

as to conditions in Maryland outside of the records here published. There are a few waifs and strays in print or in manuscript. The Sloane Papers the British Museum (Andrews I 68) contains a letter from A. Scott about a rattlesnake in 1739, and one from Edward Lloyd about an oyster with a pearl in 1740. On December 13, 1738 (14 Va. Mag. 236), John Tayloe was permitted by the Virginia Council to import free of duty into that Province iron ore from Maryland for the more easy fluxing of ores from the Virginia mines. A curious document dated Blackwall, March 22, 1739/40, was recently offered for sale by Maggs Brothers of London in their catalogue No. 242, giving the names of 114 convicts from Newgate Prison to be transported to Maryland (see on this general subject, McCormac, *White Servitude in Maryland* in *J. H. U. Studies Series XXII*).

Since the appearance of earlier volumes of the Archives, Professor Beverly W. Bond, Jr., has written an elaborate study of the "Quit Rent System in the American Colonies." His conclusions as to Maryland are as follows:

"At the outbreak of the Revolution, the revenue from the quit-rents of Maryland was fully twice as large as the returns from this source in any other colony. This result, which was a tribute to the able management of the proprietaries and their officials, had been secured by a consistent and moderate policy. In the beginnings of settlement the proprietary of Maryland had established for all grants a uniform quit-rent that was increased only once. Consequently, the exorbitant and confusing rates found on the Pennsylvania rolls were avoided. Moreover, unlike the Penns, the Calverts developed an excellent system of collection, being sufficiently broad-minded to see the necessity of ample allowances in order to secure a force of competent collectors. Other excellent features of the general proprietary administration of the quit-rents in Maryland were the readiness with which exemptions or special rates were granted and the general disposition to be moderate in the method of enforcement and the medium of payment."

"The effective quit-rent system worked out in Maryland under the Calverts is a proof of what could be accomplished. Its most noticeable feature is the organization of a special group of officials whose sole business was the supervision and collection of the quit-rents and other dues from the land. Not having their attention diverted by a multitude of other duties, and with a fair recompense, these officials turned their attention to the quit-rents with gratifying results. Then, too, under such a system it was possible to keep closely in touch with local needs and to meet each crisis as it arose. To this close supervision, in connection with the tactful and broad-minded policy of the proprietaries, the success of the quit-rent system in Maryland was due."