

parties Consent and Publication thereof before a Lawfull Churchman and for their Consents it is Apparent and for the worlds Satisfaction they hear publish them selves Man and wife till death them doe part" (*Arch. Md.* LIII; 599). As no action by the court is recorded, the marriage was doubtless recognized as valid under the common law.

The Rev. Matthew Hill appears four years later, to have followed John Legett as the minister in Charles County. There are not many references to Hill in the Maryland records. He is said to have come to Charles County in 1669. It must have been very soon after his arrival that he married Edith Beane, the daughter of Walter Beane, one of the justices of Charles County, who, in his will dated April 20, 1670, names his daughter Edith as then the wife of Matthew Hill. On July 2, 1670, William Marshall of Piquasquo, Charles County, a former justice of that county and a prominent planter, recorded an interesting deed of gift of cattle. This recites that, on account of his good will and the pious affection he bears to the people of Charles County and particularly to the Protestant minister and inhabitants of Charles County, he gives "all the cattle [ear-marked in a designated way] . . . Commonly called the Church Cattle . . . in the present Custody of Francis Pope & Bridget Legatt to the number of thirty . . . for the use of the Minister for the time being elected & chosen by the Protestant inhabitants." A fat steer was given to Minister Hill personally. The remaining cattle were given in trust to three overseers, "M^r Mathew Hill M^r Humph. Warren of Hattons Point & M^r John Bowles att Pickywaxen" . . . "for the use & benefits of the poor or indigent Inhabitants", living between the Wicomico and the Potomac rivers "from John Coates now dwelling plantation on Wicocomoco side & from Thomas Bakers now dwelling plantation on Potomack side downe wards the neck as far as the point Commonly called Cobe-point [Cob Point]." Numerous restrictions and conditions were imposed upon the trustees (pp. 262-264).

Little has been learned about Matthew Hill's activities while minister of Charles County, but from what follows it appears that he had his difficulties during the ten years he was here. Perhaps it was leanings towards Puritanism that got him in difficulties with his congregation. It appears from what follows that Hill had an interesting, if stormy, clerical career in England before crossing the Atlantic. As no reference to his English career is to be found in any Maryland published record, it is worth noting here that the following sketch of his life appeared in Edmund Calamy's *Nonconformist's Memorial*, the second edition of which was published in London in 1803 (Vol. III, pp. 471-472). From this, and from John Venn's *Alumni Cantabrigienses*; London, 1922-1927, (Part I, Vol. II, p. 372), we learn that Matthew Hill, the son of Matthew Hill of York, attended school in York and was admitted in 1649 at the age of sixteen to Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he received his B.A. degree in 1652-1653, and his M.A. in 1656. He was "solemnly ordained" and became a preacher at Healough, Yorkshire, and later at Thirsk, Yorkshire, during the Commonwealth. He was ejected from Thirsk in 1662 after the restoration of Charles II, on account of his non-conformity. His struggles for a livelihood after his ejection are recited in some detail; but he is said to