

THE ENGLISH STATUTES IN MARYLAND.

INTRODUCTION.

The study here presented, though itself forming a complete whole, is also a sequel to the former monograph, "Economics and Politics in Maryland, 1720-1750," etc. In that paper it was shown that these years of Maryland history, neglected by most writers, or regarded as quiet and uneventful, constituted really a period of great disturbance. This was on agricultural grounds, primarily, because the tobacco crop was so excessive that prices, fixed in England, became lower and lower, and the colonists were reduced to poverty. Consequently, violent attacks were made not merely against the Proprietor, but also against those classes whose incomes were derived from fees or salaries—the lawyers, the clergy, and the proprietary officers. After long wrangling over methods of betterment, the economic condition of the provinces was at length improved through limitation and regulation of tobacco planting, through the development of a more varied agriculture, and through the importation of a different sort of immigrants. During this period, also, there appeared as one of the leaders in many of these measures the elder Daniel Dulany, who first as a popular leader, and then as a proprietary officer, on the one hand laid the foundation for the power exercised in the next epoch by his sons and other relatives, and on the other devoted himself in more ways than one to the furtherance of the economic and political welfare of the colony.

Throughout a large part of this same period, or, to be exact, from 1722 to 1732, another controversy was heatedly