

by an Order in Council, pending the final decision of the Court of Chancery.

In 1740 Maryland became mixed up to a slight extent with a European crisis. The growth of contraband trade had forced Spain to organise a system of *guardacostas*, or cruisers to protect the coasts of her American possessions, and these, it was alleged, had perpetrated great outrages and cruelties on English merchant vessels. For these Spain agreed in 1739 to pay an indemnity of £97,000. But the party opposed to Walpole, who had negotiated the treaty, declared that this was not enough, but that Spain must be compelled to renounce the right of search. The particular case of a Captain Jenkins who had been barbarously maltreated, and had had his ear cut off, was used to inflame the public mind; and hence the war which followed is sometimes called "the war of Jenkins's ear." Popular indignation rose to such a height that the pacific Walpole was forced to yield and declare war, adroitly placing it on the ground that Spain had broken the treaty by defaulting in the payment of the indemnity.

A call was made upon the British American colonies to furnish troops for operation against Spain's American possessions, and Gov. Ogle bestirred himself in enlisting Maryland's contingent of three companies. The expedition, commanded by General Wentworth and Admiral Vernon, attacked Cartagena, a strongly fortified place on the mainland, but the attempt resulted in disastrous failure. The troops suffered frightfully from pestilential disease, and probably few of the Marylanders returned to their homes.

The death of the Emperor, Charles VI, in 1742, kindled a war throughout Europe. Great Britain managed to keep out of it for a while; but war with France was declared in 1744/5, and proclaimed in the colonies, which might expect hostilities on the side of Canada. As the French relied much on the services of their Indian allies, the colonists took great pains to confirm the friendship of the Iroquois confederacy.

The news of the capture of Louisburg, the strongest fortress on the continent, with the island of Cape Breton, by a combined British and colonial force in 1745, thus making a breach in the French cordon, was received with great joy in Maryland. The British government now embarked upon a plan for the complete reduction of Canada, and the colonies were called upon for their quotas of men, Maryland's share being three companies, which were promptly raised and despatched to New York.