

a tenth of *all* the county clerkships, and his successors followed this example. As these offices were worth annually, at a modest computation, from £ 80 to £ 250 sterling apiece, the total gratuity amounted to a substantial sum. For instance, in 1754 Secretary Edmund Jenings received from this source £ 438.15.11¼ currency, or about £ 230 sterling.¹⁴

Such a system of sale and gratuity proved a minor annoyance to the people. In the earlier proprietary period, and under crown rule, it was the sale of offices which occasioned protest, because the practice brought in unqualified incumbents who, because of their investment, felt obliged to overcharge the people.¹⁵ Under the restored proprietary little was said about the sale of clerkships, as such, but in 1728 a committee of the Lower House protested the incompetence of some appointees.¹⁶ It was perhaps in a hope of preventing these complaints that Baltimore required his chief executive to approve all such appointments. Again in 1750 the Lower House inquired into the origin of the Secretary's tenth of the clerks' fees, but they apparently were satisfied with that officer's explanation.¹⁷

Out of his gross income the Secretary in Maryland had to pay a salary and the routine expenses of his office. John Lewger's successors seem to have paid him an annual sum until his death in 1665; and from an uncertain date until then or later they paid a saddle to Cecilius Langford.¹⁸ After 1705/6, when he became a deputy, the Secretary in Maryland had to support his principal. Of this salary more anon. We shall see that it was probably £ 200 sterling a year until Edmund Jenings's appointment in 1732/3, £ 100 thereafter through 1751, £ 50 in 1752 through 1754, and then £ 200 until the Revolution.

The routine expenses of the office included purchase of writing

¹⁴ Portfolio No. 3, folder 30 (Hall of Records).

¹⁵ See the "Additional Articles . . . against the Lord Baltimore and his Deputies," 1690, in *Archives*, VIII, 219. On the behavior of Secretary Lawrence and the protests of Assembly and Council see the references in note 11, above.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, XXXVI, 259. See also Samuel Ogle to Lord Baltimore, Jan. 10, 1731/2 (*Calvert Papers*, II, 83) and the case of John Leeds, May, 1739 (*Archives*, XL, 205, 206, 288, 300). In 1773 Charles Carroll of Annapolis was still complaining about the quality of the county clerks (*Maryland Historical Magazine*, XV [1920], 285).

¹⁷ *Archives*, XLVI, 385-91. Cf. Daniel Dulany, "The Case of Mr. Dennis Dulany," 1760 (Dulany Papers).

¹⁸ Cf. Charles Calvert to Lord Baltimore, April 27, 1664 (*Calvert Papers*, I, MHS "Fund Pub. No. 28," [1889] 231).