

This period has received careful study by Professor St. G. L. Sioussat, of Brown University, whose monograph in *The Johns Hopkins University Studies for 1903* (vol. 21) entitled "Economics and Politics in Maryland 1720-1750, and the Public Services of Daniel Dulany the Elder," should be read by every student of the period.

Our purpose in preparing this volume has been that described by Wordsworth, when writing to Scott (*Lockhart's Life of Scott*, II 218): "A correct text is the first object of an editor, then such notes as explain difficult or obscure passages; and, lastly, which is much less important, notes pointing out authors to whom the writer has been indebted,—not in the fiddling way of phrase here and phrase there (which is detestable as a general practice); but where he has had essential obligations, either as to matter or manner."

We have held before us, as an example, the diligence of James Boswell, who wrote, in his enthusiasm for truth: "I have sometimes been obliged, to run half over London, in order to fix a date correctly: which, when I had accomplished, I well knew would obtain me no praise, though a failure would have been to my discredit." (*Hill's Boswell's Johnson* I, p. 7.)

In Volume 38, at page 288, the naturalization act of Gustavus Hesselius was printed. He was too distinguished a person to have been passed over without a word in the preface. Born in Sweden in 1682, he came to the United States in 1711, and was the earliest organ-builder and painter of repute in British North America. (Sketches of him will be found in 29 *Pa. Mag.* 130 and 26 *N. E. Mag.* 30.) In 1719, he removed to Prince George's County. In 1720, the vestry of St. Barnabas' Parish in that country engaged him to paint the church, and to paint an altar piece and communion table, and to write such sentences of Scripture as shall be thought proper thereon. Rev. Jacob Henderson was the Rector. On September 5, 1721, the vestry gave him what has been termed the "first commission on record for a work of art for a public building in America," viz: to "draw the History of our Blessed Saviour and the Twelve Apostles at the last supper, the institution of the Blessed Sacrament of His body and blood, proportioned to the space over the altar piece, to find the cloth and all other necessaries for the same (the frame and gold leaf excepted, which Mr. Henderson engages to procure and bestow on the Church)." Mr. Hesselius to paint the frame, for all which the vestry is to pay him when finished, £17 current money, and Mr. Henderson further engages to have it fixed up over the Altar at his own cost. "This painting was made, and, four years later, Mr. Hesselius painted the "altar and the rails of the Communion Table." Charles Henry Hart wrote "that more than seven years, prior to the arrival in this country of John Smibert, who is commonly regarded