker.

November 1819 bill filed &c.

December 1819 ans. filed

Feb. 1820 — 7 depositions filed

May 1820 cont. for compl.

June 1822

Abates by Defts. death

Iredell W. Co. Bo

hour of midnight and compelled to seek the swamps and woods as the only asylum by which she could avoid pain, cruelty and better punishment: She has been denied the liberty of visiting and giving comfort and assistance to her children while they were confined by disease and affliction to their death bed: She has been deprived by her said husband, when she was in extreme debility and ill health of the advantage of medical assistance: She has been not only grossly and wantonly neglected by him when indisposed as the consequence of parturition but while thus helpless and discased he has prayed for her death, deprived her of usual & proper bed clothes, & opened upon her the doors and windows of the house in which she was confined for the avowed purpose of terminating her existence: In short your Orator states that her said Husband has used every means to which his strength and power of mind would enable him to resort for the purpose of harassing her with pain, misery & mortification

For [illegible] Consideration whereof and inasmuch and your Orator is remediless in the premises except by the assistance of a court of equity where matters of this nature are properly cognizable and relievable & to the End therefore that the said Edward Goodwin (who is prayed to be made defendant hereto) may upon his corporal oath full, true & perfect answer make to all singular the aforesaid allegations, & that as particularly as if the same were here again repeated & he thereto more especially interrogated - Whereof your Orator prays your worships, out of the remnant of her patrimonial estate yet remaining in the hands of her said husband, to decree to her an adequate support, or so much as may be proper having regard to the circumstances of the case, and that your worships make such other or further order or decree in the premises as may seem consistent with the principles of equity & justice & as in duty bound she will ever pray &c

May it please the court &c

Richd. H. Baker
Atto for Compt

To the worshipful the Justices of the County of Isle of
Wight in Chancery sitting humbly complaining sheweth
unto your worships your Oratrix Jane D. Godwin her next friend
by [illegible] that on or
about the twenty sixth day of June in the year eighteen
hundred and thirteen she intermarried with Edmond Godwin
now a resident of the County aforesaid: that by virtue
of the marriage aforesaid the said Edmond Godwin became
seized & possessed of a considerable real and personal estate,
the greater part of which he has wasted and expended in riot
and dissipation: that upon the consummation of the marriage
as aforesaid, your Oratrix being then an orphan child and
having no near relations from whom she could ask advice
and assistance, felicitated herself with the hope of there-
after spending her time in the most perfect peace and
conjugal happiness: but before the expiration of three
months next [illegible] her said husband by [illegible] extreme
cruelty obliged her to leave his house, and notwithstanding any impro-
priety of behavior on her part, she has been compelled to
live separate and apart from him, and rely exclusively upon
the bounty of her friends for necessary maintenance & support:
your Oratrix after being compelled on different occasions to
abandon her family and home for the purpose of escaping
the barbarous & inhuman Conduct of her said husband, did
again return with the view of producing amity and recon-
ciliation, and asked with strict submission & humility: on
her part for mercy & protection: but in return for her
love & tender affection towards her said husband, as also
maternal regard for her children she has been execrated
and despised by him: for her care and attention to her
domestic concerns she has received from him blood wounds &
scars: she has been forced from her dwelling at the

Godwin
vs
Godwin

December 1819
ans. filed

Ordered Jordan for
Deft.

This respondent further denies, his ever having compelled her the Sd Jane, to abandon her family for the purpose of escaping his cruelty and barbarity, and that when she returned after first seperating from him, he treated her in a manner compatible with the feelings of the most tender and affectionate husband, and began her to remain in the bosom of her family, where he would bestow upon her ~~any~~ care & attention, which should characterize the fondest of husbands and parents — This respondent further denies, his ever inflicting upon her any wound or scar, or compelling her to leave her dwelling at the hour of midnight to seek the woods & swamps as an asylum, by which she could avoid his cruelty; And this respondent still further denies, his ever refusing, ~~to~~ or denying her the liberty of visiting or giving comfort and apistance to her children while they were confined by disease or affliction — This respondent also denies, that when she was sick and debilitated, his ever refusing or denying her the advantages of medical aid, or grossly and wantonly neglecting her, but on the contrary he applyed to Physicians for their apistance, and watched over her with the most anxious solicitude for her welfare and restoration — This respondent also further denies, that while she was confined & indisposed, as the consequence of parturition, his praying for her death, depriving her of the usual & proper bed clothing, or opening upon her the doors and windows of the house in which she was confined — This respondent lastly denies, his ever resorting to any means whatever, for the purpose of inflicting upon her the complte: pain misery or disgrace, but that he is yet, and has always been sensible of the connubial tie and that he would rather resort to means for the purpose of securing to the one, on whom he still looks upon as his wife, and would still fondly embrace and receive, the most perfect peace and tranquility — And ikey respondent pray to be hence dismissed by your Honor with his Costs most wrongfully sustained in this behalf — —

Edwd C. Godwin

Isle of Wight County to wit:

This day Ed: Godwin the respondent named in the foregoing ansr, appeared before me, a justice of the Peace for the County aforesd ~~—~~ and who made oath to the truth and correctness of the same.

Given under my hand this 8th day of Decr 1819.

Chs. Wynne J. P.

The answer of Esmund Godwin of Isle of Wight County, to the Bill of complaint against him exhibited in the County Court aforesaid on the part of Jane D. Godwin by James Gray Jr. her next friend — —

This respondent saveing and reserving to himself every manner of benefit of exception to the manifold errors, inconsistencies, and absurdities, in the Complts. s.d bill cont.d for answer thereto or unto so much thereof, as this respondent is advised is material for him to ans.r, answereth and saith; That it is true and correct, that he, and the said Jane the complt. were united by the Solemn ties of matrimony, on or about the time alledged in her s.d bill, and by vertue of the s.d union he became seized and possessed of some real and personal estate; but this respondent most positively denies, having wasted or expended any part of the same by rest or dissipation, although it is true the ties of adversity and misfortune, have swept from him the greater part — This respondent also denies, his having compelled the s.d Complt. Jane, (on whom he has always look'd upon as the partner of his heart) to leave his house before the expiration of three months succeeding their s.d marriage, as alledged in her s.d bill, but on the contrary, he treated her with the utmost kindness and connubial affection: and he moreover denies, his compeleing her to live seperate and apart from him, although it is true, that she of her own accord, and without cause on his part, frequently left his house, and that through some friend he has often entreated her in the most affectionate and conciliating manner to return, where every thing of which he was possessed, should be hers, (if possible) to consummate her happiness: and that so far from her having to depend upon the bounty of her friends (when she would thus seperate herself from him) that he offered, after finding she would not return to cohabit with him, to bind himself to any person she preferred, binding himself to pay an adequate and valuable consideration for her support — — —

Godwin
vs
Godwin

Spa in
Chancery

Baburgh
compl.

Nov. 17th 1819. Executed

Wollaston Esq.
Wm Dunn Esq.

The commonwealth of Virginia to the sheriff of Isle of wight County Greeting you are hereby commanded to summon Edmond Godwin

to appear before the Justices of our county court of Isle of wight at the courthouse of the said county on the first monday in Dec. next to answer a bill in chan- cery exhibited against him by Lucy Jane D. Godwin

and this he shall in no wise omit under the penalty of £100 and have then there this writ Witness Nathaniel Young clerk of our said court at the courthouse the 8th day of November 1819 in the year of the commonwealth

Nath. Young

The Commonwealth of Virginia to Nath: Willis and Parker Willis
Gentlemen Justices Greeting; Know ye that we
trusting to your fidelity and provident circumspection in diligently exam
ing Susanna Godwin, Wm Barradal & Nath: N. Gray
as well on behalf of Jane D. Godwin Complainant
as on the behalf of Edmond Godwin defendant
Commanding you or any two or more of you, that at such certain days
and places you shall appoint, you assemble yourselves and the witnesses
aforesaid before you or any two or more of you, you call and cause to come
and diligently examine on the holy evangelist of Almighty God. and such
examination in writing into our County court of Isle of Wight distinctly and
plainly without delay you shall send Certify inclosed, returning
also this Writ. Witness Nathaniel Young, Clerk of our said Court
at the Courthouse the 7th day of February 1820 in the 44th year
of the Commonwealth

Nath: Young

Isle of Wight County Court,

This day John Carroll appeared before me, Edmund Pedin a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, & Made Oath, that on the 14th of the present Month (Feby) he delivered to Mrs Jane D. Godwin, a true Copy of the within Notice — Given under my hand & Seal this 24th day of Feby - 1820 —

Edmund Pedin Seal

To Mrs Jane D. Godwin

[illegible] will be pleased to take notice
that I shall on Friday the 25th day of the present month
at the house of Williams Camp's tavern in the County of Isle
of wight between the hours of Eleven O'Clock in the Morn-
ing and two in the Evening proceed to take the deposition
of Williams Foster to be read as evidence in my favour
in a Chancery Cause now depending and undetermined
in the County Court of Isle of wight in which You
by Jane Gray Your next friend are complainant
and I am defendant at which time & place
You may attend if You think proper so to do

Feby 14th 1820

Jane D. —

Edmund Godwin

Feby 28th 1820

I acknowledge the within
to be
Edwd Godwin

Indian
Vincent Gooding
Esqr

To Mr Edmond Godwin

Sir

you will be pleased to take notice that I shall on saturday the 26th day of the present month at the stone house of Mr William Godwin in the County of Isle of wight between the hours of eleven Oblock in the morning and five Oblock in the evening on the same day proceed to take the depositions of Susanna Godwin William [redacted] Barnstall and Nathaniel C. Gray to be read as evidence in my favour in a chancery cause now depending and undetermined in the County court of Isle of wight in which I my James Gray my next friend am complainant and you defendant at which time and place you may attend if you think proper so to do

February 15th 1820 Jane D Godwin

The commonwealth of Virginia to John H. Purdie, Ed: Boden & Barth. Lightfoot ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Gentlemen/ Justices Greeting: know ye that we trusting to your fidelity and provident circumspection in deligently examining James Gray Susanna Godwin Mary G. Bagnall John Reynolds James B. Southall Robert Butler Davis Gray Nath. Gray Charles Rountree Barth. Lightfoot Thomas Gray Jos. B. Whitehead ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Notice to
Deliver
Copy

Isle of Wight County to wit—

This day John Carroll appeared before me Edmund Pedin a Justice of the Peace for the County afore s.d & made Oath, that he delivered on the 14th of the present Month (Febry) to Wm. Jane D. Goodwin a true copy of the within Notice Given under my hand & Seal this 24th of Febry. 1830—

Edmund Pedin— Seal

To Mrs: Jane D. Godwin

Madam,

You will be pleased to take notice that I shall on Thursday the 24. day of the present month at the Office of Merit Jordan in the Town of Smithfield, between the hours of nine o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening of the same day, proceed to take the depositions of James B. Southall, Robert Butler, John Reynolds, Davis Gray, Charles C. Rountree, Barth. Lightfoot, Thomas Gray and Joseph B. Whitehead, to be read as evidence in my favour in a Chancery cause now depending and undetermined in the County Court of Isle of Wight, in which you, by Jas Gray yr. next friend are Complainant and I am Defendant - at which time & place you may attend if you think proper so to do

Respectfully

Edmund Godwin

February 12th.
1820

Isle of Wight County to wit:

This day James B. Southall, appeared before us Jno. H. Purdie and Ed: Pdam Justices of the Peace for the county aforesaid, who made oath, that the foregoing deposition is ~~a~~ true & correct to the best of his Knowledge & belief — Given under our hands & Seals this 24th. day of February 1820.

J H Purdie J.P. Seal

Edmund Pdam J.P. Seal

The deposition of James B. Southall taken at the Office of Merit Jordan in the town of Smithfield, on the 24th. day of february in the Year 1820, between the hours of 9 O.Clock in the morning and 6 O.Clock in the evening of the same day, before John H. Purdie — and Edmund Peden Justices of the peace for the County of Isle of Wight, by virtue of a commission issued from the Clerks Office of said County, to the said Justices directed, to be read as evidence in a suit now depend=ing in the Chancery Court of the County aforesaid be=tween Jane D. Godwin by James Gray her next friend, Complainant and Edmond Godwin Deft: agreeably to Notice given — This deponent being first sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That in the year 1817, he was seve=ral times call'd upon by Mr. Ed: Godwin the Deft: to render Medical aid to his children, which was accordingly performed, not only to them, but also to Mrs: Godwin, the wife of the Deft: — Question by the Defts: Counsel, Did you discover any disposition on the part of the Deft: other than one, indicating a deep interest and solicitude in the welfare and recovery of his children? —

Answer, I did not, on the contrary, a good deal of tender feeling was evinced by the Deft: Mr. Godwin —

Question by the Defts: Counsel, Did the Deft: evince, at any time, whilst you were attending his wife, a disposi=on inimical to her recovery —

Ans: He did not, so far as I discovered — and further this deponent saith not —

J B Southall

Isle of Wight. County to wit.

This day Bartholomew Lightfoot appeared before us John H. Purdie & Edmond Pecin Justices of the peace for the said county who made oath that the ~~allegations~~ statements contained in the within deposition are just & true to the best of his knowledge & belief.

Given under our hands & Seals this 24th day of February 1820 –

J H Purdie [L.S.]

Edmund Pecin [L.S.]

The Deposition of Bartholomew Lightfoot taken at the Office of Enoch Jordan in the Town of Smithfield on the 24th day of February in the Year 1820 between the hours of 9 Oclock in the morning and 5 Oclock in the evening of the same day before John H. Purdie and Edmond Pelin Justices of the peace for the County of Isle of Wight by virtue of a Commission issued from the Clerks Office of said county to the said Justices directed, to be read as evidence in a suit now depending in the Chancery Court of the county aforesaid between Jane D. Godwin by James Gray her next friend, Complainant and Edmond Godwin Defendant, agreeably to notice given

This deponant being first sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that in the year 1817 he was frequently requested by Mr. Edmond Godwin to endeavor to bring about a reconciliation (then existing) between himself and his wife - that after repeated solicitations he consented & promised to do what he could in order to settle the dispute between them - that on the day appointed for that purpose the said Edmond Godwin accompanied this respondent to the Gate of Mr. James Grays at whose house the said Jane was; that the said Edmond Godwin authorised me to make any proposal to his wife that I might think proper, & that he the said Edmond would comply with it if she refused to compromise on such terms as would be proposed to her by me, that I should request her to walk to the Gate & converse with him, to all which proposals she most positively refused & moreover replied if he was then lying at the Gate & about to die & her going to the Gate would save his life she would not go -

& further this deponant saith not

Barth. Lightfoot

reconciliation between her the Complt: and him the deft: — to which she replied, that he had treated her too bad, and that she would not depend on his word, and therefore was determined never more to live with him —

And further this deponent saith not —

Charles Rountree

Isle of Wight County to wit —

This day Charles Rountree appeared before ~~us~~, John H. Purdie & Edmund Pedin Justices of the Peace for the County aforesd. Who made Oath, that the ~~allegations~~ statements contained in the foregoing deposition are just & true to the best of his knowledge & ~~belief~~ belief — Given under our hands & Seals this 24th of Febry 1820

J H Purdie J.P. (Seal)

Edmund Pedin J.P. (Seal)

The deposition of Charles Rountree, taken at the Office of Merit Jordan in the town of Smithfield, on the 24th. day of February in the Year 1820, between the hours of 9 O,Clock in the morning and 5 O,Clock in the evening of the same day, before John H. Purdie and Edmund Peden Justices of the Peace for the County of Isle of Wight, by virtue of a commission issued from the Clerks Office of said County, to the said Justices directed, to be read as evidence in a suit in Chancery now depending in the County Court aforesaid, between Jane D. Godwin by James Gray her next friend Complainant, and Edmond Godwin Deft: agreeably to notice given — This deponent being first sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth and saith — That some time in the Month of Dec. 1817 he rec'd a letter from Ed: Godwin the Deft: informing him, that his wife Jane, had left him the deft: and refused to return, and that she was then at Mrs. Davis Grays, where he Mr. Godwin, wished him the deponent to go, and prevail on her if possible to return home, and that he might inform her, that he the deft: had formed a resolution never more to drink spiritous liquors, and to make any proposal whatever, as an inducement to her to return home, and that he Ed. Godwin would agree to it, I bind himself accordingly — The day after, agreeably to the request of the Deft: this deponent went to the house of Davis Grays, where he saw the wife of the Deft: and informed her, that he had rec'd. a letter from her husband, authorising him to do more than he the deponent would put in the Power of any man to do for him, which was, to make any proposal, that he the deponent thought Proper to make, so as to bring about a

The deposition of Robt Butler taken at the Office of Merit Jordan in the town of Smithfield, on the 24th. day of february in the year 1820, between the hours of 9 O.Clock in the morning and 5 O.Clock in the even=ing of the same day, before John H. Purdie and Edmund Peden, Justices of the peace for the County of Isle of Wight, by virtue of a commision issued from the Clerks office of said County, to the said Justices directed, to be read as evidence in a suit now depending in the Chancery Court of the County aforesaid, between Jane D. Goodwin by James Gray her next friend Complainant, and Edmond Goodwin Deft: Agreeably to notice given.

This deponent being first sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith—

That he was in the habit of attending the family of the Deft: in the Years 1814–15–16 & 17– and that he frequently visited Mrs: Goodwin the wife of the Deft: as well as himself & children, and that he the deponent always found him, the Deft: kind and affectionate towards his wife & children, and as far as this depo=nent believes, he the Deft: used every means in his power, towards the relief, ~~and restoration of his wife~~ and resto=ration, both of his wife & children—

Ro: Butler

Isle of Wight County (to wit)—

This day Robert Butler appeared before us Justices of the Peace for the County aforesd. Edmund Peden & Jno. H. Purdie Who made oath, to the truth & Justness of the foregoing deposition— Given under our hands & Seals this 24th day of Feby 1820—

Edmund Peden [Seal]

J H Purdie [Seal]

went to Mrs: Godwin the Complt: for the sole purpose of bringing about a reconciliation between her and her Husband, and informed her of the propositions made by the Deft: to him the deponent, to which she replied, "I will never again return, or live with him — The depo= =nent says, he then asked her the Complt: if she thought she could live with him in peace, whether or not, she would then return, to which she replied, "to be sure I would, it is very disagreeable to live upon my relations," — She the Complt: also said, "I could not trust him, I would not believe him upon oath, & therefore I will not return, for he has promised me so often, and always violated them," — And further this deponent saith not.

Jno Gray

Isle of Wight County to wit

This day Thomas Gray appeared be=
fore us, Justices of Peace for the County aforesaid
who made Oath, to the truth & Justness of the
foregoing deposition — Given under our hands &
seals this twenty fourth day of Feby 1820 —

Edmund Pendleton (Seal)

W. H. Pendleton (Seal)

The deposition of Thomas Gray taken at the Office of Meriv Jordan in the town of Smithfd on the 24. day of february in the Year 1820, between the hours of 9 O.Clock in the morning and 5 O.Clock in the even= =ing of the same day, befor John H. Purdie and Ed: Godwin Peden, Justices of the Peace for the County of Isle of Wight, by virtue of a Commission, issued from the clerks Office of said County, to the said Justices, direct= =ed, to be read as evidence in a suit now depending in the Chancery Court of the County aforesaid, between Jane D. Godwin by James Gray her next friend, Complainant and Edmond Godwin Deft: agreeably to notice given —

This deponent being first sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth & saith: —

That in the Year of 1818 in the month of January, he was at the house of Ed: Godwin the Deft: who requested him the deponent, to go & prevail on his wife Mrs: Jane D. Godwin, to return home to him, and that he would pledge himself under any pe= =nalty whatever, which he the deponent might af= =fix, to treat her as an affectionate husband —

This deponent further saith, that the Deft: even went so far as to say, that if he the deponent, would prevail on his wife to return home to him, and he the Deft: then treated her unkindly, that he would suffer himself to be well lashed by the deponent, and that he the deft: would enter into writings, that no advantage of the law should be taken of him, meaning, that he would bind himself not to sue him the deponent provided he lashed him — to which the deponent replied you have gone far enough, your proposition is a very fair one — but you Know Edmond, I would not flog you —

This deponent further saith, that he accordingly

Isle of Wight County to wit —

This day John Reynolds appeared before me, John H Purdie & Edmund Pedin, Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, Who made oath, That the ~~allegations~~ Statements contained in the within deposition are Just & true to the best of his knowledge & believe — Given under our hands & Seals this 24 of Feby 1820 —

J H Purdie J.P. Seal

Edmund Pedin J.P. Seal

Came to hand under seal 25th Feb. 1820

W. County Ct.

if she would go home and live him again, to which she replied no, I will not, I am afraid to risk my life in his hands, for this morning he struck me several times with a switch, pushed me down upon the bed, choaked me, and struck me in the mouth—

She again observed, I will not live with him another day, I will go to the poor house first —

Question by the Defts: Counsel, was there any sign upon the mouth of Mrs: Godwin the Compltt: ~~Deft~~ indicating she had rec^d a blow? Anst, I saw none, except that her lip appeared to be a little swoln, but whether it was its natural appearance or not, I cannot say, she however observed, she had some signs of the switch under her handkerchief, but I saw none — Question by the Compltt: Do you recollect Sir, the time you, and Susanna Godwin went out to see Ed: Godwin in the field — —

Answer, I do — Question by the Compltt: Did she request you both, to persuade his wife Jane, to return home and live with him — Anst: She did —

Question by the Compltt: Do you believe, if she had then gone back to him, she could possibly have lived with him? answer, I believe not, unless his conduct towards her, should be different, from what it has been previously — Question by the Compltt: Do you believe if she were now to go back to him, that she could possibly live with him — answer, I think Mr. Godwin has changed much for the better, but as to the result, I cannot say — Question by the Compltt: Do you think from your own knowledge and belief, that the Compltt. was ever to blame, or do you suppose any woman whatever could live with him in peace & safety? — Answer, From my knowledge of the affair, I think she was not to blame — but I am at a loss to say, whether or not, any woman could live with him —

Question by the Defts: Counsel, Do you believe Mrs: Godwin would have forfeited his property, by violating his contract, in treating his wife ill, provided she had returned, after making the offer relative to his property? answer, I cannot tell, he might have treated her well, or he might not —

Question by the Defts: Counsel — What motive do you suppose Mrs: Godwin the deft: could have had, in begging you & Mrs: S. Godwin to prevail on his wife Jane to return home to him —

Answer, It is out of my power to say —

Question by the Defts: Counsel — Did Mrs: Godwin seem very much ~~distressed~~ disturbed, whilst you were with him in the field — anst: She did —

Question by the Defts: Counsel — Do you not believe, that if Mrs: Godwin could have seen his wife, at the time you were with him in the field, that he would have embraced her kindly & affectionately? anst, from appearances, I believe he would —

Question by the Defts: Counsel, Do you think Mrs: Godwin upon that occasion, put on appearances, which were not real —

Answer, I do not —

And further this deponent saith not —

John Reynolds

The deposition of John Reynolds taken at the office of Merit Jordan in the town of Smithfield, on the 24th. day of february in the Year 1820, between the hours of 9 O.Clock in the morning and 5 O.Clock in the evening of the same day, before John K. Purdie and Edmund Pedin, Justices of the Peace for the County of Isle of Wight, by virtue of a commission issued from the Clerks office of said County, to the said Justices directed, to be read as evidence in a suit now depending in the Chancery Court of the County aforesaid, between Jane D. Godwin by James Gray her next friend Complainant, and Edmond Godwin Deft: agreeably to notice given — This deponent being first sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth & saith —

That some time in the latter part of the Year 1817, he was sent for by Mrs: Susanna Godwin, at whose house Mrs: Jane D. Godwin the Complt: was — She, Mrs: Susanna Godwin then observed, that she had sent for him, to accompany her in the field where Mr. Edmond Godwin the deft: was; upon approaching him, she asked him, what he wanted with her? to which he replied, I want you madam, to prevail on my wife to return home to me; if you will, I will not treat her ill again, to which Mrs: Susanna Godwin replied, if I thought you could live together in Peace, I would do so, I would even go so far, as to get on my Knees to intreat her to return to you — She, Ed: Godwin the Deft: then said, will you Mr. Reynolds, try and prevail on my wife to return home to me; if she will, I will secure and forfeit all my property to her, in the event of my again treating her ill: the deponent replied I will do so, & when he the deponent returned to the house, he asked her, Mrs: Jane D. Godwin the Complt:

To the Clerk of the Court of

Isle of Wight

County

2 Quest. Do you recollect of my having any kind of a whip in my hand at that time or using any threats towards her

Ans. I do not, but recollect of hearing you request her to go out

Quest. How long did you stay at my house on the day above alluded to

Ans. I stay'd there until the evening of the same day

Quest. Do you not believe that William Barnaby was intoxicated at my house on the same day

Ans. I think he had been drinking freely, but ~~not~~ I did not think him much intoxicated

Quest. Do you not think that the conduct of my wife on that day would have induced any man to have got in a passion.

Ans. I do - that if she had have been a wife of mine, I should have acted differently from what Mr. Godwin did, for I believe I should have used the rod

And further this respondent saith not his
William + Foster
mark

Isle of Wight County to wit This day William Foster appeared before us Barthol. Lightfoot and Edmund Riddick, Justices of the Peace for the said County, and who made oath that the statements in the foregoing deposition are just & true to the best of his knowledge & belief. Given under our hands & seals this 25th day of February 1850

Barth. Lightfoot (Seal)

Edmund Ridick (Seal)

The deposition of William Foster, taken at the house of William Campbell in the County of Isle of Wight, between the hours of 11 O Clock in the morning and 3 O Clock in the evening of the same day, by Barth. Lightfoot and Edmund Peden Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, by virtue of a commission issued from the Clerks Office of said County, to be read as evidence in a suit in Chancery now depending in the County Court aforesaid, between Jane D. Godwin by James Gray her next friend, Complt. and Edmund Godwin Deft. agreeably to Notice given ——

This deponant saith that some time in the year 1815 he happened at the house of Mr. Edmund Godwin, with William Barradale & Joseph W. Godwin, that on his arrival at the said Edmund house, the said Edmund was from home, but came home in about fifteen minutes after this respondents arrival, that on the arrival of the said Edmund, Mrs. Godwin (his wife) appeared to get in a most violent passion with her husband & charged him of carrying from home the Key of the meat house with an intention to starve her, to which this respondent observed, there was no danger of her starving while there was a sufficiency of meat in the house, which he then saw on the Cupboard —

Cross Quest. by Deft. Did you not hear Mrs. Godwin say she would kite his dog (meaning the Defendants) if he killed one belonging to one of his Servants —

Ans. And I did —

Quest. Had Joseph W. Godwin, my brother, just returned from Williamsburg,

Ans. I believe he had been down three or four days

Quest. What time of the day was it when you first arrived at my house —

Ans. As well as I recollect it was between 9 & 10 O Clock in the morning —

Quest. Do you recollect what reply I made to my wife when she accused me of carrying away the Key of the meat house with an intention to starve her —

Ans. Yes, I recollect of your saying you had left home without recollecting the Key was in your pocket —

The deposition of Nath: Gray taken at Godwins Shop
on the 26th day of February in the Year 1820 between the hours
of 11. Clock in the Morning & 5 Clock in the evening of
the same day before Nath: Wills and Parker Wills Justices
of the Peace for the County of Isle of Wight by virtue
of a Commission issued from the Clerks Office of s.
County to them directed, to be read as
evidence in a suit now depending in the Chancery
Court of s. County, between Jacob D. Groves by
James Gray his next friend Complt: and Edmond
Godwin Deft: agreeably to notice given —

This deponent being first sworn, deposeth &
saith — That he was sent by his father, to the
Defts: in the Year 1817. in the month of Nov.
He met the Defts: at the bars in a
violent passion, but he invited him to the
house, when he had not been long before he
the Defts: began to dispute with his wife
abuse her, & curse her, and kept on, in that
way until an hour or two in the night, at
which time Tho: Pope came with a jug of
rum, and he the Defts: immediately began
to drink, & still kept on abusing his wife
until bed time — and when she knelt down
to say her prayers he commenced singing a
reel, and & set his negroes to dancing, & told
one of the negroes to hold her mistress if she
got happy, after which he the deponent went
to bed, heard him ask for his whip
but it could not be found, he then asked for
his horse whip, after which he the deponent

heard him strike some person but knows not who it was — Mrs: Godwin then attempted to run up stairs, & after she got up stairs, he has-tens persued her, & pushed her head against the post, & cut it very badly — the deponent, then went down stairs, and asked the Defts. what he meant by such treatment to his wife — The Defts. still continued to drink & abuse his wife — and said, his youngest child was a damned bastard, & was gone to hell, & his wife would go there to meet it, call'd her a whore, a strumpet, & said his wife she was in the habit of hanging up by her tongue, and accused her of being great with a negro, & said he had often attempted to Kill her, & would not yet —

Question by the Defts. Counsel — How old are you?

Answer — Almost nineteen —

Question — How did you manage to recollect so nicely every transaction which took place that night —

Answer — I recollected as well as I could —

Question — Did Mrs: Godwin say any thing to provoke her husband?

Answer — only said, let me alone —

Question by the Defts. Did Mr. Father not borrow my Gig & send you home with it? Did you not meet Mrs: Godwin on the road, & bring her to my house after her clothes — Ans: He borrowed the Gig, Mrs Godwin went home, but I did not carry her —

Question — Did you not accompany Mrs: Godwin to Mr. Davis Grays — was Mrs: Godwin furnished with a Gun to come to my House to get her clothes — Answer, I went with her to Mrs Grays after she got her clothes, and on her way she had a Gun — Question by the Defts: was the Gun charged — Ans: I dont know, but I saw she was

Question by the Defts: What did Mrs Godwin take the gun for — answer, Uncle Edmund Godwin Jr. told her to take the Gun to defend her life —

And further this deponent saith not

sworn to before us

Nathaniel N Gray

Nath: Wells — J.P

Parker Wilkes J.P

The deposition of Susanna Godwin taken at Godwins shop, on the 20th day of February in the year 1820 between the hours of 11 Clock in the morning and 5 Clock in the evening of the same day, before Nath: Wills and Parker Wills Justices of the peace for the County of Isle of Wight, by virtue of a commission issued from the Clerks Office of sd County, to the said Justices directed, to be read as evidence in a suit now depending in the Chancery Court of the County aforesaid, between Jane D. Godwin by James Gray her next friend Compltt: and Edmond Godwin Defft: agreeably to notice given

This deponent being first sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth & saith

That Mrs: Jane D. Godwin the Compltt: very early one morning arrived at the house of her the deponent and upon her the deponent's enquiring, what brought her there so early? She the Compltt: answered, that her husband had been quarreling with her all night & that he had treated her so badly, that she could not stay at home, that she was afraid that he would kill her that he had choaked her that morning before she came away, that he have struck her on the mouth, which occasioned her teeth to be loose. This deponent also says that she saw a bruise on the wrist of the Compltt: Jane, which she the said Compltt: said, was occasioned by a blow from her husband. This deponent also states, that she saw on the neck of the Compltt a bruise, as if were occasioned by the fingers of some person, & that the lip of the said Compltt: was cut next to her teeth

That several hours afterwards, Ed. Godwin the Defft: arrived at the house of her the Deponent, & sent for her the deponent to come out, but she did not go, until she the deponent sent for Mrs. Jane Reynolds, after which

Mrs. Reynolds immediately came & immediately they both went out when Mrs. Godwin the Defts. then went to the the deponent then asked Mrs. Godwin what he wanted? to which he replied, is my wife at your house? to which the deponent replied, she is, and she the the deponent, then asked Mrs. Godwin what had happened between him and his wife to cause her to leave him, to which he replied, that he commenced whipping one of the negro's, that morning & that his wife disapproved of it, & that he had therefore gotten in a Passion with her: he further declared that he had treated her ill, and that he would wish her the deponent to go and Persuade her to go back — to which she said, she would, Provided she thought they could live together, to which Mrs Godwin answered, I am a Passionate Man, & when I get in a Passion I cannot help treating for it an Angel would be cursing from Heaven when I got in a Passion I may curse in that way, but I am sorry for it, and I think she is worthy of better treatment —

The deponent states, that she then returned to the house, where she had an interview with Mrs. Godwin the Complt: and endeavoured to Prevail on her to return home to her husband, but that she refused, and said she could not possibly live with him, if she thought she could, she would go back, for she had been several times compelled to leave home, and she was afraid to go back, lest he might take her life —

Question by the Complt: do you believe, if I will now to go home, that I could live with my husband — Answ: Not in peace

Question by the Defts Counsel — At what time and on what day did Mrs. Godwin arrive at your house

Answ. On Sunday, Just before Dinner —

Question, did she say then Mrs. Godwin had struck him then with any Particular — weapon? —

Answ. I do not recollect —

Question — are you Mrs. Godwin's aunt?

Answ. Yes —

Question, did you not persuade Mrs. Godwin not to marry the Defts.

Answ. I did, after they were engaged —

Question — did you not hear her say after they were engaged the second time, that she would marry him, if she had to become a waiting maid in Mrs. Watkinson's Kitchen? —

Answ. I dont recollect —

Question — did she not take out a peace warrant against him, through yr. persuasions? —

Answ. She did not —

Question — Did you not persuade the Complt: to return home, yt the land legally secured to her, & then come off, as she would then have a Plenty to support her —

Answ. I did not —

Question — Did you not say you must Complt: in the Gig with Mr. Sackt. St. Gray with her clothes

Answer — I did not —

Question, by the Complt: Did the property, now in possession of Defts. belong to the Complt. before their marriage —

Answ. Yes — the Principal property —

Question by the Defts: Counsel =

Had the Defts: any Property of his own before his marriage with the Complt: ?

Answer - Yes —

Question by the Complt: Defts: Was his Property taken to pay his debts, contracted before his marriage?

Answer - I heard Mr. Godwin say he had sold it to pay his debts —

Question by the Defts: Counsel — How long did Mr. Godwin keep that Property in his possession after his marriage? —

Ans: I suppose six or twelve months —

And further this deponent saith not —

Susanna Godwin

Sworn to before me
Walter Wilks J.P.
Parker Wilks J.P.

The deposition of William Barnabella, taken at Goswins
Shop on the 26th day of February in the Year 1816 between
the hours of 11 Oclock in the Morning and 5 Oclock in
the evening of the same day before Nath. Wills and Par
ker Wills Justices of the peace for the [redacted] County of
Isle of Wight by virtue of a Commission issued from
the Clerks Office of said County, to the 2d Justices directed,
to be read as evidence in a suit now depending in the
Chancery Court of the County aforesaid between Lem
D. Goswin, by James Gray his next friend Complt.
and Edm. Goswin Defts: agreeably to notice given
This deponent being first sworn upon the Holy Evangelists
of Almighty God, deposeth & saith — That he the de
ponent, went to the house of the Defts in the Year
1815, & found him drunk in the Centre of the
house, he the Defts returned home, he the de
ponent heard him Cursing in the Yard, This dept
was requested by the wife of the defts to meet
him [redacted], & talk to him, he did so: that he
the dept, pointed to the Meat house door, & said
he would not suffer such Conduct, to which the dept
wife replied that she had it open, the Complt
also observed that her Husband said when he left
home, that he meant to starve her out: This depo
nent further states, that the Complt: said,
she would not be starved, as long as there was any thing
left on the plantation, to subsist on, the dept came
in the house in a Violent passion, & began to abuse
the Complt: & he the dept seated himself on the bed,
where the Complt was sitting & called her a damned bitch, & said he had a mind

to Knock her off the bed, with his horse whip, This deponent Observed to the deft, that if he the deft, attempted to give his wife the horse whip, he the deponent would give it to him, This deponent further states, that he verily believes, had he not been present, that he the deft: would have beaten the Compt. in a most dispirate Manner, & he the deponent also states, that Joseph H. Godwin, the Brother of the deft: went out for the purpose geting the horse & Gig, to Carry the Compt. away, upon which, the deft: went out Immediately & took the horse from his Brother Joseph, which Circumstance, created a dispute between them, & he the deft & his brother Joseph, soon engaged in a fight, the Compt. in the meantime availed herself of this Opportunity, & made her escape

Question by the Compt. — do you believe that either myself, or any other woman, could have lived with the deft in peace, Answer: From the Conduct of the deft on that Occasion, I do not believe that any woman could have lived with him

And further this deponent saith not

Sworn to before us

Nath'l Wills J.P.

Parker Wills J.P.

William Barrow

dear

Jane D. Goodrich suing by James Gray her next friend

vs. } In Chancery

Edmond Goodrich

This cause came on this day to be heard upon the Bill filed with the argument of Counsel & the evidence of witnesses sworn in Court whereupon the Court doth order, adjudge and decree that the defendant pay to James Gray as the next friend of the plff for her maintenance, quarterly, the sum of twenty dollars, pending this suit, to commence from the first day of December next, until the further order of this Court.