

in many respects. Our House of Commons stands upon its own laws, the *lex Parliamenti*, whereas assemblies in the colonies are regulated by their respective charters, usages, and the common law of England, and will never be allowed to assume all those privileges which the House of Commons are entitled to justly here, upon principles that neither can nor must be applied to the assemblies of the colonies."

Pratt ends his opinion with the general advice to Baltimore, "that in this disposition of the Lower House to assume to themselves any privilege which the English House of Commons enjoy here, his Lordship should resist all such attempts when they are unreasonable, with firmness, and should never allow any encroachment to be established upon the weight of that argument singly, for I am satisfied neither the Crown nor the Parliament will ever suffer those assemblies to erect themselves into the power and authority of the House of Commons."

The stubbornness of the controversy is shown in the following pages. Nine times the bill was passed in the Lower House and as often rejected in the other, and Sharpe himself despaired of getting anything out of the Province unless Parliament would interfere directly. It was perhaps fortunate for Maryland that both the colonial troops and the colonies themselves were held of such small account in England, that what they did or refused to do was pretty much a matter of indifference to Parliament, so long as they did not meddle with commerce and put on no airs.

The narrow-mindedness of the Lower House is shown in their persecuting temper toward the Catholics, whom they were always eager to oppress and calumniate, though but one-thirteenth of the population. Sharpe, though a Protestant, was above such bigotry, and he bears strong testimony to the inoffensiveness and good character of those of that faith. Indeed it would have been little surprising had there been discontent and disaffection among men who were treated as an inferior and stigmatized class, secret enemies of their fellow-citizens, and traitors at heart, only waiting an opportunity.

A somewhat better feeling might have prevailed in the Assembly had the Proprietary been a man of different stamp. But, as Sharpe intimates, he seemed to care nothing for his Province except as a source of revenue, and as it afforded him the means of gratifying favorites of his own with offices or with gifts not drawn from his own pocket. It was fortunate for him that he was represented by a man of Sharpe's character, whose firmness, good sense, and conspicuous integrity compelled respect even from his enemies.

---

In the preface to the preceding volume the editor confessed his inability to explain the phrase "the fifth quarter of beef," and the word "calavances." He has since received light on these points. The "fifth quarter" is the hide, tallow, etc., of the animal, which were the butcher's perquisites; and "calavances" (probably a corruption of Span. *garbanzos*) are dried beans or pease used as army-stores.

W. H. B.