

was one of those vices, which we inherited from our transatlantic fore-fathers; for the term of the successive Sheriff's office, were for *three years*—a period perhaps, short enough, and indeed may be said to contain the principle of rotation, as it is accompanied by intervals of supervening disqualification.

In 1723 a *free school* was established in Baltimore County, and an endowment given to it; free schools in other counties having been previously created.

In 1683 ports of trade were established by acts of assembly in Baltimore county, one on Patapsco near Humphrey's creek, another on Bush river, on the *town land near the Court House*. The next year *another town* was laid out on Middle river, and two years after, one on Spesucia creek, and another on Gunpowder at Westbury's point, but that on Middle river was suspended. The stranger who takes up our map to look for these towns, instinctively inquires, "Where are they?" and echo answers, "Where are they?"—the historian replies, *some lived but on record*, and those which were, are now no more.

In 1712 the seat of justice was at Joppa, which continued to be the county town for 50 years from the period of its being established. As late as the first quarter of the 18th century, the produce raised on the borders of the Patapsco was insufficient for the loading of ships in any reasonable time, and they therefore while receiving their cargoes remained off North Point, where they were convenient to receive the productions of other parts of Maryland bordering on our numerous navigable rivers.

In 1733 application was made to the legislature for ground to lay out a town on what is now called Moale's Point, which application was defeated by Mr. Moale, who happened to be a member of that body. The motives which actuated him have been assigned, but as with those we desire to have nothing to do, whether they be selfish or otherwise, we shall content ourselves by saying be they what they may, they were short-sighted and injurious to his interests, and are still felt by his highly respectable heirs, who were thus despoiled of immense values, which otherwise would have ensued to the ample estate of their grand parent.

Disappointed in locating the town on Whetstone Point, on the property of Mr. Moale, the men of that day, to whom we are indebted for our goodly city, defeated in their first project, were not to be thus repressed in their laudable spirit of commercial enterprise; the county commissioners, and others memorialized the legislature to that effect, and in 1729, that body passed an act, entitled, "*An Act for erecting a town on the north side of Patapsco, in Baltimore County, and for laying out into lots, 60 acres of land in and about the place where John Flemming now lives.*"

This indeed looks like a "beginning," of a town in good earnest. Here is the designation of *location* and *object*—the "where and the whereabouts."—And we are, therefore, inspired with the curiosity to inquire, where did this veritable