

own business." This is, however, a harsh-sounding summary of the dignified resolutions of the Maryland Convention, which naturally objected to certain inferences embodied in the resolutions of the Virginians. These resolutions the Maryland Convention declared "were not only hasty, and made without due and proper reflection; but betray a disposition to interfere in the affairs of this colony." The reply concluded:

This Convention, and the Council of Safety for the time being, were the only proper and adequate judges of the propriety and expediency of suffering Governor Eden to depart out of this Province, and have proceeded in that matter upon evidence which was satisfactory to themselves, and to which the convention of Virginia were strangers.

These proceedings present a remarkable tribute to the character of the Whig committees and the Loyalist Governor. They show clearly that Eden was no Dunmore; and that the newly established Revolutionary government of Maryland had no superior, if, indeed, an equal, in the matter of orderly procedure and moderation of conduct. Subsequently, when the Maryland Convention met, that body approved of the action of the Council of Safety. At this time, it was held that Governor Eden's usefulness was ended, and he was courteously but formally and finally notified that he was at liberty to depart, which he did by boarding the warship *Fowey*, June 23, 1776.

Thus from Maryland passed the power of the British Empire.

In the village of Bush, once "Harford Town" and the county seat, there is a granite shaft which bears the following inscription:

"This tablet marks the site of the building in which were held the courts of Harford county from its organization in March, 1774, until March, 1783."

In this house the Committee of Harford County held its meetings before and during the early years of the Revolution. Here, at a meeting held on the 22d day of March, 1775, members of the Committee passed and signed a formal declaration pledging their lives and fortunes to the colonial cause. The declaration reads:

"We the Committee of Harford County having most seriously and maturely considered the Resolves and Association of the Continental Congress and the Resolves of the Provincial Convention, do most heartily approve of the same, and as we esteem ourselves in a more particular manner, entrusted by our constituents to see them carried into execution, we do most solemnly pledge ourselves to each other and to our country and engage ourselves by every tie held sacred among mankind to perform the same at the risque of our lives and fortunes."

By way of retrospect, sundry matters may here be reviewed in relation to the life and customs of the people of colonial Maryland. The Acadian exiles deported to the Province of Maryland had during the colonial wars become known as "Neutral French," a term employed to aid them in getting settled and distributed among the colonists, thereby distinguishing them from the French then engaged with their Indian allies in devastating warfare on the western frontier. But it was no easy matter to make the English settlers consider the exiles as anything other than alien enemies or potential spies. Certainly the Acadians could not have been introduced into the Province at a more inopportune time than during the campaign of Braddock and immediately after his disastrous defeat and in the midst of the Indian massacres that followed. After a "period of probation," we find that these unhappy expatriates came gradually to be regarded with toleration and favor in Annapolis, Baltimore, and several of the Eastern Shore towns; but as late as 1767, in Frederick County, they—still as "French Neutrals"—were petitioning to be allowed to transport themselves and their effects to the French settlements on the Lower Mississippi. By a curious twist of fate, it was from one of these settlements that James Ryder Randall was, in April, 1861, to voice an "exiled son's appeal" in "My Maryland."<sup>57</sup>

In 1744 the Reverend Thomas Bacon arrived at Oxford on the Eastern Shore. Here he met a fellow countryman in Henry Callister, from whose letters we learn about Bacon's early career in Maryland. It appears that Bacon was a churchman and a Tory, Callister a skeptic and a Whig. Both, however, were liberal minded; and each was drawn to the other. Shortly after Bacon's arrival Callister wrote to a correspondent in England:

I should have here passed for a tip top musician if the Reverend Mr. Bacon had not come in. He has given several sermons which have got the better of