Subscription is not his handwriting — It pleads a Lre of Attorney executed by the Decd, to Wm Hall, in Madras Road about 8ber 1760, which was subscribed by him — On this Plea 3 Wn are examined, viz. Rob. Hall. In Lamett & Rd Woodcock, who neither of them authenticate the Exhibit; Lamett & Hall say, they know nothing of the Execution of the Lre of Attorney, but believe it the Decds handwriting, & Woodcock speaks to the same Purpose. —

Dr Wynne — Robt Castles, late of Madras, Batchelor, died in the East Indies, some time after the year 1760 —

Jan 2. 1766 Lres of Admon (with a Will annexd) of the goods of the Decd were granted to Tho: Vaughan, as the Attorney of Alice Gibson (ol: Castles) Wife of Wm Gibson, the Sister, surviving Exec: & universal Legatee, named in the said Will; wch at present bears date, the 21st of June 1750, but the Word (Four) visibly appears to have been wrote, after the word (Fifty) & to have been erazed: — The pretended subscribing Witnesses are, Edw: Falder — Geo. Anderson — Wm Hall —

Mich. T. a Decree issued at the promotion of Geo: Castles, Brother of the Decd, agt Tho: Vaughan, to bring in the Admon, prove the Will, in solemn form, or to shew Cause, why it shd not be declared void, & admon granted to Geo. Castles, as Bro: & one of the next of Kin —

Goodwin appeared for Vaughan, brought in the Admon, & 4 Sep. Mich. T. gave an Allon of 4 Art: wch was admitted, & 5 Witnesses examined thereon — viz. Xtopher Bushell & In Smith to the 2d & 3 Art: Wm Hall to all the Art: — In Drover & Wm Hill to the 4th Art.

The 1st Art. pleads the Will, in the form of a Lesion Condedit, wch is not attempted to be proved —

2 & 3 Art. plead the Death. Character & Handwriting of Edw: Falder one of the Subscribing Witnesses

Bushel speaks strongly thereto, frequently saw Falder write & subscribe his name; particularly on the 15th of Novr 1752. he subscribed his name, as a Witness to a Receipt in Deponents Pocket — But no such Receipt is produced —

Smith, says he was intimately acquainted with Falder, sevl years before & to his death, wch happened, as he hath heard & believes in 1753 — has often seen him write —

Both Wn say they think, the Attestation of Edw: Falder, appearing on the Will, was wrote by Edw. Falder the Decd —

Wm Hall the only surviving pretended Subscribing Wn absolutely denies any knowledge of the Transaction

In Drover's Acquaintance, he says, commenced with the Testator in 1755, by his being Ship Skward on Bd the Edgecote, wherein the Decd went to India, he saw him write almost every Day, is well acquainted with his manner of writing, has carefully viewd the name Robt Castles subscribed to the Paper propounded, as his last Will, & verily believes the Decds handwriting — To 1 Jnt: Says he & the Decd were messmates together 18 Months, the last time he saw Decd was in 1759 or 1760 at Madras, when the Decd was Mate of a Coasting Vessel, that he then dined with Decd on board said Vessel To 2d Jnt frequently saw Decd write, in keeping an account of his expending his Boatswains Stores, hath often seen him write Letters, & thinks, but is not sure, he once saw him sign & execute a Bond, or Power of Attorney, in favor of Wm Hall.

Wm Hill says in 1751. one Robt Castles, who he believes to be the Decd, hired himself as a Boatswain of the Prince of Wales, in the service of the British Fishery wch Dept commanded. That Rl continued on board 12 Months — & in 1753. again entered on board said Ship, & continued on bd 10 Months, during wch time he frequently saw him write & subscribe his name; is thereby well acquainted with his handwriting, has carefully viewd the name Rl subscribed to the Paper propounded, & verily believes it wrote by the afd Rl. To 2 Jnt is as well acquainted with Rls handwriting as with his own —

6 Nov: 1766. Goodwin gave additional Articles to ye afd Allon pleading the Death, Character, & handwriting of Geo. Anderson, another subscribing Wn & examined Edmund Denman & Anne Williams —

Denman says he was well acquainted with Anderson 4 yrs before & till within 2 Months of his death, became so by being a Soldier in the same Company of Guards, in wch Dept was a Serjeant; he died in Northumberland 10 or 11 years ago, is well acq: with his handwriting, & believes the name G. A. subscribed as a Witness to Rls last Will, the writing of Decd —

Williams, was married to Anderson in April 1751, cohabited with him till within a few months of his death, when he obtained leave to go to his Fathers, at Balmborough in Northumberland, where he died about 10 years ago — She proves as Denman to his Good Character, her knowledge of his writing, & that the Attestation in question was wrote by the Decd —

8 Jan: 1767 Grene gave an Allon pleading that Rl was very illiterate, wrote a very bad hand, & that the Subscription Rl to the Will, was not wrote by the Decd — That Rl in October 1760, by Lre of Attorney under hand & Seal constituted Wm Hall of the Strand, Taylor, his lawfull Attorney, & exhibits ye same in supply of Proof — On this Allon, he examined Robt Hall — In Lamett, & Rich. Woodcock —

Robt Hall was acq: with Rl by his coming to lodge at his Fathers in 1751 from wch time Rl constantly lodged there when at London, by wch Dept became very intimate with him, has often seen him write — that Rl was an illiterate man & wrote a scratching bad hand, has viewd ye paper propounded, & does not believe it the Handwriting of the Decd, it being a much better & stiffer hand, than he ever did or could write

John Lamett became acq: with Rl about 17 or 18 years ago by his occasionally lodgeing with Wm Hall, Dept Brother in Law, his acquaintance with Rl till he embarqued on his last voyage for India, frequently saw him write, has viewd ye paper subscribed to the paper pleaded as Rls last will; does not believe it his hand writing, by reason Rl was a very bad Scholar, & did not write near so good a Hand —

Rich. Woodcock was well acq: with Rl from 1752 till he sailed for India, where he died; became so, by his being Boatswain of the Pr: of Wales in the British Herring Fishery of wch Dept was Carpenter — That Rl was, very illiterate, when Dept first knew him, could only just make his Letters, but could not join them, & Dept by Decds desire, took a great deal of pains & trouble to improve him, in his writing, notwithstanding wch, Rl during the whole time Dept knew him, continued to write a very bad scratching hand, wch was scarce legible, has viewed the name Rl subscribed to the paper pleaded, as ye last will of Decd, & does not believe it