

of negro slavery tended still further to make a manor run on feudal lines economically unprofitable. Add to this the fact that the system, already more or less an anachronism in England, was even more so in the frontier atmosphere of the colonies.

In addition to the St. Clement's court record itself, there are two references to be found in the public records to the existence of a manorial court on this manor. (*Arch. Md. xli*, 464, 480). There is also to be found in the proceedings of the Provincial Court a reference to a court baron held on St. Gabriel's Manor, when, March 7, 1656, James Gaylard, the steward of Mrs. Mary Brent, "the Lady" of the manor, gave delivery "by the rod according to the custome of the sayd Mannor" of a messuage and thirty-seven and a half acres of land to one Martin Kirke (*Arch. Md. xli*, 94). St. Gabriel's Manor, containing nine hundred acres, had been granted, August 13, 1641, to Gov. Leonard Calvert (1606-1647), the younger brother of Cecilius Calvert, the Lord Proprietary, and Mary Brent, the lady of the manor in 1656, was probably a close relative of Leonard Calvert's wife, and may have been the guardian of his two children, who were minors at that date.

Had manorial courts existed on many of these old manors more frequent mention of them would almost certainly have found its way into the public records of the Province in the form of "transfers", or appeals, from the manorial courts to the Provincial or county courts, as in the case of St. Clement's and St. Gabriel's; for we learn from the St. Clement's record that certain cases brought before manorial courts might be referred, or appealed, to the Provincial Court or to a county court, depending upon their importance. It is of course possible that the publication of later proceedings of the Provincial Court and of the county courts may show that manorial courts did exist on a few other manors than those just referred to, but that they could have been numerous seems most improbable.

A trivial breach of the peace "presented", October 27, 1659, at the St. Clement's court, was ordered "transferred to the next County Co^t according to Law" (p. 628). At the same session Robert Cole was fined for unlawfully marking one of the hogs of the lord of the manor (p. 628); Cole refused to pay the fine, and Gerard, the lord, appealed to the Provincial Court, where he lost his appeal. (*Arch. Md. xli*, 480). Eleven years later at the September 1660 court, Capt. [Luke] Gardiner was accused of "receiving" hogs not bearing his mark, and this case also was "transferred" to the Provincial Court (p. 634), but the result has not been learned.

To look upon seventeenth-century Maryland as a land in which some seventy or more large landowners lived in ample manor houses and held feudal sway over numerous freehold and leasehold tenants, is a romantic picture which is not justified either by the Provincial records or by the economic conditions of the time. As shown by these two volumes now published the county courts were the courts of the people in their daily difficulties, and the large amount of trivial litigation which found its way into them left little room for manorial courts to have played any but a very small part in the daily life of the community.