

The period which is covered in the volume is one of considerable interest. The controversy as to whether the English Statutes extended to Maryland was at its height. The perennial struggle over the regulation of the officers' fees was at an acute stage. The great staple of the Province, tobacco, was in a depressed condition and earnest efforts were made to regulate it. The Session of 1728 provided for new County Seats for Calvert and St. Mary's Counties and gave them their present names: Prince Fredericktown and Leonardtown. Among the Acts of the Session of 1729 is one incorporating Baltimoretown on the north side of the Patapsco River, thus beginning the history of that great commercial emporium and manufacturing centre which now contains about half the population of the State. The vice of local legislation had already begun and we find an Act for the destruction of bears in Somerset County. "Languishing debtors" who are to be set free, deeds to land which need confirmation, naturalization of individual foreigners, take up part of the time of each session. The defects in the testamentary law receive consideration, the importation of convict felons is restrained (see Sollers' "Convict Laborers in Maryland" in 2 Md. Hist. Mag. 33), new parishes are formed, parish boundaries are changed, new parish churches are authorized. In the session of 1729, considerable acrimony developed between the two Houses over the bill concerning deer, and also over the amendment of the testamentary law; and the proper deference of one body for the other received discussion which was characterized by some bitterness. A curious question was then raised as to the right of the Proprietary to veto bills.

Benedict Leonard Calvert, the second son of Benedict Leonard Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore, and his wife, the Lady Charlotte, daughter of the Earl of Lichfield, and grand-daughter of Charles II, was born on September 20, 1700, and died, unmarried, June 1, 1732. The chief sources of information as to him are articles in the Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. 3, pp. 190 and 283. He was a genial, studious, highminded man of upright life and warm friendships, among which was a very strong one for Thomas Hearne, the antiquary, who was twenty years his senior. (References to Calvert in Hearne's Journal as printed by the Oxford Historical Society are reprinted in Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. 1, p. 274; Vol. 3, pp. 190 and 283 ff; Vol. 10, p. 373 ff, and Vol. 11, p. 283 ff.)

In 1717, Calvert went to France and wrote a letter to Hearne, on receipt of which the following entry was made in Hearne's Journal: "I preserve the letter out of the great respect I have for him, upon account of his quality, his virtues and his skill and diligence in antiquities. It is an addition to my troubles to lose the conversation of so accomplished a person." The two men had similar tastes, for Calvert was the only literary man and scholar in the