

for each shore, who then disbursed these funds as the Assembly, or the Governor and Council, should direct. All of these officers took commissions on the sums accounted for while sheriffs and Naval Officers also had fees.

There later appeared certain other officials. After 1733 there were two or three Commissioners of the Paper Currency Office, or Loan Office, paid by a salary and by occasional commissions, who in turn kept a clerk at a salary. The Supply Acts of 1740, 1746, and 1756 appointed Agents to receive and disburse, at a commission, the funds so raised.

#### 1. THE PUBLIC TREASURERS.

During the earlier proprietary period all revenues were proprietary, either for Baltimore's personal use or for the support of his government, except the public levy (a poll tax in tobacco for current charges) and a tonnage duty for the rebuilding of Fort St. Inigo's, collected from April, 1650, to May of 1661. So it was convenient for His Lordship's Receiver General to act also as Treasurer of the province although he seems not to have assumed this title.<sup>2</sup>

In October, 1694, however, soon after the establishment of crown rule, with Baltimore's officers deprived of all share in government, the Assembly felt obliged to appoint two Public Treasurers, Captain Thomas Tasker for the Western and Colonel William Whittington for the Eastern Shore.<sup>3</sup> Under the crown such Treasurers were servants of the Assembly and so were appointed by that body: nominated by the Lower House and approved by the Governor and Council.<sup>4</sup> However, the proprietary, on his restoration in 1715, claimed a charter right to appoint all officers either by his own motion or through his Governor. After Baltimore's visit to Maryland in 1732-33 the Governor in fact appointed Treasurers repeatedly, and the delegates, having twice vainly protested, at length tacitly acknowledged His Lord-

<sup>2</sup> Capt. Giles Brent, who on March 20, 1638/9, was chosen "Treasurer" by the Council, seems to have been merely treasurer for any expedition against the Indians as provided by an Act for Payment of the Public Charge made the same month (*Archives*, I, 59; III, 85).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, XIII, 400; XXXVIII, 11.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. *Ibid.*, XXIV, 17, XXIX, 386. One such appointment occurred in 1727, after Baltimore's restoration, but before his visit to the province (*Ibid.*, XXXVI, 45).