

Maryland Archives. Here indeed is a tale of purpose strongly and patiently held. The military story of the struggle, glorious as it is in many respects, is actually less interesting in the pondering than this day by day record of recruiting with a "small Bounty & the want of Music"; of keeping in the field of action men who wanted to be in the wheat field, where indeed they were equally needed; of purchasing food and clothing and supplies without money or credit; of guarding against the effects of blockade, against treachery or open enmity, and worst of all, against that indifference to the outcome which for various reasons infected the people of the whole country. In reading such collections of documents as this, one realizes anew that wars are fought and won in the council chamber; the victory of the troops in the field is but a seal put upon the more fundamental victory that has previously occurred, an outward and visible sign of the spiritual grace to which the people behind the armies have attained.

In this particular struggle Maryland was putting forth efforts of self denial that resulted in good things for the nation. "It is vain to veil our situation, the Army must disband, unless other states will do as Maryland has done," John Henry, Jr., writes to the Governor from Congress, and the reference is not to that singularly effective service the Maryland troops were performing in the field but to the unremitting and successful efforts the State was making to supply the army with the flour, beef, pork, clothing and arms that were its essentials of existence. An act of Assembly of November, 1779, had provided for the seizure of food stuffs for the army and for the payment of tax assessments in kind or in the certificates of seizure given the producer by the commissioners, and acts of the same tenor in 1780 and 1781 had resulted in a success not less notable than the internal bitterness the system inevitably produced.

Only the hand and intelligence of the late editor of the Archives of Maryland could have analyzed succinctly this mass of material, and that statement brings us to a consideration of the service of Bernard Christian Steiner as editor of this series. It was in this task that his knowledge of events in the history of his native state, as shown in his numerous writings on the subject, and his knowledge of the sources upon which that history is based found their finest exposition. To this peculiar comprehension of the material, he added a degree of industry almost alarming to the man of ordinary habits, a determination to complete a task once assumed and a passion for the particular work in hand that made him an ideal editor of archival material. A trained investigator, he understood the importance of comparing documents, of checking manuscript by printed sources and of avoiding repetition by the use of cross reference. In the handling of masses of printer's copy, the mere carpenter work of paste