

could only disband his forces in the field, and devote his energies to strengthening the frontier.

In 1713 he was appointed Governor of Nova Scotia, and in 1720 he was knighted for his many and important services.

In 1719 the Proprietors of South Carolina were adjudged to have forfeited their charter, and the province was made a royal government. Maladministration had brought the colony to a sad pass; discontent was universal, the Indians were threatening the interior, the coast was infested by pirates, the Spaniards were planning an attack, and an insurrection had broken out, menacing the government. Nicholson arrived in 1721, and was received with universal demonstrations of joy. He soon quieted all discontents, cleared the coast of pirates, and made a firm alliance with the Indians. Here too he promoted the building of schools, contributing liberally from his private means, and bringing over teachers from England.

In 1725 Nicholson returned to England and never revisited America, though he retained the nominal governorship of South Carolina until his death, on March 5, 1728 (N. S.). By his will, dated a year before his death, he dedicated all his property in Virginia, New England and Pennsylvania to missionary purposes.

Dr. Bray,* in his *Memorial on the Present State of Religion on the Continent of North America*, says of Nicholson:

“The gratitude which all who are well affected to Christianity do owe, more especially the Clergy, and above all myself to that admirable Patron of Religion and Learning, Colonel Francis Nicholson, the present Governour of Virginia, forbids me to pass over in silence those glorious works which he is there carrying on with such unusual Application, and which when accomplished must render his Memory sweet to all succeeding generations.”

On March 24, 1900, the Maryland Society of the Colonial Dames of

* The Rev. Thomas Bray (1656-1730) was appointed by the Bishop of London his Commissary in Maryland in 1695, though owing to a defect in the Act establishing the Church of England, he could not set out for the Province until 1699. The Maryland clergy being for the most part too poor to buy books, Dr. Bray exerted himself for the establishment of parochial libraries in the Province, and obtained subscriptions from both archbishops and a number of bishops. His first library was established in Annapolis, Queen Anne contributing liberally, and by his exertions no less than thirty-nine such libraries were founded in America in his lifetime. In all this good work he had the zealous support of Governor Nicholson. He obtained from King William in 1701 a charter for an association for the propagation of the Gospel in the plantations, and labored unremittingly in the causes of missions and education until his death.